

The following are the preliminary minutes from the October 1, 2020, OHSAA Board of Directors Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its October 29, 2020, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (October 1, 2020)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. President Jeff Cassella called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Board Members Participating: Jeff Cassella, president; Scott Kaufman, vice president; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gary Kreinbrink; Dan Leffingwell; Leonard Steyer; Steve Watkins; Jan Wilking, and John Richard (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio representing the OIAAA).

Board Member Excused: Bill Warfield.

Staff Members Participating: Doug Ute, executive director; senior directors Bob Goldring, Roxanne Price, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; directors Tyler Brooks, Emily Gates, Angie Lawler, Brenda Murray and Lauren Prochaska; assistant directors Ben Ferree, Ronald Sayers and Jacki Windon; staff member Molly Downard, and part-time advisors or sport administrators Todd Boehm, Dale Gabor and Deborah Moore

Others Participating: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Greg Blate, OHSAA consultant; John Bakalar and Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; David Sheldon, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Mike Murphy, Ohio Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; Eric Peterson, Ohio High School Swim Coaches Association; Mark Faber, Ohio Tennis Coaches Association; Doug Joy, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches; Kim Metz, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association; Shawn Andrews, Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association; Rick Lewis, Ohio School Boards Association; Tim Freeman, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, and Ken Baker, Ohio Capital Conference.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Dan Leffingwell to **adopt** the agenda for the October 1, 2020, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Leonard Steyer, second by Gary Kreinbrink to **approve** the minutes from the August 27, 2020, Board of Directors Regular Meeting (virtual) and September 14, 2020, Board of Directors Special Meeting (electronic).

Motion passed 8-0.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. OHSAA Financial Report

OHSAA consultant Greg Blate provided the financial report for the OHSAA through August. The report is summarized as follows:

Available Funds — August 31, 2020		
Checking and Savings	\$3,988,222.05	
Certificates of Deposit	<u>\$392,966.36</u>	
Working Capital		\$4,381,188.41
Designated Funds — August 31, 2020		
Board Designated Savings	\$491,369.16	
Board Designated Certificates of Deposit	\$318,883.76	
Investments - Building Fund	\$376,133.78	
Durkle Scholarship	\$52,238.38	
Rossi/Denney Scholarship	<u>\$52,250.00</u>	
Total Designated Funds		<u>\$1,290,875.08</u>
Total Funds		\$5,672,063.49

Board of Directors Minutes (10/1/20) — 2

<u>District</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>	<u>Yr. to Date Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Yr. to Date Gross Expenses</u>	<u>Yr. to Date Net Profit/Loss</u>
OHSAA Office	\$727,237	\$1,793,310	\$0	\$2,520,546	\$777,766	\$508,522	\$269,244
Central	\$327,004	\$257,032	\$0	\$584,037	\$25	\$3,518	— \$3,493
East	\$562,823	\$0	\$50,000	\$612,823	\$0	\$2,631	— \$2,631
Northeast	\$409,267	\$0	\$0	\$409,267	\$0	\$4,682	— \$4,682
Northwest	\$479,681	\$0	\$40,010	\$519,691	\$0	\$3,595	— \$3,595
Southeast	\$82,405	\$63,181	\$198,494	\$344,080	\$0	\$3,213	— \$3,213
Southwest	\$131,004	\$341,664	\$208,951	\$681,619	\$0	\$4,843	— \$4,843
Totals	\$2,719,421	\$2,455,187	\$497,455	\$5,672,063	\$777,791	\$531,004	\$246,787

B. Approval of Proposed 2020-21 OHSAA Budget

OHSAA Consultant Greg Blate provided the Board with a draft of the proposed budget for the OHSAA for the 2020-21 school year that includes the Columbus office and the six District Athletic Boards. He noted that the budget is a guide of best estimates and assumptions and, though significantly better than what was previously shared, expressed concerns about declining revenues during COVID-19. Mr. Blate said the Association is continuing to identify additional cost-cutting measures. The proposed budget includes anticipated receipts and expenditures, and is as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Net Profit (Loss)</u>
Central District	\$734,750	\$635,900	\$98,850
East District	\$232,196	\$342,999	— \$110,803
Northeast District	\$1,420,500	\$1,467,400	— \$46,900
Northwest District	\$995,200	\$1,160,920	— \$165,720
Southeast District	\$213,150	\$297,989	— \$84,839
Southwest District	\$1,070,900	\$1,173,449	— \$102,549
<u>Columbus Office</u>	<u>\$8,341,299</u>	<u>\$9,289,423</u>	<u>— \$948,125</u>
OHSAA Totals	\$13,007,995	\$14,368,080	— \$1,360,086

Motion by Scott Kaufman, second by Jan Wilking to **approve** the financial items III. A. and III. B. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Board members thanked Mr. Blate; the OHSAA finance staff of Haley Dillon and Todd Boehm; OHSAA sport administrators, and the district athletic boards for their continued work on making modifications to expenditures for OHSAA tournaments.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Reminder: Fall Sports Tournament Regulations Approved

Senior Director Bob Goldring informed those participating in the virtual meeting that the Board of Directors approved regulations for OHSAA fall tournaments on September 14, 2020. Sports included were cross country, field hockey, football (modified from the version originally approved by the Board of Directors at the June 10, 2020, meeting), golf, soccer, girls tennis and volleyball. With the ongoing pandemic, the delay in approving the regulations was in order for the sport management staff to provide updated policies and procedures related to ticket sales.

B. Update on OHSAA Fall Sports Tournaments

With the OHSAA fall sports seasons beginning as planned and OHSAA tournaments starting shortly, the OHSAA sport management staff provided the Board and those participating virtually with modifications in their sports due to COVID-19. In **cross country**, the OHSAA has received a variance for spectator capacity at Fortress Obetz for the state tournament and is awaiting approval for increasing the number of runners permitted in each race. The regional and state tournaments have already have a modified schedule, with Division III being held on Friday and Divisions II and I on Saturday. Depending on the variance approval, two different time schedules have been developed. In **field hockey**, state qualifying championship games will be hosted by the higher seeded teams (rather than being held at neutral sites), and the state semifinals and final will now be held at Thomas Worthington High School. In **football**, the brackets for this year’s tournament are being released today. The Division I state championship game will be held on Friday, Nov. 13, with the Divisions II through VII finals taking place between Thursday, Nov. 19, and Sunday, Nov. 22. The **girls tennis** state tournament will still take place at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, while plans for hosting the state **soccer** and state **volleyball** tournaments have not been finalized.

C. Update on OHSAA Corporate Sponsorships

Assistant Director Jacki Windon provided the Board and those participating virtually with an update on OHSAA corporate sponsorships. She said the OHSAA recently announced that E.A. Graphics has been selected as its new official tournament merchandise partner. Based in Sterling Heights, Mich., E.A. Graphics runs seven automatic presses and prints more than three million garments each year. The company will build a full-service webstore that will allow customers to purchase OHSAA tournament apparel at any time, with products being available for at least two years following each event.

Board of Directors Minutes (10/1/20) — 3

D. Update on OHSAA Student Leadership Conference

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Senior Director Bob Goldring informed the Board and those participating virtually that the annual OHSAA Student Leadership Conference has been cancelled for this fall. The conference has traditionally been held in early October at The Ohio State University in Columbus and attracted what is believed to be a nation's best 1,500 participants. Harvey Alston, longtime organizer of the event and nationally-known motivational speaker, and Mike Richards, president of the OHSAA Foundation Board of Trustees, will work with Foundation Board, Executive Director Ute and the OHSAA staff to determine the future of the conference.

E. Update on Appeals, Infractions and Legal Issues

Assistant Director Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Toledo St. John's Jesuit High School** violated Bylaw 4-9-3 #1, Recruiting, when it set up a Facebook page which only highlighted the school's athletic program and not its entire high school program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has fined St. John's Jesuit \$225. **Springfield Kenton Ridge High School** had a student-athlete in boys varsity golf violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.2, Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs, when the student participated in a non-school sanctioned contest while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation and Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office declared the student ineligible for the next two contests. Furthermore, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the contest in which the student participated after the infraction occurred but before the penalty was assessed. Individual eligible athletes may keep their points and places and any awards earned in those events, but the contest shall be forfeited. **Cincinnati Country Day School** had a student-athlete in varsity football violate Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Tiffin Columbian High School** had a student-athlete in girls varsity swimming and diving violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment & Attendance. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible students participated. All eligible student-athletes may keep their points, places and any awards earned, but the meet(s) shall be forfeited. **Cleveland John Adams High School** failed to respond to two ejection reports filed regarding a student-athlete in varsity wrestling. In accordance with General Sport Regulation 13, Ejection Procedures for Schools, the Executive Director's Office has fined John Adams \$300. **Steubenville Catholic Central High School** had a student-athlete in girls varsity golf violate Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Delaware Christian School** had student-athletes in boys varsity golf violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, and Bylaw 1-6-4, Combining Schools, as the students were not enrolled and attending Delaware Christian but were instead participating on a team formed by the combining of Delaware Christian and a non-member school. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Delaware Christian must forfeit any victorious contest in which the ineligible students participated. **Uhrichville Claymont High School** had a girls varsity volleyball coach violate Bylaw 4-9-4 #8, Recruiting, when she contacted a student from her previous school. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the coach has been publicly reprimanded and fined \$150. **Millersburg West Holmes High School** had a boys varsity soccer coach violate Bylaw 8-3-3, Decisions by Officials, by removing the team from the field due to dissatisfaction with the officiating. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the coach has been suspended for two varsity soccer contests. **Mentor Memorial Middle School** had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, prior to receiving a written agreement between the student's residential superintendent and the Mentor Public Schools superintendent. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the student retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school has been fined \$100. **Dayton Dunbar High School** had a student-athlete in varsity football violate Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. Further, the Executive Director's Office has requested a conference with the Dunbar High School administrative staff as this infraction comes in the first year since the school was released from a three-year probationary period.

Director Kristin Ronai also provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 12 appeals on three dates this school year; eight of the appeals have dealt with the transfer bylaw, and three appeals have been granted. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on legal issues.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendation to Approve Proposal from the Ohio High School Baseball and Softball Coaches Associations

At the August 26, 2020, OHSAA Board of Directors Work Session, the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association and Ohio High School Softball Coaches Association proposed that General Sport Regulation 8.1.2 be modified to allow individual skill/coaching instruction be increased from four individuals to six in

Board of Directors Minutes (10/1/20) — 4

the sports of baseball and softball. No more than six individuals may be present at one time in all combined facilities and the instruction would occur outside the season and defined no-contact periods. At this meeting, the Executive Director's Office recommended that the proposal be approved.

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Scott Kaufman to **approve** the recommendation.

Motion passed 8-0.

It was noted that the modification will become effective immediately.

B. Recommendation to Approve Proposal from the Ohio High School Ice Hockey Advisory Committee

At the August 26, 2020, Board of Directors Work Session, the Board was provided a proposal from the Ohio High School Ice Hockey Advisory Committee to modify the date listed in Ice Hockey Regulation 2.1 (when an ice hockey player who has not participated for the school in the sport of ice hockey that season must cease participation in non-interscholastic ice hockey in order to be eligible for the OHSAA tournament) from November 20, 2020 (the date the regular season begins), to December 30, 2020. This date would be consistent moving forward. At this meeting, the Executive Director's Office recommended that the proposal be approved.

Motion by Jan Wilking, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **approve** the recommendation.

Motion passed 8-0.

It was noted that the modification will become effective immediately.

C. Recommendation to Approve Enrollment Procedures for 2021-22 School Year

With some schools not offering sports along with many students following non-traditional learning modalities this fall due to COVID-19, the Executive Director's Office has deliberated on how to handle enrollment data, since this October is when the OHSAA traditionally receives that data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education for use in tournament representation, tournament division breakdowns and classifications for OHSAA District Athletic Board elections. With the concern that the data may be unreliable and/or skewed, the Executive Director's Office recommended that current enrollment data be and tournament divisions be utilized for the third straight year in the 2021-22 school year. EMIS data would then be collected in October 2021 and utilized in a new two-year cycle that would cover the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. New Constitution Article 6-1-9 allows the Executive Director's Office to make this change.

Motion by Leonard Steyer, second by Steve Watkins to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

It was noted that, with the approval, District Athletic Board elections will not be held in May 2021. Those with expiring terms will be afforded the opportunity to remain on their respective District Athletic Board for an additional year and when elections resume in May 2022, candidates will seek a five-year term rather than six. Interim appointees on the District Athletic Boards will also be afforded the opportunity to remain on their respective District Athletic Board for an additional year and then can run for their position in May 2022. For those whose terms are expiring or are interim appointments and choose not to remain on the District Athletic Board for another year, new one-year interim appointments will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval.

D. Ratification of Contract with Spectrum News 1 and Authorization of the Executive Director's Office to Execute a Contract with the NFHS Network

Assistant Director Jacki Windon said the OHSAA has renewed its contract with Spectrum News 1 as the official television partner of the OHSAA. She also noted that the OHSAA has been working on a streaming contract with the NFHS Network, with details to be completed soon. On behalf of the Executive Director's Office, Ms. Windon asked the Board to ratify the agreement with Spectrum News 1 and also authorize the office to execute a contract with the NFHS Network so long as both parties can agree on terms.

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Scott Kaufman to **approve** the two requests as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

E. Recommendation to Approve Modified Cross Country Tournament Regulations and Regional Tournament Sites and Dates

OHSAA Cross Country Administrator Dale Gabor said the previously approved cross country tournament regulations have been modified due to the pandemic, and they now reflect the regional and state tournaments having Division III races on Fridays (Oct. 30 for regionals; Nov. 6 for state) and Divisions II and I races on Saturdays (Oct. 31 for regionals; Nov. 7 for state). Also, the Division II and III district tournaments will now be held at Chillicothe Southeastern High School rather than the University of Rio Grande. With these modifications, Mr. Gabor recommended that the revised regulations and regional tournament sites and dates be approved.

Board of Directors Minutes (10/1/20) — 5

Motion by Gary Kreinbrink, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **approve** the recommendations as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Divisional Alignments and Representation for Baseball and Softball

The Board was provided tournament divisional alignments and representation for the sports of baseball and softball for 2021 as prepared by Director Brenda Murray. Unlike the past, the enrollment figures do not include data that has been added as part of the OHSAA Competitive Balance Plan since the 2020 baseball and softball seasons were cancelled due to the pandemic and data from those seasons was not available. The Executive Director's Office recommended that the divisional alignments and representation be approved.

Baseball

Division I, 193 teams (345 males or more from October 2018 enrollments)

Division II, 192 teams (200 to 344 males)

Division III, 193 teams (123 to 199 males)

Division IV, 194 team (122 or less males)

Total Teams: 772

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments in baseball for 2021 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe and Logan) 4; Combined Northeast and one East school (Dover) 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 1, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2*; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

* Denotes tied with East District but gained the second qualifier based on a coin flip

Softball

Division I, 188 teams (339 females or more from October 2018 enrollments)

Division II, 188 teams (192 to 338 females)

Division III, 187 teams (112 to 191 females)

Division IV, 189 team (111 or less females)

Total Teams: 752

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments in softball for 2021 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 4; Combined Northeast and one East school (New Philadelphia) 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2*; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 1, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

* Denotes tied with Southeast District but gained the second qualifier based on a coin flip

B. Recommendation to Approve 2020-21 Regional and State Tournament Officials Calculations

Senior Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2020-21 officials calculations for tournament assignments via the regulations outlined in the OHSAA Officials Handbook in the sports of boys and girls cross country (state tournament); football (regional and state tournaments); boys and girls soccer (regional and state tournaments); volleyball (regional and state tournaments); boys and girls basketball (regional and state tournaments); ice hockey (state tournament); boys and girls swimming and diving (state tournament); wrestling (dual team and individual state tournaments); baseball (regional and state tournaments); softball (regional and state tournaments), and boys and girls track and field (state tournament).

Assignments are made on a proportional basis per district and are calculated based on the number of Class 1 officials who had registered with the OHSAA by the middle of July.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2020-21 OHSAA Media Regulations that Include Photo Regulations and Broadcast Rights Fees

Senior Director Tim Stried provided the Board with the 2020-21 OHSAA Media Regulations that also include the OHSAA Photo Regulations and tournament broadcast rights fees for the 2020-21 school year, and he asked that the regulations and fees be approved. He noted that video and/or streaming rights fees for tournaments may be further modified once the OHSAA finalizes its contract with the NFHS Network.

D. Recommendations from the Central District Athletic Board (Secretary Position) and Update from the Southwest District Athletic Board (Treasurer Position)

Board member Ryan Fitzgerald from the Central District Athletic Board said his district board recommends that Jim Hayes, current treasurer of the CDAB, serve as interim secretary through the fall sports seasons. He would replace Doug Ute, who has resigned to become the Executive Director of the OHSAA. A search to fill the position on a permanent basis would take place after the fall tournaments. Scott Kaufman and Jan Wilking from the Southwest District Athletic Board said their district board plans to fill their vacant

Board of Directors Minutes (10/1/20) — 6

treasurer's position on a volunteer basis by SWDAB members. The position is vacant following the resignation of longtime treasurer Bob Huelsman. A search to replace Mr. Huelsman will take place next spring.

E. Recommendation to Submit Swimming and Diving Experimental Regulation to the NFHS

The National Federation of State High School Associations permits for experimentation of rules, which must be approved each year by the NFHS Rules Review Committee. Experiments may be concurrent for three years only. Each experiment requires follow-up information and date be provided to the sport rules committee for review at its next meeting. If not approved as a new NFHS rule, permission for experimentation will be denied after the third year with no action from the rules committee. At this meeting, Director Lauren Prochaska recommended that the OHSAA submit a swimming and diving experimental regulation to the NFHS that would permit a single visible manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference no more than 4.65 square inches on swimsuits and 3.1 square inches on swim caps. These logos are larger than currently permitted but, since the larger logos appear on many current suits and caps, approval of the experimental regulation would not force student-athletes to purchase new suits and/or caps.

F. Ratification of Employment Agreement for New OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute

The OHSAA Board of Directors announced on September 8 the hiring of Doug Ute as Executive Director. At this meeting, Board President Jeff Cassella welcomed Mr. Ute, said the Board is looking forward to working with him and recommended that Mr. Ute's employment agreement be ratified. A former coach, teacher, athletic administrator, principal and superintendent, Ute is the OHSAA's 11th leader in its 113-year history after spending the last 20 years as a school superintendent, including nine years at Marion Elgin Local Schools and the last 11 years at Newark City Schools. He also coached and taught at Noble Local Schools in eastern Ohio and Buckeye Central High School, which is near his hometown of Bellville in north central Ohio. Ute was a standout student-athlete at Clear Fork High School, graduating in 1980, and played basketball at Ashland University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing; a master's degree in school administration; a graduate teaching degree in business; a principal's license, and a superintendent's license. He takes over for Interim Executive Director Bob Goldring, who is the OHSAA's Senior Director of Operations. Mr. Ute said he was excited to land the position, is looking forward to working with the Board, staff and those participating in the virtual meeting and thanked the Board, Mr. Goldring and staff for their work in getting the fall sports seasons started.

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Jan Wilking to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., V. E. and VI. F. as presented.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board President Jeff Cassella thanked the OHSAA staff, school administrators, coaches and student-athletes for working to ensure the state COVID-19 mandates and guidelines are being followed and said he is impressed that we are still participating during the pandemic. Other Board members welcomed Mr. Ute and thanked Mr. Goldring for his work as interim director and the staff for their assistance.

Motion by Scott Kaufman, second by Leonard Steyer to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Motion passed 8-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(All meetings are subject to change.)

2020-21 School Year (note that 2020-21 dates may be modified, and times are to be determined): October 29; January 14; February 18; April 22, and June 9.