

The following are the preliminary minutes from the December 2, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 13, 2022, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (December 2, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at the Holiday Inn Canton prior to the OHSAA State Football Finals. President Scott Kaufman called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

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

**Board Member Excused:** Gary Kreinbrink.

**Staff Members Present:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai and Jacki Windon; controller Laura Vermilya; and staff members Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, Molly Downard, Alexis Holderman, John Kuzio, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

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

### I. ACTION ITEMS

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

Updates in regulations for 2022 winter sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators John Kuzio (basketball); Emily Mason (bowling); Kate Barnett (gymnastics and swimming & diving); Ronald Sayers (ice hockey), and Tyler Brooks (wrestling), and the Executive Director's Office recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. In **basketball**, it was noted that the regional and state tournament draws will take place soon and will be added to the regulations. In addition, the Board was reminded that a coin flip held at the June 8, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting broke a tie for representation to the regional tournament from the district tournament, and the result was the Southeast District will receive two qualifiers and the East District one in boys Division II. In **bowling**, it was noted that schools will again be permitted to have a maximum of eight bowlers listed on their tournament rosters, but ball and bag limitations first put into place in 2021 will remain. In **swimming & diving**, work is being completed to revise the state tournament schedule, which will be presented to the Board at its Jan. 13, 2022, meeting. Changes for 2022 include use of alternates for individual events at the state tournament; use of electronic equipment for relays, and paralympic competition in individual events (paralympic relays were held in 2021). In **ice hockey**, the state tournament will return to the main ice at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, with the semifinals on Friday morning and afternoon, Mar. 11, and the finals Saturday, Mar. 12, at 7:00. In **wrestling**, the state tournament will return to The Ohio State University's Schottenstein Center Friday-Sunday, Mar. 11-13. Also, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) regulation changes include increasing the number of matches participants can wrestle per day to six and modification of the weight classes, which Ohio has adopted immediately. In addition, the seeding process for sectional tournaments has been more clearly memorialized in writing.

#### B. Recommendation to Approve 2022 Winter Sports Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Executive Director's Office provided the Board with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for 2022 OHSAA winter 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 winter tournament regulations that will be posted on the OHSAA website in the near future.

#### C. Ratification of Recommendations for Recipients of 2022 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service (Central and East Districts) Southeast District and Southwest District

The OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to interscholastic athletics in Ohio. Two of the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards make selections on a rotating basis each year, the recommendations are ratified by the Board of Directors and the honorees are traditionally recognized during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The Central District Athletic Board has recommended Dave Butcher, former longtime girls basketball coach at Pickerington High School and Pickerington High School North, be a 2022 recipient, while the East District Athletic Board recommended Kim Clifford, former longtime boys basketball coach at St. Clairsville High School, as a 2022 recipient.

#### D. Recommendation to Approve Start Date and Number of Contests in Soccer Beginning in 2022

The Board was presented a draft that detailed information on the proposed starting date for contests for the 2022 soccer season along with the number of contests permitted, and Sport Administrator Kate Barnett said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the proposals be approved. The regular

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season would start one week earlier and allow for a maximum of 17 permissible contests, meaning the first day for contests in 2022 will be Friday, Aug. 12, which allows schools the option to start the season on that Friday to highlight soccer prior to their first football game that will likely take place the following Friday. Ms. Barnett also noted that schools could choose to schedule fewer contests and/or start their seasons later. The new option may also have health and safety benefits for student-athletes by alleviating the potential of playing three matches in a week. In addition, it was noted that the previous requirement to complete a service project should teams choose to start the season early and add another contest is no longer in place.

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** Action Items A., B., C. and D. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

### II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Director Kristin Ronai reviewed potential 2022 referendum items with the Board since the Executive Director's Office will recommend that several issues be approved for referendum at the Jan. 13, 2022, Board of Director's Meeting. Most of the issues had been previously shared with the Board and/or were revised for clarity or with slight modifications.

Executive Director Doug Ute shared with the Board that his office is in the process of determining how to assist schools with their tournament expenses in the near future as the OHSAA continues to evaluate the best ways to responsibly manage the financial assets of the organization. In addition, Mr. Ute said he is working to finalize plans on how each District Athletic Board would distribute OHSAA tournament admission passes to our member schools.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Gina Franks to **adjourn** the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Motion passed 8-0.

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:** January 13, February 17, April 28 and Tuesday, June 7 (1:00).