

The following are the preliminary minutes from the May 22, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 7, 2024, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (May 22, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. President Gina Franks called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Board Members Participating: Gina Franks, president; Jay Selgo, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett (joined at 8:43 a.m.); Andy Bixler (joined at 8:44 a.m.); Molly Feesler; Bill Nye; Paul Stone (excused at 8:58 a.m.); Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Board Member Excused: Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members Participating: Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour and Beau Rugg, and staff members Kate Barnett, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Lizzy Wilson.

Others Participating: Incoming Board of Directors members Stephanie Evans, Mark Rose and Randy Tevepaugh and Steve Craig, Joe Fraley and Josh Fraley, OHSAA legal counsels.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Molly Feesler to **adopt** the agenda for the May 22, 2024, Board of Directors special virtual meeting.

Motion passed 7-0 (Bo Arnett and Andy Bixler absent).

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve and Adopt Estimated OHSAA Budget for 2024-25

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a draft of the proposed budget for the OHSAA for the 2024-25 school year that includes the Columbus office and the six District Athletic Boards. She stated the budget is an initiative of the OHSAA’s strategic plan and guides the financial health of the organization, providing measures of accountability and transparency. The annual budget being presented reflects best estimates and assumptions to project anticipated revenues and expenses. It was noted that many tournament ticket prices were lowered during the current school year, and some prices may be reduced further for 2024-25. Ms. Vermilya stated that, while the budget is inclusive of the expansion of divisions in several sports, contingency expenses were budgeted for unforeseen costs that could arise under the new format. She added that the budget was reviewed and recommended for approval by the OHSAA Finance Committee and said the Executive Director’s Office recommended that the Board approve the budget, which is as follows (shown are the actual figures from the previous three years, the figures through April 2024 for this school year and the estimated budget for 2024-25):

<u>2020-21 Actual</u> <u>Revenue</u> \$17,101,353	<u>2020-21 Actual</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$14,755,637	<u>2020-21 Actual</u> <u>Net Income/Loss</u> \$2,345,716
<u>2021-22 Actual</u> <u>Revenue</u> \$25,294,204	<u>2021-22 Actual</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$19,324,442	<u>2021-22 Actual</u> <u>Net Income/Loss</u> \$5,969,762
<u>2022-23 Actual</u> <u>Revenue</u> \$25,320,962	<u>2022-23 Actual</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$21,754,716	<u>2022-23 Actual</u> <u>Net Income/Loss</u> \$3,566,716
<u>2023-24 Projected</u> <u>Revenue Thru July 31</u> \$25,808,390	<u>2023-24 Projected</u> <u>Expenses Thru July 31</u> \$22,376,875	<u>2023-24 Projected</u> <u>Net Income/Loss Thru July 31</u> \$3,431,515
<u>2024-25 Projected</u> <u>Revenue</u> \$25,773,871	<u>2024-25 Projected</u> <u>Expenses</u> \$25,646,004	<u>2024-25 Projected</u> <u>Net Income/Loss</u> \$127,867

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Molly Feesler to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

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B. Recommendation to Approve Athletic Enrichment Fund Donation for 2023-24 School Year

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended distributing \$2,000 to each member school for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Schools that return their membership cards and past due invoices by June 30 will receive a check from the OHSAA in August 2024.

It was noted that in April 2023, the Board of Directors approved the establishment of an OHSAA athletic enrichment fund for the purpose of providing a financial contribution, on an equitable basis, to each member high school's athletic department to assist with costs of equipment, uniforms, game transportation, officials and improving student sportsmanship and adult fan behavior. On an annual basis, the Board will determine whether to transfer money to the fund from operating cash and then decide the contribution amount to be provided - which may fluctuate each year - for each school. Last year each eligible member school received \$1,250.

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Bill Nye to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA 990 (From August 1, 2022-July 31, 2023)

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the Board with the OHSAA tax form (IRS Form 990) from August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023, which the Association is required to file as a 501(c)(3) organization. She said the OHSAA Finance Committee has reviewed the form and the Committee recommended that the form be approved.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the OHSAA 990 as presented.

Motion passed 8-0 (Paul Stone excused).

D. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2024-25 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 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook, and at this meeting, staff member Emily Mason reviewed the proposed changes and recommended that the modifications be approved by the Board. The proposed changes are as follows (**bold, italics = changes**):

GSR 7.1.3 – DEFINITION OF SCHOOL CONTEST

Practices involving two or more schools shall also count as a contest unless those squads share the same board-approved coach ***or unless otherwise permitted in the specific sport regulations, for individual sports.*** See Bylaw 9 regarding contests requiring special attention. **NOTE:** The previous language conflicted with allowances in specific Sport Regulations. Also referenced that this would be for individual sports only.

GSR 7.1.3 – LIMITATION OF NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL TEAM PERMITTED TO PLAY ON NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS OUTSIDE THE INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAM'S SEASON

Increased the number for boys lacrosse from six (6) to ***seven (7)***. **NOTE:** The change makes boys lacrosse consistent with other sports.

GSR 14 – EJECTIONS

Notes were added to 14.1 (Ejections for Players) and 14.2 (Ejections for Coaches) that say ***For ejections occurring during the last game of the season, refer to General Sports Regulation 14.1.8*** (for players) or ***14.2.7*** (for coaches). In addition, under 14.1.9 (Ejection for a Second Time), the following note was added: ***For ejections occurring in soccer, a double yellow card ejection cannot be paired with a red card ejection to create the "second ejection of the season." The two ejections referenced in 14.1.9 must be red card ejections.*** **NOTES:** A note was added to reference the reader to GSR 14.1.8, which covers ejections occurring during the last game of the season, to make sure they are understanding how GSR 14.1.8 applies. Also, for soccer, a note was added to clarify scenarios of a double yellow card ejection with a red card ejection (the two ejections referenced must be red card ejections).

In addition, a note was added to 14.2.4 (Soccer Disqualifications for Coaches) that says ***Coaches that receive a double yellow card do not have to pay the \$100 fine and take the NFHS class.***

GSR 16.5 – NON-RECOGNIZED SPORTS

Clarity was provided that indicates OHSAA catastrophic insurance would cover sideline cheer during OHSAA sponsored events.

GSR 17.2 – SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS - DIVISIONS

A note was added under the "Guidance to Place Teams into Tournament Divisions" that says ***If a school is permitted to utilize the exception to Bylaw 2-1-1 to move up to Division I from its originally assigned division, the Board may consider adjusting the number of teams assigned to a division to keep the participation opportunities outlined above as the minimum standards (i.e. AS CLOSE TO 10% in D1 football, AS CLOSE TO 64 teams in Division I and Division 2, respectively).*** **NOTE:** This clarifies scenarios if/when a team chooses to move up a division and how that affects the other divisions.

GSR 17.2 – SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS - DIVISIONS

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GSR 23.2 – PREVIEWS

Language was removed that specified when previews may take place. A school may choose to schedule scrimmage(s) and/or preview(s), depending on the sport specific regulations. All sport regulations will keep the maximum number of scrimmages permitted but will clarify that they can either be scrimmages or previews, or a combination of both, leaving the decision up to each school.

GSR 24 – EXHIBITION COMPETITION

The **Exception** was replaced with new language as follows: *Sport-specific regulations/playing rules may permit the unscored participation of eligible student-athletes, but such competition must count toward the maximum allowable number of contest limitations established by the OHSAA in terms of both team contest limitations and individual player participation limitations.* This clarifies that unscored participation of eligible student-athletes may take place at an event/contest, with the listed limitations.

GSR 27.1 – CHEERLEADING PYRAMIDS AND ACROBATIC ROUTINES

A note was added that says *By NFHS Spirit Rules, “stunting” or “building” is the act of building stunts by spirit groups and is permitted.*

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommended modifications to the General Sports Regulations as presented.

Motion passed 8-0 (Paul Stone excused).

E. Ratification of Recommendation from the Southwest District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim Class AA Representative

Board member Andy Bixler said the Southwest District Athletic Board has recommended that Tom Nerl, athletic administrator at Cincinnati Mariemont High School, be appointed as the interim Class AA representative on their board through July 31, 2025. If interested in continuing in that position, Mr. Nerl would then have to go through the election process in May 2025 to fill the position, with the term running August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2027. Mr. Bixler asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Bo Arnett to **ratify** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0 (Paul Stone excused).

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

2023-24 School Year: June 7, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).

2024-25 School Year: August 29, 2024; September 26, 2024; October 24, 2024; January 16, 2025; February 20, 2025; April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).