

The following are the preliminary minutes from the March 29, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 22, 2021, meeting.

## **OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (March 29, 2021)**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Monday, March 29, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. President Jeff Cassella called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Board Members Participating:** Jeff Cassella, president; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gary Kreinbrink; Dan Leffingwell; Leonard Steyer; Bill Warfield; Jan Wilking, and John Richard (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

**Board Members Excused:** Scott Kaufman, vice president, and Steve Watkins.

**Staff Members Participating:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer, and directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai and Beau Rugg.

**Others Participating:** Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel.

### **Recommendation to Approve 2021 Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse Tournament Regulations**

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with a draft of the 2021 boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse tournament regulations and recommended that they be approved. Included in the information was the regional assignments for participating schools. There were no significant modifications other than those related to protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion by Gary Kreinbrink, second by Jan Wilking to **approve** the regulations as presented.

Motion passed 7-0.

It was noted that the 2021 tournament regulations for baseball, softball, boys tennis and track & field were approved at the February 19, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting.

### **Recommendation to Approve 2021 Referendum Items**

Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with a draft of four additional proposed referendum issues that reflect changes to the OHSAA Bylaws which were prepared and reviewed by the Association's compliance team and legal counsel Steve Craig. The Board previously approved four other referendum items at its January 14, 2021, and February 18, 2021, meetings. After being placed up for referendum by the Board, OHSAA member schools will vote on the proposals between May 1 and 15, 2021.

#### **1. Bylaw 4-1-3, Eligibility (Amended for Clarity)**

This proposed modification would clarify what an ineligible student is permitted or not permitted to do during her/his period of ineligibility.

#### **2. Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, Exception 6 (Amended for Clarity)**

This proposed modification would clarify that non-enrolled students (specifically those who start at a public school and transfer to home education or another school where they are afforded a participation opportunity at their residential public school {i.e. community/STEM/non-public schools}) are still subject to the transfer consequence unless an exception can be met to restore full athletic eligibility. It also notes that these students must be eligible in accordance with all other areas of student eligibility (age, semesters and scholarship).

#### **3. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 9 (Modifications)**

The first proposed modification would change language to more closely align with other transfer exceptions and gives the Executive Director's Office some discretionary authority to waive all or part of the period of ineligibility. Also, "transfer of participation opportunity" would be added to the first sentence to clarify that non-enrolled students are also permitted to use this exception one time to restore their full athletic eligibility (the concept has also been added to Note 3). Additionally, new language would be added to Note 1 that would allow a multiple-high school district superintendent, or her/his designee, to request the application to Exception 9 at a high school outside the student's assigned attendance zone (or at a school not closest to the parent's residence, in districts that do not have defined attendance zones) if the transfer to the school can be supported by objective educational criteria. Examples of "objective educational criteria" include skipping over a poor-

performing school or transferring to a trade-specific school. The decision on whether to apply Exception 9 to this transfer would be left to the discretion of the Executive Director's Office and would be accompanied by requests for the student's transcripts and/or other supporting material.

#### **4. Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfers (Modifications)**

The first proposed modification would remove the reference to the fact that the student is ineligible *at the school to which the student transferred*. There are occasions when a student transfers in the middle of a season and wants to resume participation at a school at which they are not enrolled in accordance with state law. However, removing this language would clarify that if a student transfers in the middle of a season, she/he is ineligible for the rest of the season *regardless of where she/he desires a continued participation opportunity* (unless one of the enumerated scenarios occurs).

New language added to the bylaw, regarding application of the transfer consequence for the following season for a midseason transfer, would have significant implications which has led to some forfeitures when applied incorrectly. This proposed modification would move this concept to Bylaw 4-7-3 rather than refer the reader to Bylaw 4-7-2 as is denoted in a note.

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **approve** placing the four additional proposed bylaw modifications before the membership for referendum as presented.

Motion passed 7-0.

The Board discussed an additional item of business before going into executive session at 8:22 a.m. for the purpose of discussing the annual review process of the executive director and chief operating officer.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

**(Unless noted, all meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 9:00 but are subject to change.)**

**2020-21 School Year:** April 22, and Wednesday, June 9.

**2021-22 School Year:** August 26, September 23, October 21, January 13, February 17, April 28 and Wednesday, June 8.