

The following are the preliminary minutes from the October 21, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 13, 2022, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (October 21, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021, 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.

Board Members Present: 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).

Board Member Excused: Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Staff Members Participating: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; controller Laura Vermilya; and staff members Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, John Kuzio, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

Others Present: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the October 21, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the September 23, 2021, Board of Directors Regular Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Operations Update and Financial Report

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided a brief update on operations. She said the OHSAA is working with Everhart Advisors of Dublin, Ohio, to provide guidance on the Association's 403b plan to both the Executive Director's Office and any staff members who desire it, and the OHSAA is also working with Columbus-based Greystone Investment Consultants, a subsidiary of Morgan Stanley, to advise on organizational investments. She said both organizations will share fiduciary responsibility, reducing that risk for OHSAA leadership. Additionally, she provided an update on the NFHS Network, an on-line streaming tool. Dr. Kiehl then asked Controller Laura Vermilya to provide the financial report through September. She noted that the year-to-date operating loss is \$520,421, which is expected for this time of year since tournament receipts have not yet been received. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	CD/Other	Cash Concentration	Total Cash	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date
						Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$795,567	\$3,516,549	\$702,184	\$163,392	\$5,177,693	\$881,263	\$1,304,227	-\$422,964
Central	\$43,181	N/A	N/A	\$619,751	\$662,932	2	\$20,800	-\$20,797
East	\$71,859	N/A	N/A	\$633,531	\$705,390	N/A	\$9,222	-\$9,222
Northeast	\$125,121	N/A	N/A	\$281,447	\$406,568	N/A	\$34,696	-\$34,696
Northwest	\$114,811	N/A	N/A	\$844,496	\$959,307	N/A	\$13,220	-\$13,220
Southeast	\$57,048	\$19,163	N/A	\$488,778	\$564,989	N/A	\$8,458	-\$8,458
Southwest	\$42,093	N/A	N/A	\$902,831	\$944,924	10,000	\$21,064	-\$11,064
Totals	\$1,249,680	\$3,535,712	\$702,184	\$3,934,226	\$9,421,803	\$891,265	\$1,411,687	-\$520,421

Motion by Steve Watkins, second by Gina Franks to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Review of OHSAA Foundation Virtual Student Leadership Conference of October 5

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that the OHSAA Foundation Virtual Student Leadership Conference was held on Tuesday, October 5, and was again organized by Harvey Alston. Besides Mr. Alston, four other outstanding speakers were featured. Mr. Ute said school administrators are welcome to gather school groups to still view the presentation at <https://mjvirtualevents.com/ohsaa2021>. The presentation lasts approximately two hours and 20 minutes and will be available for viewing through March 2022.

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B. Review of Bylaw Modifications Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

Director Kristin Ronai informed the Board that, with the ongoing pandemic and the concern about students changing schools for pandemic-related reasons, the Executive Director's Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 and waive strict compliance with some OHSAA Bylaws. Among the modifications include: 1.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (sub-varsity transfers); 2.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but keep playing for the same school from which they transferred in accordance with state law), and 3.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but come back to the same school without playing for any other school). Complete details on these modifications can be found at: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/6-1-9Modifications.pdf>.

In addition, the OHSAA has used Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive Constitution Articles 3-3-4 and 3-3-5, Continuing Membership, as it relates to sponsoring two sports per sports season, the requirement to participate in 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in a team sport and, at the high school level, participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament for each of those sports.

C. NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year Awards

Director Bob Goldring thanked the coaches association representatives in attendance for meeting the deadline and submitting nominations for 2020-21 NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year awards. Awards are presented at the state level, and recipients will also be considered for section and national awards. After nominations are reviewed in November and December, the NFHS will announce the coaches-of-the-year in January.

D. 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. **Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-System Transfer. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th day of the school year, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the student retroactively and prospectively in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error. The \$100 fine that typically accompanies the application of Bylaw 4-1-1 was waived due to the recent fine of \$5,000 that was levied against the school. **Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy** had a transfer student-athlete who was 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 before 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. **Toledo Rogers High School** violated Bylaw 4-5-5, Participation During Expulsion, when a student participated in two football contests during the time in which they were ineligible due to an expulsion from Toledo Bowsher High School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit the one contest in which it was victorious. **Hillsboro High School** violated General Sport Regulation 11.2, Mandatory No-Contact Period, when the head boys basketball coach supervised two skill sessions between the dates of August 16 and August 22, 2021. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Hillsboro was placed on an additional no-contact period from September 20 to October 4, 2021. **Copley High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when a student-athlete participated in a non-interscholastic volleyball tournament during the volleyball season. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student athlete was required to serve a two-contest suspension. **Dover Middle School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when a student-athlete participated in a non-interscholastic girls soccer contest during the soccer season. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was required to serve a one-contest suspension. **Cincinnati West Clermont High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when a student athlete participated in a non-interscholastic girls soccer contest during the soccer season. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was required to serve a two-contest suspension. **Blanchester High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when six student-athletes participated on the same non-interscholastic boys basketball team. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Blanchester's self-imposed penalty of a four contest suspension for each of the six student-athletes at the start of the season. **Lima Senior High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when eight student-athletes participated on multiple iterations of a non-interscholastic boys basketball team. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Lima Senior's self-imposed penalties that suspend each athlete from one week of off-season workouts and one scrimmage. In addition, and in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes must serve a one-contest suspension to start the regular season. **Lima Central Catholic High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when three student-athletes participated on a non-interscholastic boys basketball team. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Lima Central Catholic's self-imposed penalty that decreased the school's total number of scrimmages from five to four. In addition, and in accordance with

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Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes must serve a one-contest suspension to start the regular season. **Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School** violated Bylaw 4-9-4 #3, Recruiting, when its head football coach had impermissible contact with student-athletes and their families at a northeast Ohio basketball league in December 2020. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has suspended the head football coach from coaching during the first three contests of the 2021 OHSAA football tournament, should the school qualify for participation. It should be noted that the school is already on probation for a previous recruiting issue but there is no extension of the probationary period due to the fact that this situation transpired prior to the start of the probationary period.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 19 appeals on six dates this school year; 14 of the appeals have dealt with the transfer bylaw, four appeals have been granted and one appeal was 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 pending legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Winter Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2021 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the winter sports of basketball (regional and state tournaments); ice hockey (state tournament); swimming and diving (state tournament), and wrestling (state tournament), and he said the staff recommended that they be approved. Per the OHSAA Handbook, the representation is calculated on a proportional formula per district based on the number of Class 1 officials who have registered with the OHSAA for the 2021-22 school year. With deadlines extended for officials to register for spring sports, that representation will be provided to the Board of Directors in the near future.

B. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Admission Policy for Former District Athletic Board Members And Former District Athletic Board Secretaries and Treasurers

Executive Director Doug Ute recommended the Board approve a tournament admission policy for former OHSAA district athletic board members and secretaries and treasurers. The policy (proclamation) is as follows:

Whereas, the Board acknowledges that former DAB members have dedicated countless hours of their time and talents to the mission of the OHSAA for which the board members received no compensation and yet these services have been invaluable; and

Whereas, the Board desires that former District Athletic Board (DAB) members and former DAB secretaries and treasurers be eligible for complimentary passes for district and sectional tournaments for all OHSAA sanctioned sports as both a token of appreciation for said services but also in recognition of the continued value OHSAA/DABs derive from said former members' presence at these tournament contests;

Now therefore, the Board approves the following procedures and policies related to these passes:

- District Secretaries will collect names and email addresses of all current and former DAB members and secretaries and treasurers requesting passes.
- District Secretaries will submit to OHSAA C.O.O. (alternatively, Director of External Affairs) an Excel document that has the name of the person in one column and the email in a second column. This MUST be submitted as an Excel document.
- An individual QR code, good for all district and sectionals tournaments, will be emailed to each person.
- The QR code is to be presented at the gate of the event to allow entry.
- Use of the pass will be tracked by OHSAA's e-ticketing partner (currently HomeTown Ticketing) and reported to OHSAA at the end of every season.
- This process will be repeated at the start of every sport season.

Note: Included with the policy were procedures for reporting these passes (tickets) as possible additional income in accordance with the IRS (Form 990). Additionally, Board of Directors members asked Mr. Ute to consider expanding the pass privilege to others within the OHSAA (e.g. former long-time assigners, tournament managers, etc.).

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C. Recommendation to Approve Use of Running Clock in Regular Season Basketball Contests

With a running clock regulation (score differential) already having been used for the past four years during OHSAA basketball tournament contests, staff member John Kuzio said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the OHSAA Board of Directors approve extending the running clock regulation to all levels of regular season contests. Any time a score differential reaches 35 points during the second half, a running clock would be utilized. After the 35-point differential has been met but the score drops below 30 points, the clock would revert to regular timing. Should a game reach the 35-point differential in the second half, the clock would only be stopped for an injured player on the court, team timeouts or when there is an unusual delay deemed necessary by the contest officials.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Gary Kreinbrink to **approve** New Business Consent items VI. A., VI. B. and VI. C. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board of Directors members offered best wishes to teams and student-athletes competing in the upcoming fall tournaments and to OHSAA staff members for their work and preparations for the upcoming tournaments.

Executive Director Doug Ute also thanked not only his staff for their work preparing for and conducting OHSAA tournaments but also District Athletic Board members and tournaments managers.

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 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: January 13, February 17, April 28 and Tuesday, June 7 (1:00).