



# Frequently Asked Questions about High School Soccer

- *"What are Open Gym & Open Field and why's it important that I attend?"*

Open Gym and Open Field are key parts of an incoming freshman's Tecumseh High School (THS) pre-season preparation. They introduce new players to the challenges of high school soccer and help you to understand Tecumseh Soccer's team organization. You'll play small-sided or full-squad 11v11 informal games, teamed-up with varsity players to learn from their high-level THS game experiences; plus meet your coaches and teammates. The coaching staff uses Open Gym & Open Field to observe new players and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses to see where they may best fit into the team. Regular turnout will help improve your soccer skills and physical fitness. Open Gym & Open Field aren't practices and participation isn't mandatory, but attendance is *highly recommended* to get players conditioned for August team tryouts. Open Gym is held twice-weekly beginning in April. For Open Field, the team moves outdoors in late May or early June when weather and field conditions permit.

- *"Where does the team hold Open Gym/Open Field?"*

Open Gym is held in either the THS or TMS gymnasium; Open Field is at the high school's soccer practice field. Wearing of shin guards is optional but recommend for both events. All THS students including incoming freshmen are welcome to attend.

- *"Do I need a sports physical to attend Open Gym or Open Field?"*

No - a sports physical is not required for pre-season Open Gym or Open Field. **But when the high school soccer season begins *August 1*, you can't tryout, practice or play with the team unless a sports physical is on file with THS!** So, before the start of team tryouts/practices, you must turn in a signed Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) *Pre-participation Physical Evaluation* form (copies available from the team staff). You may select any doctor or medical facility; however, *Kettering Sports Medicine Center* (937-395-3920) offers THS students discounted sports physicals.

- *"What if I run track, play baseball or club soccer in the spring and this keeps me from making Open Gym/Open Field?"*

If you play club soccer or another spring sport, make that team your first priority, but attend Open Gym and Open Field whenever possible. Tell the THS soccer coaching staff that you're playing a Tecumseh spring sport or rostered on a non-school spring club team. Make it clear to your THS soccer coach and teammates that Tecumseh Soccer will become your **#1 commitment** immediately after your spring team's last game, match or event.

- *"What happens at team tryouts and when are they?"*

THS Boys Soccer Team tryouts begin Thursday, August 1, 2024. Over a 2–3-day period, the coaching staff uses various drills, timed runs, 11v11 matches and other methods of player evaluation to determine each student-athlete's level of conditioning, speed, ball handling and general soccer skills. Varsity and JV team selections will be made on the last day of tryouts. Unless excused by the coach, attendance at tryouts/practices is **mandatory**.

- *"Why do team practices and tryouts start so late in the summer during July?"*

August 1<sup>st</sup> is the OHSAA 2024 season start date for all Ohio high school fall sports including soccer. Fall sports' coaches may then hold tryouts/practices and provide coaching instruction. In addition, between May 15 and July 31, OHSAA allows each team's coaching staff 13 coaching days (soccer & football 18 days) for pre-season summer training.

- *"Why does the soccer coach only have certain times he can coach?"*

With a few exceptions, OHSAA **only** permits high school soccer coaches to coach their players during the OHSAA soccer season, which begins August 1. However, from May 15 thru July 31, OHSAA allows soccer teams 18 coaching days for summer pre-season preparation. Otherwise, coaches may just supervise players in Open Gym/Open Field, hold physical conditioning sessions, or conduct other team functions that do not involve practicing, coaching or teaching soccer fundamentals, techniques or skills.

- *"What are team practices like?"*

Practices are held on-campus at the high school boys' soccer practice field and typically involve fundamental and advanced drills, physical conditioning and 11v11 matches. The coaches try to plan daily practice times that work best for the majority of team members.

- *"Suppose my family plans a vacation in August that would make me miss tryouts?"*

Unfortunately, OHSAA won't allow high school soccer coaches to hold tryouts or begin mandatory practices before August 1<sup>st</sup> – *Tecumseh Boys Soccer* has **no** control over this. **Tryouts/practices are mandatory!** Ask your parents if it's possible to plan the family vacation for earlier in the summer. Or give some thought to staying behind with another family member, teammate or friend so you may attend August THS soccer tryouts/practices.

- *"Do freshmen get to play in pre-season tournament games?"*

Yes. Incoming freshmen may be asked to play in the pre-season high school tournaments THS Boys Soccer attends in June and July. Selection is made by the coach on a case-by-case basis after observing each freshman player during Open Gym and Open Field.

- *"How many games are played in the high school soccer season?"*

OHSAA restricts high school soccer teams to 17 regular season games and 4 scrimmages (17-game limit **does not** include pre-season June/July tournaments **or** post-season OHSAA tournament games). The OHSAA high school soccer season extends from August 1<sup>st</sup> until THS plays its final OHSAA post-season tournament game in October.

- *"Is it important to work out and do conditioning on my own during the summer months before high school tryouts start?"*

It's very important! High school soccer's physical demands are much greater than anything you've experienced before on club or rec soccer teams. To excel at this level, a player must start a pre-season physical conditioning program and stick to it during the summer months before August tryouts. Attending just Open Gym/Open Field isn't enough to adequately prepare you physically to play high school soccer.

- *"Can bad grades in Middle School keep me from playing high school sports?"*

Yes, very definitely! To play soccer (or any THS fall sport), incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade freshmen in their TMS **8<sup>th</sup> grade final grading period** must:

- (1) pass a minimum of **four** classes, **and**
- (2) held **at least** an overall 1.5 Grade Point Average (GPA) on a 4.0 grading scale, **and**
- (3) receive not more than one "**F**."

After your **first** THS 9<sup>th</sup> grade freshman grading period, high school sports eligibility rules change slightly. Then, in the grading period immediately **before** any THS winter or spring sport, you must pass **five** one-credit courses (or the equivalent) with an overall **minimum** 1.5 GPA and not more than **one** "**F**."

*Note: high school fall sports eligibility **cannot** be restored by attending summer school and retaking failed or missed classes.*

- *"Does Tecumseh Boys Soccer have a team website or a Facebook page?"*

You bet - we have both! Our team website is [tecumsehsoccer.com](http://tecumsehsoccer.com) and our [Facebook](#) page is "**Tecumseh Boys Soccer**." Both provide useful information on Open Gym/Open Field, team tryouts, practice cancelations, scrimmages, pre-season tournaments, regular season game schedules, away game driving directions and bus departure times.

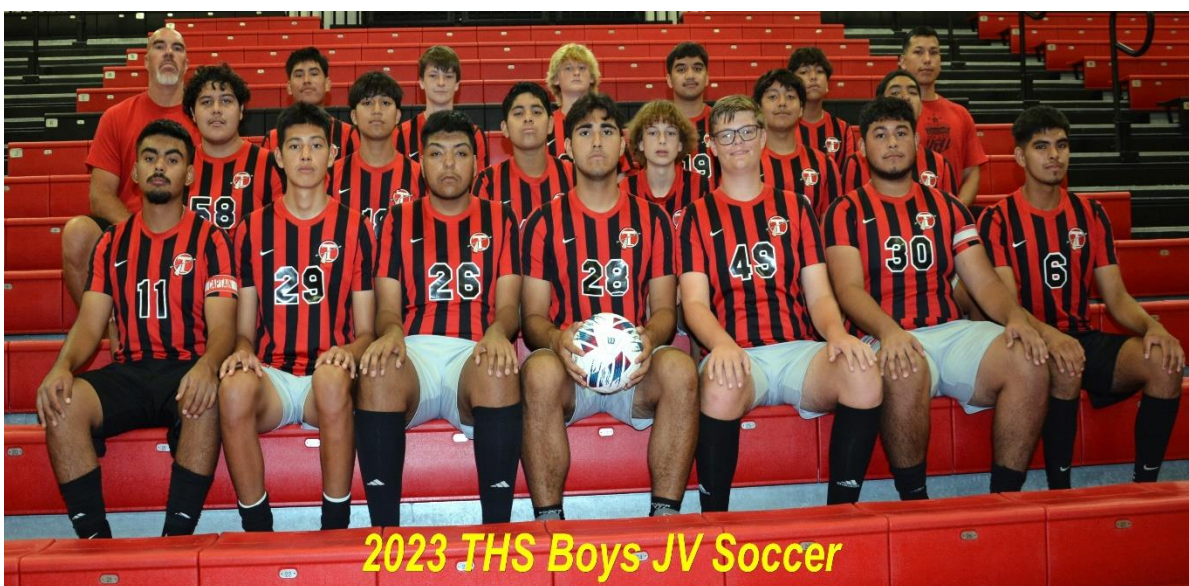
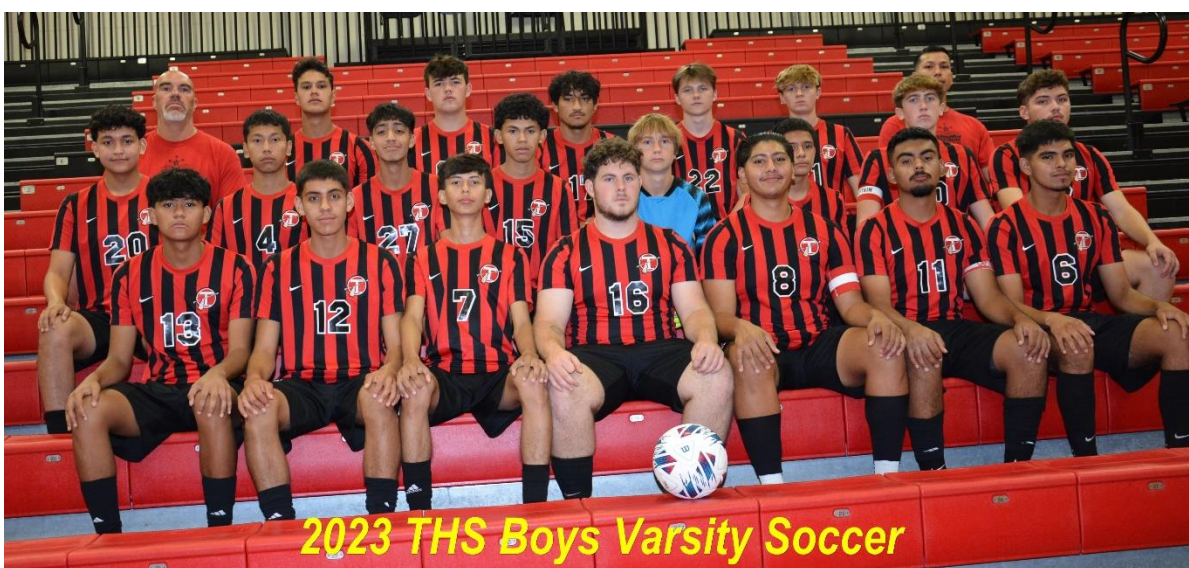
- *"Can I play in an August or September game or tournament for my club soccer team?"*

**NO** – not if you're signed up to play THS soccer. During the **high school soccer season**,<sup>#</sup> OHSAA doesn't allow high school soccer players to practice, scrimmage, play, train, try-out or attend Open Gym/Open Field with **another** soccer team (i.e. school, non-school, club, camps, clinics, rec, college, etc.). You're **ineligible** for THS Soccer if you violate this OHSAA rule.

<sup>#</sup>**August 1<sup>st</sup> until Tecumseh Soccer plays its final OHSAA post-season tournament game in October.**

**Off-season**: not more than **six** (6) THS Varsity or JV Boys Soccer team members may be on the **same** non-school soccer team (i.e. club, camps, clinics, recreational, church, YMCA, intramural, etc.). You're **ineligible** for THS Soccer if you violate this OHSAA rule.

**Note**: 6-player team limit doesn't apply: June 1 thru July 31, **or** to indoor soccer teams anytime, **or** to graduating seniors after completing their final high school soccer season.



# Tecumseh Boys Soccer 2023 Achievements

✓ 6 PLAYERS EARNED MIAMI VALLEY SCHOLASTIC SOCCER COACHES ASSN. (MVSSCA)

**D-I NORTH AWARDS**

✓ 6 PLAYERS EARNED CBC **ALL-CONFERENCE AWARDS & HONORS**

✓ 1 PLAYER EARNED CBC **SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

✓ 1 PLAYER EARNED CBC **SPECIAL MENTION AWARD**

✓ 6 PLAYERS PARTICIPATED IN CBC **SOCCER ALL-STAR GAME**

✓ 1 PLAYER EARNED THS **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER – OFFENCE AWARD**

✓ 1 PLAYER EARNED THS **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER – DEFENSE AWARD**

✓ 2 PLAYERS EARNED THS **MOST IMPROVED PLAYER AWARD**

✓ 2 PLAYERS EARNED THS **ARROW AWARD #**

# PLAYER WHO CONSISTENTLY DEVOTED HIS SKILLS, ENERGY AND ENTHUSIASM TO THE TEAM

## - 2024 Important Team Dates -

Open Gym / Open Field	2 per Wk - April thru July
Fairborn Tournament	Jun 29-30
Northmont Tournament	Jul 20-21
Sports Physical Form Turned In ( <i>Mandatory</i> )	Aug 1
Player/Parent Meeting @ THS ( <i>Mandatory</i> )	Jul 29
Tryouts & Team Selections ( <i>Mandatory</i> )	Aug 1- Aug 2
Practices Begin ( <i>Mandatory</i> )	Aug 5
Scrimmages w/other H.S. teams (max of 4)	TBA
1 <sup>st</sup> Regular Season Game (@ Fairmont)	Aug 16
1 <sup>st</sup> Day of School	Aug 21
Pay-to-Participate Fee Due	Sep 15

(Events & dates may change without notice)

*Graduating Seniors, Class of 2024*



*All-Star Team  
2023 CBC Boys Soccer*

# 2023 PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT TEAM



## FORMER ARROWS WHO PLAYED COLLEGE SOCCER



WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER (2015-18)



(L-R) Austin Lewis, Jeffrey Helt, Alberto Zaragoza, Kevin Helt, Alberto Gonzalez



**QUAKERS**

*WILMINGTON COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER*



**J.C. Brewer (2017-2019)**



**Alan Cruz (2022-Present)**