

The following are the preliminary minutes from the March 23, 2020, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Conference Call Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its next meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CONFERENCE CALL MEETING MINUTES (March 23, 2020)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special conference call meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020. President Dan Leffingwell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Board Members Participating: Dan Leffingwell, president; Jan Wilking, vice president; Jeff Cassella; Ryan Fitzgerald; Scott Kaufman; Gary Kreinbrink; Leonard Steyer; Bill Warfield; Steve Watkins; and Bruce Brown (ex-officio) and Jeremy Marks (ex-officio, excused at 2:01 p.m.).

Staff Members Participating: Jerry Snodgrass, executive director; senior directors Bob Goldring, Deborah Moore, Roxanne Price, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; directors Todd Boehm, Tyler Brooks, Kathleen Coughlin, Emily Gates, Angie Lawler, Brenda Murray and Kristin Ronai; assistant directors Haley Dillon, Ben Ferree, Ronald Sayers and Jacki Windon, and staff members Molly Downard, Dale Gabor and Andrea Heiberger.

Others Participating: Steve Craig, OHSAA Legal Counsel, and Greg Blake, consultant.

I. ACTION ITEM

Recommendation to Approve Additional 2020 Referendum Items

At the January 16 and February 13, 2020, Board of Directors Meetings, the Board approved placing six Constitution issues, eight Bylaw issues and one 7th-8th grade Bylaw issue up for referendum vote by the membership. At this meeting, five additional Bylaw items were recommended to be placed up for referendum as previously reviewed with the Board and prepared by the Association's compliance team and legal counsel. After being placed up for referendum by the Board, OHSAA member schools will vote on the proposals between May 1 and 15, 2020. Recommended at this meeting were:

Bylaw 2-2-2 and 2-2-3, Divisions and Tournament Assignments, Exception

This proposed Exception would permit schools to one time exclude during the season from the Competitive Balance roster students who would otherwise not likely participate in a meaningful way or have an impact on the contest (i.e. senior managers or student assistants, students with mental and physical disabilities), so long as the student is otherwise eligible.

Bylaw 4-4-3, Scholarship

This proposed modification would allow students who are coming off an ineligibility to gain eligibility earlier (no sooner than five calendar days following the end of the grading period) if grades can be secured and verified by a school administrator. If grades cannot be secured and verified, those students would gain eligibility at the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period.

Bylaw 4-7-2, New Exception 12

This proposed new exception is one that was previously within the Bylaws and would permit a student returning from a domestic exchange program, with whom the member school has partnered, to return to the same high school the student attended immediately before entering into this program and be declared eligible insofar as the transfer bylaw is concerned so long as various conditions outlined in the exception have been met.

Bylaw 9-2-1, Contests Requiring Special Attention

This proposed modification would permit schools to determine if they want to allow a team to miss school time to travel to compete in contests in states or provinces that are not contiguous to Ohio. There would continue to be a limit of one time per sport per interscholastic season for these trips.

Bylaw 9-1-1 and 9-2-4, Contests Requiring Special Attention

This proposed modification would provide clarity on regulations that schools must follow during competition. When competing within the state, schools must follow all Bylaws, general and sport regulations and Ohio’s-adopted playing rules for the sport during competition. When competing outside the state, schools must follow all Bylaws and general and sport regulations along with the host state’s-adopted playing rules for the sport during competition.

Motion by Scott Kaufman, second by Leonard Steyer to **approve** placing the five proposed Bylaw changes before the membership for referendum.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS – March 23

The Board and staff also discussed developing a potential Board resolution referendum item to provide the staff certain authorities during the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis; how school closings potentially will impact Competitive Balance; proposals by some northwest Ohio schools related to the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, and the future site of the state cross country tournament along with a potential modification to the OHSAA Cross Country Invitational.

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Bob Goldring, Recorder

FUTURE MEETINGS

(All meetings on Thursdays in the OHSAA Board Room at 9:00 a.m. but are subject to change.)

2019-20 School Year: To Be Determined and Wednesday, June 10.

2020-21 School Year: August 27; October 1; October 29; January 14; February 18; April 22, and Wednesday, June 9.