

The following are the preliminary minutes from the February 17, 2022, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 28, 2022, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (February 17, 2022)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at the OHSAA Office in Columbus. President Scott Kaufman called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance. **Note:** Some individuals participated in the meeting virtually.

**Board Members Participating:** Scott Kaufman, president; Steve Watkins, vice president; Bo Arnett; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gina Franks; Gary Kreinbrink; Bill Nye; Scott Reeves; Jeff Wheeler, and Scott Hunt (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

**Staff Members Participating:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg, Tim Stried and Jacki Windon; controller Laura Vermilya; and staff members Charles Anderson, Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, Molly Downard, Alexis Holderman, Maurice Jenkins, Angie Lawler, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Dustin Ware.

**Others Participating:** Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio General Manager, Teall Properties Group; John Combs, Jeff Noble and Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Dick Kerschbaum and Gerald Cooke, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Barbara Sleek, Ohio High School Softball Coaches Association, and Shawn Andrews, Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Gina Franks to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the February 17, 2022, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **approve** the minutes from the January 13, 2022, Board of Directors Regular Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### A. Operations Update and Financial Report

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided the Board with a written report that provided updates on operations.

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through January. She said the OHSAA is currently \$2.7 million ahead of its projected budgeted revenue and has \$9.3 million of operating cash, which can cover 6.1 months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	Cash Concentration	Board Designated	Investment	Total Cash	Yr. to Date Gross Revenue	Yr. to Date Gross Expenses	Yr. to Date Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$3,508,689	\$3,516,502	\$21,748	\$702,454	\$492,592	\$8,241,984	\$8,591,482	\$6,033,739	\$2,557,743
Central	\$50,472	N/A	\$280,123	N/A	\$492,592	\$823,187	\$383,740	\$316,849	\$66,892
East	\$66,100	N/A	\$138,273	N/A	\$541,851	\$746,224	\$130,078	\$133,235	— \$3,157
Northeast	\$106,124	N/A	\$481,651	N/A	\$98,518	\$686,294	\$727,077	\$636,009	\$91,068
Northwest	\$142,084	N/A	\$344,987	N/A	\$689,628	\$1,176,699	\$518,004	\$398,708	\$119,296
Southeast	\$32,024	\$19,163	\$152,566	N/A	\$394,073	\$597,827	\$171,460	\$191,112	— \$19,652
Southwest	\$43,825	N/A	\$443,366	N/A	\$738,887	\$1,226,079	\$627,752	\$461,823	\$165,929
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,949,318</b>	<b>\$3,535,665</b>	<b>\$1,862,714</b>	<b>\$702,454</b>	<b>\$3,448,141</b>	<b>\$13,498,294</b>	<b>\$11,149,593</b>	<b>\$8,171,475</b>	<b>\$2,978,119</b>

Motion by Bo Arnett, second by Scott Reeves to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### B. Recommendation to Approve 2020-21 OHSAA Audit

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the 2020-21 OHSAA audit that was prepared by representatives of Schneider Downs of Columbus. The audit included the OHSAA office and the six District Athletic Boards from August 1, 2020, to July 31, 2021. Ms. Vermilya noted that the audit included an unqualified, clean opinion, the best that can be received, and, after a review, the OHSAA Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the report.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the 2020-21 OHSAA audit as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Update on OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings

Director Bob Goldring informed the Board that the sites and dates for the 2022 in-person OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings in April have been set. The OHSAA is required by the Constitution to conduct these meetings in order to explain the upcoming referendum issues, so the majority of the meetings will be spent with Director Kristin Ronai reviewing those items. The six locations are Athens, Bluffton, Cambridge, Clayton, Columbus and Cuyahoga Falls, with two of those meetings in conjunction with other meetings that are also taking place during that time. Registration material will be sent to the membership soon.

B. Update on OHSAA Meeting with the Presidents of the Various State Coaches Associations

Director Bob Goldring informed the Board that, after missing the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff from the Executive Director's Office will be conducting an in-person meeting with the presidents of the various state coaches associations on Wednesday, April 27, at the OHSAA Office. This meeting is a chance for the staff to share important reminders and discuss hot topics while also hearing the concerns from the coaches associations. Mr. Goldring said invitations have already been emailed, and Board of Directors members are welcome to attend to listen to the discussion.

C. NFHS National Coaches-of-the-Year Awards

Director Bob Goldring said that, while the Board was aware that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches-of-the-Year honorees at the state and section level have been selected for the 2020-21 school year, the NFHS has recently selected two Ohioans as national coaches-of-the-year. Selected were Jeff Howard (boys cross country, Peninsula Woodridge) and Larry Topp (boys track & field, Minster). The OHSAA will recognize them during the state track & field tournament this spring.

D. 2022 OHSAA OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Members Selected

Director Beau Rugg informed the Board that 13 individuals have been selected to the 2022 OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame after the Hall of Fame Committee met earlier this year. Selected were: Doug Ayers (Batavia, BSB, FB); Brian Carder (Maumee, FB); Dee Clay (Fostoria, FB, TF); Carl Davidson (North Canton, FB, BKB); Rick Delaney (Springfield, FB, BKB); Frank Grubb (Grove City, FB, BSB); Butch Minkemeyer (Wheeling, W. Va., FB, BKB, BSB); Ken Rockhold (Westfield Center, BKB); Larry Saxton (Defiance, WR, BSB, SOF); Pam Stewart Delaney (Springfield, VB, BKB); Steve Thomas (Albany, BKB, BSB, SOF); Scott Welker (Nashport, FB, BKB, BSB), and Brian Wisner (Vonore, Tenn., IH). The hall of fame ceremonies will take place in June in Columbus.

E. Update on Appeals, Infractions and Legal Issues

Manager of Membership and Compliance Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Canton Glenoak High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 2, Legal Change of Custody. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to allowing the student to participate during the second half of the season, as stipulated in the Bylaw. 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. **De Graff Riverside High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in seven quarters in one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Parma Normandy High School** violated Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting, when its hockey coach had impermissible contact with the parents of three (3) prospective student-athletes who were not enrolled in the school. The Executive Director's Office has acknowledged the school's self-imposed penalty of dismissing the coach from the program. In addition to this penalty, Normandy is required to conduct a recruiting seminar for all head coaches, with the opportunity extended to any other pertinent personnel. Lastly, should the coach gain employment at a different OHSAA member school for the 2022-23 ice hockey season, the coach shall be ineligible for participation during the 2023 OHSAA postseason ice hockey tournament. **Dayton Northridge Middle School** violated Bylaw 4-2-2, Age, when an 8th grade student who attained the age of 15 prior to August 1, 2021, participated in eleven (11) boys basketball contests during the 2021-2022 season. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Kenton High School** violated Bylaw 4-1-3, Eligibility, when a student-athlete dressed in full uniform despite being ineligible due to remaining in concussion protocol. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated; however, Kenton was not victorious in the single contest in which the student participated. Further, individual eligible athletes may keep their points, places and any awards earned during this contest. **Mogadore Field Middle School** had a student-athlete in 8th grade wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-4, Scholarship, when the student participated in a contest after failing to pass four courses in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. Individual eligible athletes, however, may

keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. **Windham High School** had a student-athlete in girls varsity basketball violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when the student participated in fifteen (15) contests after failing to pass five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the three victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Jeromesville Hillsdale High School** had a student-athlete in boys varsity basketball violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when the student participated in four (4) contests after failing to pass five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the four contests in which the ineligible student participated. **St. Bernard Roger Bacon High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-7, Intrasytem Transfer. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office within fifteen (15) days of the start of the school year, as stipulated in the Bylaw. 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. **Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in seven quarters in one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Warren Howland High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when a student-athlete participated in two non-interscholastic basketball contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete has been ruled ineligible for the remainder of the 2021-22 basketball season. **Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School** had two transfer student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer from a Poor Performing School. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the students participating, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the students retroactively and prospectively but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school has been fined \$100.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 40 appeals on 13 dates this school year; 28 of the appeals have dealt with the transfer bylaw, and seven appeals have either been granted or referred back to the Executive Director's Office for consideration to grant eligibility. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

None

## VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

### A. Recommendation to Approve Basketball Calendar for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 Seasons

Director Bob Goldring said that since the *OHSAA Handbook* only shows the calendar for the starting date of coaching, starting date for contests and tournaments in the sport of basketball through the 2022-23 season, he has worked to develop a basketball season schedule for three more years through 2025-26. The Board was provided a copy of that calendar. Since this calendar would usually be brought to the Board for approval later in the spring, Mr. Goldring said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the calendar be approved now so our schools, conferences and leagues can begin planning ahead.

### B. Recommendation to Approve Reinstatement of General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 (10-Day Rule for Team Sports)

Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that the OHSAA reinstate the 10-day rule for team sport coaches (General Sport Regulation 7.5.1), beginning June 1, 2022. This regulation was suspended during 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and action to suspend that regulation was approved via Constitution Article 6-1-9 (temporary suspension of strict compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic). If approved, General Sport Regulation 7.5.1 shall read:  
*Members of a school team's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may coach students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31.*

Mr. Ute noted that the OHSAA conducted a survey of administrators and coaches throughout the state on this issue and administrators supported reinstatement of the regulation.

### C. Recommendation to Approve Modified Procedures for 2022 District Athletic Board Elections via Constitution Article 6-1-9

At its January 13, 2022, meeting, the Board was provided with a list of the positions that will be up for election on District Athletic Boards for both terms that are expiring and terms that are held by interim representatives. At this meeting, Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to approve his recommendation to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 (temporary suspension of strict compliance due to the COVID-

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19 pandemic) to modify Constitution Article 7-4 as it relates to district athletic board elections. Since no elections took place last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic and because there are now five District Athletic Boards that have positions open in the same classifications, Mr. Ute recommended that — in those five circumstances only — the candidate with the most votes shall receive the longer term that is available and the candidate with the second-most votes shall receive the shorter term that is available. All other positions that are open will be filled by the candidate who receives the most votes.

### D. Recommendation to Approve 2022 Spring Sports Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Board was provided with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for 2022 OHSAA spring sports tournaments, and it was recommended that the prices be approved.

If approved, it was noted that details on ticket prices will be outlined in the spring sports tournament regulations that will be posted on the OHSAA website in the near future.

### E. Recommendation to Approve 2022 Winter Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2022 spring sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA staff members Emily Mason (baseball); Kate Barnett (softball); Tyler Brooks (boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse), and Bob Goldring (boys tennis and track & field). Most updates reflect date changes or modifications or other changes made for clarity purposes. In **baseball**, it was noted that the number of people permitted in the dugout for the state tournament has been increased to 32, although that still includes a maximum of 22 players in uniform. In **softball**, clarity was provided on how to break ties during the draw meeting process; on coaching attire, and on cleat regulations for participants when contests occur on turf fields. In **boys lacrosse** and **girls lacrosse**, adjustments in region assignments have been made, and it was noted that further changes could occur should teams decide not to participate in the OHSAA tournament. Emphasis was also placed on the need for administrators and coaches to report proper tournament game time, date and venue changes so that officials and fans can be notified and that final scores be reported so the OHSAA can keep all posted brackets accurate. In **boys tennis**, coaches are directed to the pre-season manual to read the regulations on medical timeouts, and it is noted that in doubles, players' tops must be of similar colors but their tops do not have to be of similar styles. In **track & field**, FAT recommendations and recommendations and preferred staffing of officials, including the listing of some mandatory assignments, has been added for district tournaments, while for the regionals, FAT minimum requirements and recommendations have been added along with the minimum officiating requirements and the recommended and required staffing of officials. It was also noted that one site needs to be finalized for Region 7 in Division II and that the state tournament will likely return to Ohio State's Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, pending completion of a contract, after being held at three Central Ohio high schools last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### F. Recommendation to Ratify the Hiring of a New Sport Administrator in the Executive Director's Office

Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that the Board ratify the hiring of Dustin Ware as a sport administrator in his office to replace John Kuzio, who resigned to take a position in business. Among Mr. Ware's past experiences include owning his own business and serving as a high school athletic administrator.

Motion by Steve Watkins, second by Scott Reeves to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E. and VI. F. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

### A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2022 Referendum Items

At the January 13, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved placing four items (one Constitution article and three Bylaws) before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Director Kristin Ronai proposed that nine additional Bylaw items be approved by the Board of Directors to place before the membership for referendum. If approved by the Board, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications to the Constitution article and Bylaws between May 1 and 15.

#### **Bylaw 1-5-1, Recognized Sports (Modification of Definition); Bylaws 1-5-2 and 1-5-3 (New Definitions Added), and Bylaw 1-5-4 (Modification)**

The proposed modification to the definition of Recognized Sports removes the list of recognized sports from the bylaw and moves that list to the General Sports Regulations. New Bylaws 1-5-2 and 1-5-3 provides definitions of Emerging Sports and Sponsored Events, respectively, and removes those definitions from the General Sports Regulations. The proposed changes also clarify that emerging sports are recognized sports covered under the OHSAA catastrophic insurance policy. The modification in Bylaw 1-5-4 clarifies that all OHSAA recognized sports, including school club teams, must abide by all OHSAA rules.

#### **Bylaw 4-1-1, Eligibility (New Exception), and Bylaw 2-2-2, Tournament Assignments (Modification)**

This proposal would allow a student manager or a student with an intellectual or physical disability to par-

icipate one time in a single varsity contest without said student meeting the OHSAA scholarship requirement. The concept is already captured in Bylaw 2-2-2, but that Bylaw would have to be modified to remove the requirement to meet the standard of the OHSAA scholarship bylaw.

**Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer (Add Note/Modification)**

The proposed modification, which would be in the additional note, would give the Executive Director's Office authority to adjust the period when a student would fulfill the regular season transfer consequence if they are unable to compete during all or part of the first 50 percent of the season. This would NOT allow for the transfer consequence to be waived, nor would it allow for the student to regain eligibility for the OHSAA tournament.

**Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer (Modification of Exception 1)**

Besides moving language from the former "Note 1" to more clearly articulate to which school(s) a student can potentially attempt to restore full athletic eligibility via this exception, the proposed modification would do the following: 1.) The current language of this exception allows for families to select any non-public school when they move into a new public school district, regardless of the distance of their move. The proposed amendment would set a new mileage requirement (15 miles) for a student attempting to use this exception at a non-public school. 2.) The current language of this exception allows for families to select any school when they move into a new public school district if the distance between the two residences is over 100 miles. The proposed amendment would decrease that distance to allow for the selection of any school when the distance between the two residences is 80 miles.

It was also noted that the reason there is no mileage requirement for approval for transfers to public schools for a move of less than 80 miles is because public schools have defined geographic boundaries which govern state allocated funding and school attendance assignments based on residency.

**Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer (Add Exception)**

The proposal to add this exception would give the Executive Director's Office authority to approve a one-time transfer of students back to a non-public school located within the same system of education but only if the student was continuously enrolled within that system of education in grades 4 through 8.

**Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer (Add Exception)**

The proposal to add this exception would provide a pathway for a student who may have been subject to inappropriate adult behavior to transfer schools and not be subject to a period of ineligibility so long as certain criteria is met. The proposed exception has no application for a student/family displeased with the former coach's training tactics/style.

**Bylaw 4-10, Amateurism (Modification)**

This proposed modification of the bylaw clarifies that money can never be accepted as a result of participation in interscholastic competition and also clarifies that a student can be a professional in one sport but still retain their amateur status in a different OHSAA recognized sport.

**Bylaw 4-10, Amateurism (Add Name Image and Licensing Regulations)**

This proposed addition would now allow student-athletes to sign endorsement agreements so long as their teams, schools and/or the OHSAA are not being represented within those endorsements and provided there are no endorsements with companies that do not support the mission of education-based athletics (casinos, gambling, alcohol, drugs, tobacco).

**Bylaw 5-1-1, Awards (Modification)**

This modification clarifies that the award threshold from participation in an event is reset after each competition and that the award must be given as a result of participation in a specific athletic competition. Also, the proposed award/prize amount has been increased to \$500 per competition from \$400.

Motion by Steve Watkins, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommendation to place the nine additional items up for referendum vote of the membership as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**VIII. ONCE AROUND**

Gerald Cooke, representing the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA), reviewed the recent OHSFCA State Coaches Clinic and provided Board of Directors and staff members with some handouts from the clinic.

Board of Directors members welcomed new OHSAA staff member Dustin Ware, offered best wishes to OHSAA Director of External Affairs Jacki Windon, who will be leaving Ohio soon to take a new position on the West Coast and offered best wishes and thanks to OHSAA staff members for their work and preparations for the upcoming winter state tournaments.

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Motion by Steve Watkins, second by Gina Franks to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

**2021-22 School Year: February 17 and April 28. A closed June meeting is tentatively being planned for out-of-town.**