

The following are the preliminary minutes from the June 7, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its August 29, 2024, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (June 7, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Canal Park in Akron prior to the OHSAA State Baseball Tournament. President Gina Franks called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

Board Members In Attendance: Gina Franks, president; Jay Selgo, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett; Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Bill Nye; Paul Stone; Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio) and Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour and Beau Rugg, and staff members Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, Alexis Holderman, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Lizzy Wilson.

Others In Attendance: Incoming Board of Directors members Stephanie Evans, Mark Rose (participated virtually) and Walt Skaggs; Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Joe Fraley and David Fraley, incoming OHSAA legal counsels; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke and Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Jay Selgo to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the June 7, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

Later in the meeting, there was a motion by Bill Nye, second by Molly Feesler to **amend** the agenda further for the purpose of adding Item VII., New Business - Other.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the April 25, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting and the May 22, 2024, Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. General Updates

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya informed the Board that Chris Walker, production and facilities coordinator, has resigned effective June 7, 2024. Zachary Taylor, a former part-time employee in the media relations department, has been selected as his replacement. Mr. Walker will remain in the office for the next few weeks to help train Mr. Taylor. Ms. Vermilya also noted that the walkway leading up to the east entrance of the Ceramic Building has been upgraded.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through April 30, 2024

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through April. The OHSAA currently has \$10.3 million of operating cash; \$9.1 million in investments and board designated funds, and \$19.5 million in total funds. The latter amount can cover 10.4 months of expenses, and she projects that figure to be at nine months when the fiscal year ends July 31. Ms. Vermilya said the year-to-date expenses for the fiscal year were better than budget and revenues were above budget. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	Board Designated	Investment	Total	Year to Date		Year to Date Net Profit/Loss
						Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	
OHSAA Office	\$9,391,957	\$866,323	\$481,919	\$2,814,168	\$13,554,367	\$14,542,726	\$10,763,353	\$3,779,374
Central	—	—	N/A	\$922,523	\$922,523	\$933,322	\$900,885	\$32,437
East	—	—	N/A	\$861,341	\$861,341	\$410,532	\$331,337	\$79,195
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$597,685	\$597,685	\$1,554,639	\$1,614,068	— \$59,429
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,492,354	\$1,492,354	\$1,575,274	\$1,301,904	\$273,370
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$722,915	\$722,915	\$589,841	\$477,332	\$142,509
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,244,975	\$1,244,975	\$1,374,919	\$1,369,071	\$5,847
Totals	\$9,391,957	\$866,323	\$481,919	\$8,655,961	\$19,396,160	\$20,981,253	\$16,757,950	\$4,253,303

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	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking	\$9,391,957	\$11,300,965	\$8,977,554
Savings	\$988,010	\$988,010	\$866,382
Concentration Account	=	=	=
Total Operating Cash	\$10,379,967	\$12,288,975	\$9,843,936
Months on Hand	5.5	6.6	5.5
Board Designated Funds	\$481,919	\$481,000	\$710,719
Investments - Morgan Stanley	<u>\$8,655,961</u>	<u>\$8,763,181</u>	<u>\$8,056,662</u>
Total Investments	\$9,137,880	\$9,244,181	\$8,767,381
Months on Hand	4.9	4.9	4.9
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$19,517,847	\$21,533,156	\$18,611,317
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	10.4	11.5	10.3
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,524,045	\$2,513,270	—

C. Update on Tournament Travel Stipends for Team Sports

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the OHSAA provide an additional \$250 per qualifying contest to each school that is already receiving a travel stipend for tournament participation in team sports during the 2023-24 school year. The checks for those schools eligible for the stipend would be mailed this month. The cost to the OHSAA would be \$268,500, bringing the total travel stipends awarded during the 2023-24 school year to \$1.7 million.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Andy Bixler to **approve** the financial items III. B. and III. C. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Review of OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that the six in-person OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings were completed in early May, and that attendance and feedback were positive. The OHSAA is required by the Constitution to conduct these meetings in order to explain the upcoming referendum issues, so the majority of the meetings have been spent with Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai reviewing those items. Mr. Ute thanked administrators at Clayton Northmont and Streetsboro high school for serving as hosts. Other meetings were held at the Ohio University Inn & Conference Center in Athens; the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, the Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center in Cambridge and the Camden Falls Reception and Conference Center in Tiffin.

B. Review of 2024 Referendum Voting

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said voting on the six OHSAA Referendum issues (all Bylaw) took place between May 1 and 15, and all of the issues passed. The results can be found on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

C. Review of 2024 District Athletic Board Election

Staff member Ronald Sayers said voting for expiring positions on the six OHSAA district athletic boards took place between May 1 and 15. He thanked fellow staff member Alexis Holderman for her work during the petition and voting processes. The results can be found on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

D. Reminder of 2024 Fall Meetings

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said staff members from the Executive Director's Office will host three OHSAA Administrator Workshops in August to review current issues and provide reminders on other items. In-person workshops for new administrators will be held at the OHSAA Office on August 7 and August 20 and a virtual workshop for returning administrators will be held August 26. Registration information will be sent to the membership this summer. Director Bob Goldring said the OHSAA will conduct in-person Regional Update Meetings in the six athletic districts across the state in August and September. The meetings are intended for superintendents, principals and athletic administrators and allows the Executive Director's staff to review current issues and provide reminders on other items. The meetings will be held August 22 in Cambridge; September 3 in Streetsboro; September 4 in Westerville; September 10 in Findlay, and September 12 in Cincinnati. A Southeast District site is to be determined for the August 27 meeting. Registration information will be sent to the membership this summer.

E. Reminder on Board Resolution Cards

Staff member Alexis Holderman said the Executive Director's Office is still receiving Board Resolution Cards, which must be returned to the office by June 30 in order for schools to continue membership within the OHSAA and to confirm the requirement to follow OHSAA regulations. At last count, she said 635 of the 670 expected cards have been submitted. Ms. Holderman said she will continue to follow up with schools that have not returned the card and will provide an update at the August 29 Board of Directors Meeting.

F. Update on Appeals, Legislative Issues and Legal Cases

Staff member Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Maple Heights High School** had a student-athlete in boys varsity basketball

violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, when he participated in a contest during the period of ineligibility required within the transfer bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Loudonville Middle School** had a student-athlete in eighth grade boys basketball violate basketball Regulation 1.8, Quarter Limitations, when he participated in a seventh quarter of basketball during the same day. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Duncan Falls Philo High School** had a student-athlete in boys bowling violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when he participated in a non-interscholastic contest while remaining a member of the Philo High School team. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited the two victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated after the non-interscholastic competition occurred but before the penalty was discovered. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student was suspended from the two contests immediately following the discovery of the infraction. **Akron Buchtel Community Learning Center Middle School** had a student-athlete in middle school boys basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Basketball Regulation 5.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when he participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated after the non-interscholastic competition occurred but before the penalty was discovered. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student was suspended for the remainder of the season. **Galloway Westland High School** had a student-athlete in boys swimming & diving violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Westland High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated during the next grading period. **Campbell Memorial Middle School** had two student-athletes in middle school boys basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Basketball Regulation 5.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when they participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students were suspended for the two contests immediately following the infraction. No forfeitures were required because the infraction was identified before the students played in any additional school contests. **Bowling Green Middle School** had a student-athlete in middle school girls basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Basketball Regulation 5.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when she participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student was suspended for the two contests immediately following the infraction. No forfeitures were required because the infraction was identified before the student played in any additional school contests. **Kinsman Badger High School** had three student-athletes in varsity boys basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Basketball Regulation 5.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when they participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students were suspended for the two contests immediately following the infraction. No forfeitures were required because the infraction was identified before the students played in any additional school contests. **Dayton Belmont High School** had a student-athlete in boys wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Belmont High School was required to forfeit any contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. However, no forfeiture was required since the school was not victorious in any contests in which the ineligible student competed. **Toledo Bowsher High School** had student-athletes in girls basketball, boys basketball, and boys bowling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Toledo Bowsher forfeited the five high school girls basketball contests, the one high school boys basketball contest, and the one boys bowling match in which the ineligible students competed. **Kirtland Middle School's** boys basketball team violated General Sports Regulation 12, Regular Season Participation Limitation Penalty, and Basketball Regulation C.5, Regular Season Games, when they participated in 17 regular season contests during the 2024-25 school year. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Kirtland Middle School was required to forfeit the contest which was played in excess of the 16 permitted. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the school was reprimanded and advised that future violations of the same nature would result in harsher penalties. **Struthers High School** had two student-athletes in varsity boys basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Basketball Regulation 5.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when they participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance

with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students were suspended for the two contests immediately following the infraction. No forfeitures were required because the infraction was identified before the students played in any additional school contests. **Ironton Rock Hill Middle School** had a middle school girls basketball coach violate General Sport Regulation 11.1, Coaches Mandatory No-Contact Periods, when the coach allowed two of their student-athletes to train with the coaches present in the gym less than 28 days from their last athletic contest. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Directors Office accepted Rock Hill's self-imposed penalty of additional education efforts to ensure the infraction does not occur again. **Union City Mississinawa Valley High School's** girls basketball coach violated Bylaw 4-9-4 #3, Recruiting, when they engaged in verbal and electronic communication with a student and their family who was enrolled at a different school. After an investigation, it was determined that the contact between the coach and the athlete/family was mostly related to the coach's capacity as a non-interscholastic team coach, but the setting and nature of the contact was still determined to be prohibited. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office accepted Mississinawa Valley's corrective action plan, issued a reprimand and advised that future offenses would lead to harsher penalties. **New London High School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending New London High School full time. Further, the student did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-3-1. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, New London High School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Wapakoneta Middle School** had a student-athlete in seventh grade baseball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-Interscholastic Teams During the School Team's Season, and Baseball Regulation 2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when he participated in non-interscholastic contests while remaining a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student was suspended from the two contests immediately following the infraction. No forfeitures were required because the infraction was identified before the students played in any additional school contests. **Brunswick Middle School** had a student-athlete in middle school track and field violate Bylaw 4-4-5, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season contests after failing to pass for classes in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures In Individual Sports, Brunswick Middle School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated during the next grading period. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted. **Shaker Heights Laurel High School's** girls basketball coach violated OHSAA Media Regulation B when she made derogatory public comments directly to the media regarding the official(s) of a state tournament contest. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the coach was publicly reprimanded and any future violations of such a nature will result in harsher penalties. **Portsmouth High School's** girls basketball coach violated OHSAA Media Regulation B when she made derogatory public comments directly to the media regarding the official(s) of a state tournament contest. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the coach was publicly reprimanded and any future violations of such a nature will result in harsher penalties. **Cincinnati Woodward High School** had a student-athlete in boys track and field violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season and postseason tournament contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures In Individual Sports, Woodward High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated during the next grading period. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places, awards and qualifying positions earned during these forfeited contests. **Upper Sandusky High School** had a student-athlete in varsity softball violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, when she participated in two contests during the period of ineligibility required within the transfer bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited any victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Conneaut High School** had a student-athlete in varsity boys soccer violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending Conneaut High School full time. Further, the student did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-3-1. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Conneaut High School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Richmond Heights Middle School** had two student-athletes in middle school track and field violate Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, when they participated in regular season and postseason tournament contests during their fifth and sixth semesters of middle school. In accordance with Bylaws 10-2-1 and 10-2-5, Forfeitures in Individual Sports, Richmond Heights was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athletes participated, including the 2024 7th and 8th Grade Track and Field State Championship. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places, awards and qualifying positions earned during these forfeited contests.

Staff member Ronald Sayers provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 74 rulings on 72 appeals during 16 hearings this school year, and 21 appeals have either been granted or the penalties modified. In addition, Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues and OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve Updates to Divisional Assignments and Representation Business Rules

Staff member Ronald Sayers said the OHSAA Executive Director's Office said that the business rules for Divisional Assignments and Representation have already been approved but said that the Executive Director's Office recommended that some additional modifications be approved. Among the modifications include: 1.) date changes; 2.) how teams are placed into Divisions I and II in the team sports of baseball, basketball, soccer and girls volleyball; 3.) how qualifiers are determined when districts have combined tournaments; 4.) how representation ties are broken in both the competitive balance and the non-competitive balance sports, and 5.) how Exception 1 to Bylaw 2-1-1 is applied as it relates to schools requesting to move into Division I for tournaments, how adjustments to other divisions could be made and the deadline for 2024 spring sports schools requesting to move to Division I.

B. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to Tournament Divisional Assignments and/or Representation for Selected Fall and Winter Sports

At its April 25 meeting, the Board was provided with tournament representation and/or divisional assignments for most of the fall and winter sports. At this meeting, staff member Ronald Sayers provided modifications to tournament divisional assignments and representation for selected fall and winter sports following the 2024 referendum issue passing that allowed schools to choose to move up to Division I for tournament competition.

Note: The OHSAA has approved 14 requests from 11 schools to move up to Division I in specific fall and winter sports for the 2024-25 school year. The requests were made possible by the passage of Referendum Item 1B that OHSAA member schools approved earlier this spring, which permits schools to request to move up to Division I on a sport-by-sport basis for one school year. The movement resulted in a total of 24 adjustments in divisional placements across seven fall and winter sports, which includes several Division I schools moving down to Division II in specific sports. The approved changes are as follows:

Girls Tennis: Chagrin Falls Kenston moves to D1; Chardon Notre Dame Cathedral Latin moves to D1; Ashtabula St. John School moves to D1. This resulted in no changes to representation in D1 or D2.

Football: Westerville Central moves to D1. This resulted in no schools moving down to D2 as the number of teams in D1 still rounds to 10 percent.

Boys Soccer: Cincinnati Elder moves to D1; Columbus St. Charles moves to D1; Cincinnati Sycamore moves to D2; Cleveland Heights moves to D2. This resulted in no changes to representation in D1 or D2.

Girls Soccer: Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit moves to D1; Westerville South moves to D2. This resulted in no changes to representation in D1 or D2.

Girls Volleyball: Cleveland St. Joseph Academy moves to D1; Rocky River Magnificat moves to D1; Parma Normandy moves to D2; Pataskala Watkins Memorial moves to D2. This resulted in no changes to representation in D1 but changes in Division 2 are outlined below.

Boys Basketball: Cincinnati Elder moves to D1; Thomas Worthington moves to D2. This resulted in no changes to representation in D1 but changes in Division 2 are outlined below.

Girls Basketball: Cincinnati Seton moves to D1; Cincinnati Mount Notre Dame moves to D1; Rocky River Magnificat moves to D1; Cleveland St. Joseph Academy moves to D1; Euclid moves to D2; Grove City Central Crossing moves to D2; Westerville North moves to D2; Cleveland John Marshall moves to D2. This resulted in changes in representation in Divisions 1 and 2, which are outlined below.

With these changes, tournament representation modifications were made as follows:

Girls Volleyball

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2024 would be: **Division I:** Central 6; Northeast 4; Northwest 1, and Southwest 5; ***Division II:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 3; Northeast 8; Northwest 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; Northeast 6; Northwest 3; Combined Southeast and five East schools (Chillicothe, Chillicothe Unioto, Dover, Dresden Tri-Valley and New Philadelphia) 1, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 2; Southeast 1, and Southwest 4; **Division V:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division VI:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 2, and **Division VII:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

*A pill draw was conducted at the June 7, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors meeting between the Central, Northeast, and Northwest Districts to determine which would receive an extra qualifier. The Northeast and Northwest Districts won the draw and will receive 8 and 2 qualifiers respectively, while the Central District will receive 3 qualifiers.

Boys Basketball

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2025 would be: **Division I:** Central 6; Combined Northeast and two Northwest schools (Perrysburg and Toledo Whitmer) 4, and Southwest 6; ***Division II:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 5; Northeast 7; Northwest 2, and Southwest 2; **Division III:** Central 2; Combined East and Southeast 1; Northeast 6; Northwest 3, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 5; Northwest 2; Southeast 2, and Southwest 4; **Division V:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 4; Northwest 2; Southeast 2, and Southwest 4; **Division VI:** Central 1; East 1; Northeast 4 Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3, and **Division VII:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

*A coin flip was conducted at the June 7, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors meeting between the Northeast and Southwest Districts to determine which would receive an extra qualifier. The Northeast District won the flip and will receive 7 qualifiers, while the Southwest District will receive 2 qualifiers.

Girls Basketball

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2025 would be: ***Division I:** Central 5; Northeast 4; Northwest 1, and Southwest 6; **#Division II:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 4; Northeast 7; Northwest 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; Combined East and Southeast 1; Northeast 6; Northwest 3, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 6; Northwest 2; Southeast 1, and Southwest 4; **Division V:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 3; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division VI:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4 Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 2, and **Division VII:** Central 2; *East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

*A pill draw was conducted at the June 7, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors meeting between the Central, Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest Districts to determine which would receive an extra qualifier. The Northeast, Northwest and Southwest Districts won the draw and will receive 4, 1 and 6 qualifiers respectively, while the Central District will receive 5 qualifiers.

#A coin flip was conducted at the June 7, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors meeting between the Central and Northwest Districts to determine which would receive an extra qualifier. The Northwest District won the flip and will receive 2 qualifiers, while the Central District will receive 4 qualifiers.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2025 and 2026 Tournament Divisional Assignments and Representation for Boys Wrestling

At the April 25, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved tournament representation and/or divisional assignments for all fall and most winter sports for either the 2024-25 school year (Competitive Balance sports) or the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. At this meeting, staff member Ronald Sayers said the OHSAA Executive Director's Office recommended that the tournament division assignments and representation for boys wrestling for 2025 and 2026 be approved as follows:

Division I, 163 teams (353 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)
Division II, 164 teams (192 to 352 males)
Division III, 164 teams (191 or less males)
Total Teams: 491

Representation from the district to the state tournaments for 2025 and 2026 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 4; Combined Northeast, two East schools (Dover, New Philadelphia) and three Northwest schools (Ashland, Fremont Ross, Toledo St. John's Jesuit) 7; Northwest 1, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 5; Southeast 1, and Southwest 2.

In Division I, the Northwest District will host one sectional tournament and send three teams (Ashland, Fremont Ross and Toledo St. John's Jesuit) to the Northeast District. The Northeast District to host seven sectional tournaments with the three most western sectionals to combine with the Northwest sectional tournament for district competition to be hosted by the Northwest District.

In Division II, the the Central district will host two sectionals. The northernmost sectional will feed into the Northwest district tournament. The southernmost sectional will feed into the Southwest district tournament. The Northwest and Southwest will host district tournaments in both 2025 and 2026. The two East District sectional tournaments and the two Southeast District sectional tournaments will combine for district competition to be hosted by the East District in 2025 and the Southeast District in 2026.

In Division III, the East, Southeast and one sectional from the Northeast will combine for District competition to be hosted by the East District in Coshocton in both 2025 and 2026. The Central, Southwest and one sectional from the Northwest will combine for District competition to be hosted by the Northwest District in Troy in both 2025 and 2026.

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D. Recommendation to Approve 2025 and 2026 Tournament Divisional Assignments for Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

Staff member Ronald Sayers said the OHSAA Executive Director's Office recommended that the tournament division assignments for boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse for 2025 and 2026 be approved as follows:

Boys Lacrosse

Division I, 73 teams (455 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 74 teams (454 or less males)

Total Teams: 147

Girls Lacrosse

Division I, 72 teams (430 females or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 72 teams (429 or less females)

Total Teams: 144

Motion by, second by to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

E. Recommendation to Approve Additional Changes to the 2024-25 OHSAA General Sports Regulations

At the May 22, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting, the Board approved modifications to the General Sports Regulations that will appear in the 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook. At this meeting, Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai reviewed additional proposed changes and recommended that the modifications be approved by the Board. The proposed changes are as follows:

GSR 14 – EJECTIONS

Notes were added to 14.1.1, 14.1.9, 14.2.1 and 14.2.10 that says "The Executive Director's Office is strictly prohibited from reviewing any extraneous evidence such as video/audio recordings or entertain any/all challenges to the propriety of one or the other of these two ejections except insofar as a challenge to the identification/misidentification of the ejected player and/or a misapplication of a rule that directly results in the ejection of a player or coach (e.g. a basketball coach incorrectly ejected for two indirect technical fouls)."

GSR 31 – ASSIGNMENT OF CONTEST OFFICIALS

This new General Sports Regulation was added regarding the assignment of contest officials: "Member schools, their administrators and/or assigners acting on their behalf, shall utilize the assigning platform approved by the OHSAA (DragonFly) when contracting with contest officials. Furthermore, the acceptance by the contest official of the offer extended by the member school, school administrator and/or assigner acting on behalf of the school (or conference/league) shall constitute an offer and acceptance and shall become at the moment a legally binding contract."

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Paul Stone to **approve** Old Business Items V. A., V. B., V. C., V. D. and V. E. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation on New Member Schools for the 2024-25 School Year

Staff member Alexis Holderman reported that two high schools have applied for membership and have gone through the probationary period as required, but it has been determined that the schools have not met the requirements of Constitution Article 3, Section 2. Therefore, it is recommended that the schools not be approved for membership for the 2024-25 school year, although they could be considered in the future.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Football Tournament Regulations

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board of Directors with a draft of 2024 football tournament regulations that included proposed modifications, and it was recommended that the regulations be approved. Besides date changes and modifications made for clarity, it was noted that all tournament contests will again be played exclusively on Friday nights through the state semifinals. The state finals will remain at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton and will be held December 5-7.

C. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2024-25 Sport-by-Sport Regulations for OHSAA Handbook

OHSAA sport administrators reviewed proposed modifications to the sport-by-sport regulations that will appear in the 2024-25 OHSAA Handbook after the staff collaborated on the proposed changes. The staff recommended that the modifications be approved by the Board. Most of the modifications reflect date changes or were made to provide clarity. Some key modifications: In **baseball**, the first date of regular season contests will be a day earlier and move to Friday, and regional tournaments will move to a Wednesday-Thursday format to help avoid possible conflicts with schools that also have a softball team in the tournament. In **bowling**, boys will now be permitted to wear black shorts, matching the regulation that has been in place for girls. In **field hockey**, students may now apply for a College I.D. camp waiver and, if approved, would be eligible twice during the season in August and/or September. In **gymnastics**, the state tournament will continue with a Saturday-Sunday format. In **ice hockey**, the new NFHS regulation that players

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must wear neck laceration protectors was added. In **girls lacrosse**, students may now apply for a College I.D. camp waiver and, if approved, would be eligible once during the season. In **boys lacrosse**, the requirement for an acclimitization period has been removed. Both **girls lacrosse** and **boys lacrosse** are hoping to move the state tournament a week earlier than in 2024, but a final decision has yet to be made. The state finals format will likely continue with the girls finals on a Friday and the boys on a Saturday. In **soccer**, schools can participate in a maximum of five scrimmages (any references to previews has been removed). In **tennis**, a student who has been approved for a waiver to participate in a non-interscholastic contest/event must count that as one of the maximum of 22 contests permitted during the regular season. In **track & field**, it was noted that the hammer throw is not permitted during the regular season similar to the javelin; that the 16 contest limitation is strictly a limitation for individuals; that 7th-8th grade contests can take place at the same time as high school contests (but 7th-8th grade athletes cannot participate in the high school events); reference was made to the OHSAA Bylaw that permits girls to participate on boys teams, and clarity was provided to note that indoor track & field is different than outdoor track & field. Other items were added to the track & field regulations to provide clarity. In **basketball** and **volleyball**, schools can decide whether they would like to participate in a maximum of six scrimmages and/or previews. In **wrestling**, it was noted that girls pre-regionals would begin the same week as the boys sectional tournaments.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** New Business Items VI. A., VI. B. and VI. C. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

A. Recommendation to Approve Continued Use of an Appeals Panel for 2024-25 School Year

The OHSAA Constitution permits the Board of Directors to appoint an Appeals Panel that will have jurisdiction over appeals pertaining to all rulings made by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office, including student eligibility. The Article also says that decisions by the panel will be final, and bylaws cannot be waived, amended or set aside and must be applied as written. At this meeting, Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to approve appointing an appeals panel for the 2024-25 school year, which would be the 13th consecutive year for such a panel.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked their outgoing colleagues for their work, welcomed the incoming Board members and thanked the staff for their work during the 2023-24 school year. Board President Gina Franks was also praised for her leadership. Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) and Board ex-officio member, said his organization was looking forward to hosting the OIAAA Summer Institute at the OHSAA Offices next week.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Molly Feesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 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.)

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).