

The following are the preliminary minutes from the May 17, 2022, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 9, 2022, meeting.

## **OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (May 17, 2022)**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, for the purpose of reviewing recommended changes to the OHSAA General Sports Regulations for 2022-23. President Scott Kaufman called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Board Members Participating:** Scott Kaufman, president; Steve Watkins, vice president; Bo Arnett; Ryan Fitzgerald (joined at 8:20); 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 and Beau Rugg, and staff members Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

**Others Participating:** Incoming Board of Directors Members David Alvarado, Andy Bixler, Molly Feesler and Jay Selgo.

### **Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2022-23 General Sports Regulations that Appear in the OHSAA Handbook**

Members of the Executive Director's Office met several times to discuss changes to the General Sports Regulations that will appear in the 2022-23 OHSAA Handbook, and at this meeting, Directors Kristin Ronai and staff members Tyler Brooks and Emily Mason reviewed the proposed changes and recommended that the modifications be approved by the Board. It was noted that the changes were recently reviewed with Executive Director Doug Ute. The proposed changes are as follows:

#### **GSR 1 – OFFICIAL PLAYING RULES AND RULE BOOKS**

Created an additional comment to show if the sport is a recognized or emerging sport. Also added boys volleyball and girls wrestling to the list and better clarified that the denoted sports have rules modifications to the playing rules listed, which have been approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **GSR 4 – PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO ACQUIRE PAP**

Added language from Ohio Administrative Code to clarify the permission of coaching while the PAP is under review by the ODE.

#### **GSR 5 – PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO CONDUCT PRE-SEASON MEETINGS**

Made the revision that when entering pre-season parent meetings into myOHSAA, administrators shall now list the date and time of each meeting rather than the date and location of each meeting as previously noted.

#### **GSR 6 – OHSAA SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS ENTRY/WITHDRAW PROCEDURES**

Updated the word "disapprove" to "deny" since this language is more accurate.

#### **GSR 7 – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION & INDIVIDUAL SKILL INSTRUCTION**

Combined previous GSR 7 (Non-Interscholastic Participation) with GSR 8 (Individual Instruction Regulation). The purpose of this combination was to simplify the two subjects since there tended to be a large amount of confusion between the two. A large part of this confusion was that there were previously two numbers being utilized—the "50% limitation" of how many players could participate together on a non- interscholastic team and the individual instruction number (4 for majority of sports, 6 for baseball and softball) detailing how many players a school coach could provide individual instruction to at one time. With the new GSR 7, there is now one number that is the same for both scenarios - how many can participate together on with a non-inter-scholastic program and how many can receive individual instruction from a school coach at one time.

A majority of these numbers utilized the formula of 50% of the amount of players required to start a game, rounded up. For example, a basketball game consists of 5 starters, so 50% of 5 would be 2.5, which would be 3 rounded up. For the sports of baseball and softball, their number was established by their recently approved increase of allowing to work with 6 athletes at one time, as it does not meet the same formula of 50% of the starters rounded up.

#### **GSR 8 –INDIVIDUAL NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION DEADLINE**

Moved up from old GSR 18. No changes.

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### **GSR 9 – CONDITIONING, WEIGHT TRAINING AND/OR PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAMS**

9.2.1: Moved note from under current 9.2.5 into 9.2.1.

9.2.2: Struck the following from current 9.2.2: “-provided the oversight by coaches of members of a school team in their sport in conditioning and physical fitness programs does not occur during a designated no-contact period.” **Interpretation:** A school coach may now provided oversight of these programs during the no-contact period for a sport.

9.2.3: Struck the exceptions under 9.2.3, as well as all of 9.2.4 and 9.2.5. **Interpretation:** No longer allows specific game equipment to be used during these programs (previously permitted in FH and IH). Also, these programs oftentimes have to be conducted for specific groups as space limitations are factored in, this was previously prohibited.

### **GSR 10 – OPEN GYMNASIUMS OR FACILITIES**

10.1.2 & 10.1.3: Added wording that clarified coaches cannot designate teams or extend individual invitations to students outside of their school. **Interpretation:** Wording was previously ambiguous as to who these regulations were addressed to.

10.1.7: Struck in its entirety. **Interpretation:** Coaching staff is now permitted to transport athletes to and from open facilities at both school and non-school facilities

10.2.1: Struck in its entirety. **Interpretation:** Changed 10.2.2 to capture coaches or students who violate one of the regulations.

10.3: Similar changes from 10.1, only difference is to non-school facilities.

10.4.2: Changed penalty from “prohibited from involvement in any open gymnasium” to “subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.”

### **GSR 11 – MANDATORY NO CONTACT PERIODS- COACHES**

11.1: Added the phrase “shall not coach or provide skill instruction to team members in their sport” to the regulation. Removed restriction of “supervise conditioning and physical fitness programs . . .”

**Interpretation:** School coaches are now permitted to supervise conditioning and physical fitness programs during the no-contact period.

11.2: Same changes as 11.1 winter and spring team sports (second no-contact period for those sports)

### **GSR 12 – REGULAR SEASON PARTICIPATION LIMITATION PENALTY**

Moved from old GSR 20. Change penalty of removal from tournament from “shall” to “may” to give E.D. Office some leeway in determining an appropriate sanctions.

### **GSR 13 – EJECTION PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOLS**

Re-worked into two sections, 13.1 and 13.2 **Interpretation:** Makes easier to read, separates “Out of State Ejections.” Adds the ability to levy additional penalties under Bylaw 11.

### **GSR 14 – EJECTION FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT (DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR UNSPORTING CONDUCT OR FLAGRANT VIOLATION)**

Numbered the paragraphs.

14.1.1 and 14.2.1: Standard ejection penalty is for all contests (scrimmages, previews, regular season and tournament).

14.1.2 and 14.2.2: Sub-varsity ejection re-written to:

Sub-varsity Ejections: Ejections that occur at sub-varsity levels must serve the same ejection consequence as stated above or until the passage of 10 calendar days following the ejection, whichever occurs first.

14.1.5 and 14.2.4: Codified the Soccer double yellow.

14.1.6 and 14.2.5: Using video to determine fighting. Stated as: If video is presented to the Director of Officiating, or their designee, and the video clearly shows the ejection action did not meet the NFHS definition of fighting (as written above), the suspension length may be reduced. The player(s) in question is ineligible until such time as the designee rules on the submitted video or the four-game penalty has been fulfilled.

14.1.8, 14.1.9, 14.2.7 and 14.2.10: Codified “subject to additional penalties as deemed appropriate under Bylaw 11 by the Executive Director’s Office.”

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### **GSR 15 – PARTICIPANTS LEAVING THE PLAYING AREA- SPECTATORS ENTERING THE PLAYING AREA**

15.1: Struck in its entirety, feel it is captured in the new 15.1 (paragraph 1).

15.2: Becomes new 15.1.1. Struck mention of “probation,” which is not consistent with current practice. Added the following language: The school shall immediately report the situation to the Executive Director's Office and conduct an investigation to report what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what ‘safeguards’ have been implemented by the school to prevent future occurrences. The school and/or student-athlete shall be subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

15.3.2: Becomes new 15.2.2. Similar to changes above in 15.2.

### **GSR 16 – RECOGNIZED SPORTS, EMERGING SPORTS AND SPONSORED EVENTS**

16.1: Now lists all recognized sports for the 2022-23 school year (moved from Bylaw 1-5-1 per referendum vote).

16.2: Restates new Bylaw 1-5-2 and explains what an emerging sport is. Also lists boys volleyball and girls wrestling as emerging sports for 2022-23 and explains what special considerations may need to be made for emerging sports.

16.3” Restates new Bylaw 1-5-3 and explains what a “sponsored event” is. It also provides the provisions a sponsored event must undergo to be considered.

16.4: Explains the process sports/activities would need to undergo in order to become an emerging sport or a sponsored event (contact Executive Director’s Office, review checklist which is available upon request, etc.).

16.5: Was old GSR 19. Explains that non-recognized sports do not have to follow OHSAA bylaws, but that schools can elect to adopt OHSAA rules at their own discretion.

### **GSR 17 – TOURNAMENTS**

Used to be GSR 16. New title better reflects what the regulation references. Minor editorial changes. Added boys volleyball and girls wrestling in appropriate areas.

### **GSR 18 – OHSAA-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS CURFEW REGULATIONS**

Used to be GSR 24. Made minor editorial changes.

### **GSR 19 – GRADES 7 & 8 PARTICIPATION FOR OHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS**

Used to be GSR 32. Updated title to reflect that regulation only impacts 7/8 grade students attending OHSAA member schools. Because it is impossible for schools/teams to verify the age/grade level of their opponent, we removed the regulation that 7/8 grade students cannot compete against 9-12 grade students. However, they are still prohibited from practicing with them or playing on the same team as them. New 19.5 retains the concept behind the prohibition against 7/8 grade students competing against 9-12 grades students, but changes the regulation to a “strong recommendation” as opposed to a strict prohibition.

### **GSR 20 – ATHLETIC UNIFORMS**

Used to be GSR 17. Adds language indicating that “The purpose of an athletic uniform is to identify participants . . . high school uniforms shall not be used as a medium to express an individual/team’s opinion/platform on any given topic.” Removes ability for teams to use lettering or emblems to promote “social justice issues.” Adds ability for teams to use lettering or emblems to promote “health/wellness cause.”

Per new state law, removes any requirement that religious attire require OHSAA approval: Regardless of NFHS Playing rules, Ohio state law requires that officials/contest administrators not prohibit, require a waiver, or create any obstruction to wearing religious apparel when competing or participating in interscholastic athletics or extracurricular activities, unless a legitimate danger to participants is identified due to wearing religious apparel. If such a danger is identified, the administrator or official of the event or activity shall offer all reasonable accommodations to the participant wearing religious apparel.

### **GSR 21 – NO CONTESTS, INTERRUPTED/SUSPENDED CONTESTS AND TOURNAMENT FORFEITS**

Used to be GSR 30/31. Adds language that a no contest “shall not count towards a student/coach fulfilling any ejection consequence, shall not count towards a student fulfilling his/her transfer consequence and shall not count towards the number of maximum allowable regular season contests permitted.”

Allows two schools to play an originally scheduled contest with no officials as long as the contest originally had officials who failed to fulfill their contract and the contest would count as a no-contest even though a contest occurred: “Additionally, if a regular season contest is scheduled to be played but the assigned officials fail to fulfill their contract, the contest can still be played, subject to agreement by both schools, but it shall be counted as a ‘no contest’ and shall not count in the win-loss record for either team. However, the event shall still count towards the team’s maximum allowable regular season contest total.”

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Adds language that if a contest is interrupted/suspended . . . “If there are no game-ending procedures outlined in the sport and if the contest is not resumed, the contest shall be counted as a no contest and shall not be included in won-lost records, shall not count towards a student/coach fulfilling any ejection consequence, shall not count towards a student fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, and shall not count towards the number of maximum allowable regular season contests permitted.”

### GSR 22 – INTERSCHOLASTIC SCRIMMAGE

No changes.

### GSR 23 – PREVIEW

No changes.

### GSR 24 – EXHIBITION COMPETITION

Used to be GSR 26. Minor editorial changes.

### GSR 25 – SUNDAY CONTESTS

Adds language which requires a team to play an OHSAA tournament contest even if it falls on a Sunday. Should a team elect not to play, it would result in a forfeiture.

### GSR 26 – TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

Moved from old GSR 21. No changes.

### GSR 27 – CHEERLEADER PYRAMIDS AND ACROBATIC ROUTINES

Moved from old GSR 12. No changes.

### GSR 28 – A NOTE ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Moved from old GSR 16. No changes.

### GSR 29 – PENALTIES

Moved from old GSR 33. Minor editorial changes.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Gina Franks to **approve** the proposed modifications to the OHSAA General Sports Regulations as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**It was noted that these regulations do not become effective until August 1, 2022.**

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 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:** June 9, 8:30 a.m., Canal Park, Akron.

**2022-23 School Year:** September 1, 2022; **Friday**, September 30, 2022; October 27, 2022; January 12, 2023; February 16, 2023; April 27, 2023, and a June date TBA.