

The following are the preliminary minutes from the May 23, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 8, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (May 23, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special virtual meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, for the purpose of reviewing recommended changes to the OHSAA General Sports Regulations for 2023-24 and proposed divisional assignments and representation for 2024 girls and boys basketball. President Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Board Members Participating: Bill Nye, president; Gina Franks, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett (joined at 8:21 a.m.); Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Paul Stone; Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Board Members Excused: Jay Selgo and Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members Participating: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai and Beau Rugg; controller Laura Vermilya, and staff members Kate Barnett, Alexis Holderman, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Dustin Ware.

I. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2023-24 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 2023-24 OHSAA Handbook, and at this meeting, staff member 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 6 – FINES FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND A TOURNAMENT DRAW AND FAILURE TO SHOW UP FOR A SCHEDULED TOURNAMENT CONTEST

The fine for failure of a coach, administrator or authorized team representative to attend the tournament draw has been increased from \$50 to \$150. The fine for failure to show up for a scheduled tournament contest remains at \$150 for team sports (along with other penalties as outlined in the regulation) but reduced to \$50 for individual sports.

GSR 6 – TOURNAMENT ENTRY/WITHDRAW DATES AND PERIOD TO ENTER THE TOURNAMENT LATE BUT MUST PAY A FINE

After the Board of Directors previously approved the fall, winter and spring sports dates for tournament entry/withdraw; periods to enter the tournament late while also incurring a fine, and dates for tournament draw/seed meetings at the April meeting, it was recommended the dates be modified to a week earlier for tournament entry/withdraw. This would provide some potential relief to OHSAA district athletic boards since they often spend that next week contacting schools that have not fulfilled their on-line seeding obligations. By changing this date, the periods to enter the tournament late while also incurring a fine were also moved earlier. There are no changes for the tournament draw/seed meeting dates.

GSR 7.1.1 – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

With the change to General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 that modifies the number of team members permitted on non-interscholastic teams who came from the same school or who participated in that sport as a team member at another school in the preceding season, the language in the note in 7.1.1 has been updated to reflect that it is no longer appropriate to be called the "50 percent" player limitation.

GSR 7.3.1 a.) – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

Additional language was added ("or") to clarify when a student "counts" toward the non-interscholastic total for a non-school team. The revision would be: "The number of team members on the noninter-scholastic team who are enrolled at the same school and/or participated in that sport at the same school in the preceding season, or team members on the noninterscholastic team who participated in that sport at another school in the preceding season and transferred or matriculated to the same school, is limited to the number of team members outlined below."

GSR 7.3.1 b.) and c.) – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

The sport of boys volleyball has been added in b.), and the 10-day coaching allowance has been modified to a 13-day coaching allowance in c.), which the Board of Directors had previously approved.

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes (5/23/23) — 2

GSR 7.4.1, 7.4.2 and 7.4.3 – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION: FOOTBALL

With the Board of Directors previously approving the extension of the period when school coaching can be conducted along with additional days to provide said coaching, this football regulation has been modified to reflect that coaching by a school coach/7-on-7 may be conducted between May 15 and July 30, and that coaches may coach students from their own teams during that period for 13 days. **Note:** The previous period was June 1 to July 31 and for a maximum of 10 days.

GSR 7.5.1, a.), b.), c.) and d.) – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION: ALL OTHER TEAM SPORTS

With the Board of Directors previously approving the extension of the period when school coaching can be conducted along with additional days to provide said coaching, this regulation for all other team sports has been modified to reflect that coaching by a school coach may be conducted between May 15 and July 30, and that coaches may coach students from their own teams during that period for 13 days. **Note:** The previous period was June 1 to July 31 and for a maximum of 10 days.

GSR 7.5.1, a.), b.), c.) and d.) – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION: ALL TEAM SPORTS

Clarity has been provided that indicates that coaches showing video or film to players DOES count as providing coaching.

GSR 7.5.2 – NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION: ALL OTHER TEAM SPORTS

With the change to General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 that modifies the number of team members permitted on non-interscholastic teams who came from the same school or who participated in that sport as a team member at another school in the preceding season, the language in 7.5.2 has been updated to reflect that it is no longer appropriate to be called the “50 percent” player limitation.

GSR 7.6.2 – ALL-STAR CONTESTS

Language has been modified to clarify that underclass students are permitted to participate in all-star contests as long as the non-interscholastic number is followed. This regulation is NOT intended solely for students who are graduating seniors or students who have completed their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.

GSR 7.6.3 – ALL-STAR CONTESTS

This new regulation serves as a reminder that All-Star contests are non-interscholastic events and all limitations outlined in General Sports Regulation 7 shall be observed for underclassmen.

GSR 7.9.3 – INDIVIDUAL SKILL/COACHING INSTRUCTION

This regulation has been modified to indicate that non-interscholastic coaches or instructors ARE permitted to provide individual skill/coaching instruction to student-athletes during the no-contact period (school coaches are NOT permitted to provide individual skill/coaching instruction during the no-contact period).

GSR 11.1 and 11.2 – MANDATORY NO-CONTACT PERIODS

Clarity has been provided that indicates that coaches showing video or film to players is prohibited during mandatory no-contact periods since that DOES count as providing coaching. Additionally, the sport of boys volleyball has been added to the regulations.

GSR 12 – REGULAR SEASON PARTICIPATION LIMITATION PENALTY

This regulation was clarified to indicate that, should a non-varsity team exceed the regular season participation limitation, the OHSAA could still prohibit the school from entering the OHSAA tournament since current regulations do not specify that a school’s varsity team is the one that must enter the OHSAA tournament (regulations only indicate that schools may only enter ONE team into the OHSAA tournament).

GSR 17 – DIVISIONS DETERMINATIONS

A statement has been added for clarity which says “The Board of Directors shall have the final authority in determining the number of divisions per sport and may use the following table as a guideline.” In addition, the number of teams participating in OHSAA tournaments the previous year(s) to determine the number of tournament divisions per sport has been modified to more appropriately reflect current participation numbers (and helps keep certain sports at the current tournament division numbers without a Board of Directors exception being approved). The change is as follows:

No. of Teams Participating In Tournaments	Tournament Divisions	(Previous No. of Team Participating in Tournaments)
200 or less	I	250 or less
201 to 450	I, II	251 to 500
451 to 700	I, II, III	501 to 750
701 or more	I, II, III, IV	751 or more

GSR 19.4 – GRADES 7 & 8 PARTICIPATION

The sentence “Please see individual sport regulations for any specific rules . . .” has been added regarding potential exceptions for 7th & 8th grade teams/individuals competing against or with 9th through 12th grade students.

GSR 22.3 – INTERSCHOLASTIC SCRIMMAGES AND PREVIEWS

Clarity has been provided indicating that schools ARE permitted to charge admission for a scrimmages and previews (it is a local school decision).

GSR 30 – LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICIES

While this previously was a stand-alone policy, this now has been included as part of the General Sports Regulations.

NOTE:

The Media Regulations and Sports Medicine Regulations will continue to be stand-alone policies but will be reflected in a cleaner format.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Andy Bixler to **approve** the proposed modifications to the 2023-24 General Sports Regulations as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Divisional Assignments and Representation for the 2024 Competitive Balance Sports of Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball

The Board was provided with tournament divisional assignments and representation for the 2024 Competitive Balance sports of boys basketball and girls basketball, and staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes. The Executive Director’s staff recommended that the following divisional assignments and representation as follows be approved:

Boys Basketball

Division I, 198 teams (346 males or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2023 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 198 teams (193 to 345 males)

Division III, 201 teams (121 to 192 males)

Division IV, 202 team (120 or less males)

Total Teams: 799

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments in boys basketball for 2024 would be:

Division I: Combined Central and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe, Logan) 4; Combined Northeast and one East school (Dover) 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 1, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

Girls Basketball

Division I, 192 teams (320 females or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2023 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 193 teams (191 to 319 females)

Division III, 191 teams (113 to 190 females)

Division IV, 192 teams (112 or less females)

Total Teams: 768

Representation from the district to regional tournaments in girls basketball for 2024 would be: **Division I:**

Combined Central, one East school (Dresden Tri-Valley) and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe, Logan) 4; Northeast 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 2; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division IV:** Central 1; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 6; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the 2024 boys and girls basketball tournament divisional assignments and representation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director Doug Ute reviewed various items with the Board of Directors, including the OHSAA transitioning to DragonFly Athletics as a technology solution for the 2023-24 school year beginning July 1, 2023; the upcoming OHSAA All-Districts Boards Meeting in Akron, and an OHSAA sportsmanship meeting

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes (5/23/23) — 4

that was held the previous day with the goal of improving our schools' environments for contests and events.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Bo Arnett to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.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.)

2022-23 School Year: June 8, 2023 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).

2023-24 School Year: August 31, 2023; September 29, 2023 (**Friday**); October 26, 2023; January 11, 2024; February 15, 2024; April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).