

The following are the preliminary minutes from the August 29, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its September 26, 2024, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (August 29, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at the OHSAA Offices in Columbus. President Jay Selgo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

Board Members In Attendance: Jay Selgo, president; Andy Bixler, vice president; David Alvarado; Stephanie Evans; Molly Feesler; Mark Rose; Walt Skaggs; Paul Stone; Randy Tevepaugh, 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, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried, and staff members Charles Anderson (participated virtually), Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Kelly Kovach Schoenly, Claudia Markoff, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Lizzy Wilson.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig and Joe Fraley, OHSAA legal counsels; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Paul Stone to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the August 29, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Walt Skaggs, second by Mark Rose to **approve** the minutes from the June 7, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting and the June 30, 2024, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. General Updates

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya informed the Board that Susan Javery, senior accountant, retired effective August 16, 2024. Following the retirement of 33-year staff member Molly Downard on July 9, 2024, Michelle Kern has been hired to replace her as executive assistant.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through End of 2023-24 Fiscal Year (July 31, 2024)

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the unaudited year-end financial report through July. She said the OHSAA has \$7.7 million of operating cash, and \$17.2 million when including investments and board-designated funds. When counting the latter, the Association can cover 8.9 months of expenses. She said year-end revenues were \$9,414,267 (the budget was \$8,827,713) and year-end expenses were \$7,004,976 (the budget was \$6,913,308). It was noted that over \$1.6 million in travel stipends was provided to schools to assist with tournament travel, and the OHSAA awarded 200 senior student-athletes with \$1,000 scholarships. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	Board		Total	Year to Date		Year to Date
			Designated	Investment		Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	
OHSAA Office	\$6,713,741	\$881,616	\$487,563	\$2,918,367	\$11,001,286	\$18,477,554	\$16,870,193	\$1,607,361
Central	—	—	N/A	\$956,680	\$956,680	\$1,187,412	\$1,143,775	\$43,637
East	—	—	N/A	\$893,233	\$893,233	\$523,781	\$445,098	\$78,683
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$619,815	\$619,815	\$1,940,394	\$2,212,932	— \$272,538
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,547,610	\$1,547,610	\$1,982,068	\$1,713,824	\$268,244
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$749,682	\$749,682	\$708,696	\$636,766	\$71,930
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,291,072	\$1,291,072	\$1,670,330	\$1,827,347	— \$157,017
Totals	\$6,713,741	\$881,616	\$487,563	\$8,976,459	\$17,059,378	\$26,490,235	\$24,849,935	\$1,640,300

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	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking	\$6,713,741	\$9,553,771	\$8,223,596
Savings	<u>\$1,003,302</u>	<u>\$1,000,249</u>	<u>\$866,356</u>
Total Operating Cash	\$7,717,043	\$10,554,020	\$9,089,952
Months on Hand	4.0	5.6	5.0
Board Designated Funds	\$487,563	\$486,035	\$590,735
Investments - Morgan Stanley	<u>\$8,976,459</u>	<u>\$8,863,983</u>	<u>\$8,290,674</u>
Total Investments	\$9,464,022	\$9,350,018	\$8,881,409
Months on Hand	4.9	5.0	4.9
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$17,181,065	\$19,904,038	\$17,971,361
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	8.9	10.6	10.0
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,557,431	\$2,546,131	\$3,037,327

C. Recommendation to Approve 2024-25 Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Board was provided with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for the 2024-25 school year for OHSAA tournaments, and Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the prices be approved. Student prices would be \$5.00 for sectional, district and regional tournaments and \$10.00 for state tournaments, while adult prices would be \$8.00 for sectional and district tournaments, \$11.00 for regional tournaments and \$15.00 for state tournaments, where some sites will have additional parking charges. It was noted that cash and on-line prices will be the same. Further details and sales will be available at www.ohsaa.org/tickets.

Motion by Stephanie Evans, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the financial report and the 2024-25 tournament ticket prices as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Review of OIAAA Summer Institute

Board ex-officio Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA), said the OIAAA hosted professional development classes for athletic administrators at the OHSAA Office in Columbus in mid-June, with 38 taking classes, which accounted for 95 class seats. He thanked the OHSAA for allowing the OIAAA to use its office space for the classes.

B. Review of OHSAA Administrators Workshops

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said the Executive Director's Office conducted two in-person and one virtual administrators workshops earlier this month. She said they were well attended and feedback was positive. The meetings allow the OHSAA to provide updates and reminders on key rules, regulations and procedures and are intended for new administrators and those who desire to brush up on OHSAA regulations. Ms. Ronai thanked fellow staff members Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Alexis Holderman for their assistance as they spoke on eligibility, membership services, technology and sport management issues.

C. Review and Reminder of OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Director Bob Goldring said the Executive Director's Office has conducted two of the six scheduled Regional Update Meetings this fall. The meetings in Cambridge and Waverly have been completed, with upcoming meetings scheduled for Streetsboro (Sept. 3), Westerville (Sept. 4), Findlay (Sept. 10) and Cincinnati (Sept. 12). The meetings allow the OHSAA to provide updates and reminders on key issues, with presentations by Executive Director Doug Ute (general updates); Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai (eligibility and legislative issues), and general counsels Steve Craig and Joe Fraley (legal issues).

D. Dates for 2024-25 OHSAA Appeals Panel Hearings

Staff member Ronald Sayers informed the Board that dates have been set for hearings before the 2024-25 OHSAA Appeals Panel, which will have jurisdiction over appeals pertaining to all rulings made by the Executive Director's Office, including student eligibility. The dates are all Thursdays (with the exceptions of Oct. 16, Jan. 8 and May 28 being Wednesdays) and are as follows: Sept. 5; Sept. 19; Oct. 3; Oct. 16; Nov. 14; Dec. 12; Jan. 8; Jan. 23; Feb. 6; Feb. 27; Apr. 3; May 1, and May 28. An appeals hearing already took place on Aug. 1. The hearings are held at the OHSAA Office, the dates are subject to change and the tentative starting time is 9:00. Further information has been posted on the OHSAA website at www.ohsaa.org.

E. Hiring of New Sport Administrator

With the resignation of Kate Barnett, Director John Kronour informed the Board that Kelly Kovach Schoenly has been hired as a new OHSAA sport administrator. Ms. Schoenly, who started her duties Monday, previously served as the head softball coach at The Ohio State University for the past 12 years. She is a native of Pittsburgh and played collegiate softball and graduated from the University of Michigan.

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. **Cleveland St. Ignatius High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves

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as a member of the St. Ignatius High School boys golf program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for one regular season contest. **Toledo Whitmer High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the Whitmer High School football program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for one regular season contest. **Liberty Township Lakota East High School** had a student-athlete in varsity track and field violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, when they participated in three contests during the period of ineligibility required within the transfer bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures in Individual Sports, Lakota East High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. 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 took action on two appeals during the one hearing date that was held this school year, and one appeal was denied and one tabled. In addition, Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues and noted that, due to state law changing, the office has denied the request of a few transgender females for athletic participation opportunities. Additionally, OHSAA Legal Counsels Steve Craig and Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

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

At the June 2, 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 (modifications in *italic boldface*):

Division I, **164** teams (353 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, **163** 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 four Northwest schools (Ashland, Fremont Ross, **Mansfield Senior**, Toledo St. John's Jesuit) 6; 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 **four** teams (Ashland, Fremont Ross, **Mansfield Senior** 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.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Fall Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2024 fall sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators BJ Duckworth (cross country); Emily Mason (field hockey and girls volleyball); Monroe Britton (golf) and John Kronour (soccer and girls tennis), 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 **cross country**, clarity and more details were provided on a number of regulations, with changes noted in the starting lines and starting boxes. The state tournament will return to Fortress Obetz in Columbus Nov. 2. In **soccer**, most changes reflect the increase from three divisions to five. That means the state tournament will be held over four days at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus from Nov. 8 through 11. In **girls tennis**, the state tournament Oct. 17 and 18 will again be held at The College of Wooster, with the Aspen Racquet Club

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in Wooster serving as the indoor site if inclement weather occurs. During the regular season, the OHSAA will experiment with the UTR Sports player rating system. The state **field hockey** tournament will return to Thomas Worthington High School Oct. 31 (semifinals) and Nov. 2 (finals). It was recommended that team complementary admission be increased to 35 individuals, with a maximum of 25 of those being players in uniform. Wright State University will continue to host the state **girls volleyball** finals Nov. 8-9, with state semifinals Nov. 7 and 8 at either Wright State or Vandalia Butler, Kettering Fairmont or Clayton Northmont high schools. In **golf**, schools will be required to utilize the OHSAA-designated golf app (iWanamaker) for entry of rosters. The state tournaments will be held as follows: Oct. 11-12 – Div. III Boys, NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury; Oct. 13-14 – Div. II Boys & Girls, Firestone Country Club, Akron, and Oct. 14-15 – Div. I Boys & Girls, NCR Country Club, Kettering.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2025-26 Tournament Division Assignments in Boys Tennis, Boys Track & Field, Girls Track & Field and Boys Volleyball and the 2025 Competitive Balance Sports of Baseball and Softball

The Board was provided with tournament division assignments for the 2025 and 2026 seasons in the sports of boys tennis, boys track & field, girls track & field and boys volleyball and for the 2025 Competitive Balance sports of baseball and softball, and staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes. He said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the assignments be approved. The staff will present for approval the tournament representation for these sports in the near future after it is determined if any schools will choose to move to Division I and some schools move down a division. The assignments are as follows:

Boys Tennis (2025 and 2026)

Division I, 181 teams (293 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 182 teams (292 or less males)

Total Teams: 363

Boys Track and Field (2025 and 2026)

Division I, 232 teams (268 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 232 teams (144 to 267 males)

Division III, 231 teams (143 or less males)

Total Teams: 695

Girls Track and Field (2025 and 2026)

Division I, 217 teams (273 females or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 216 teams (143 to 272 females)

Division III, 216 teams (142 or less females)

Total Teams: 649

Boys Volleyball (2025 and 2026)

Division I, 62 teams (497 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 62 teams (496 or less males)

Totals Teams: 124

Baseball (2025)

Division I, 65 teams (639 males or more from October 2023 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 64 teams (462 to 638 males)

Division III, 125 teams (285 to 461 males)

Division IV, 126 teams (200 to 284 males)

Division V, 124 teams (144 to 199 males)

Division VI, 126 teams (100 to 143 males)

Division VII, 127 teams (99 or less males)

Total Teams: 757

Softball (2025)

Division I, 65 teams (575 females or more from October 2023 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 64 teams (408 to 574 females)

Division III, 119 teams (265 to 407 females)

Division IV, 119 teams (189 to 264 females)

Division V, 120 teams (135 to 188 females)

Division VI, 119 teams (94 to 134 females)

Division VII, 117 teams (93 or less females)

Total Teams: 723

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C. Recommendation to Approve 2024-25 Membership List

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with the list of schools that have returned the required form to renew their membership with the OHSAA for the 2024-25 school year and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that these schools be approved. A total of 817 high schools and 746 7th-8th grade schools have submitted the form.

The form schools return (OHSAA Board Resolution Card) affirms that the board of education or similar governing board of each member school has adopted a resolution authorizing continued membership with the OHSAA and, in doing so, agrees to conform with all OHSAA bylaws and regulations. The OHSAA Board Resolution Cards were to be returned to the Executive Director's Office by June 30.

D. Recommendation to Approve Updated Team Handbook

Director John Kronour provided the Board with an updated OHSAA Team (staff) Handbook that includes policies and procedures in the following categories: at-will employment and equal opportunity; classification, hours and compensation; employee benefits and leave; employee conduct, and termination of employment. After a review from an OHSAA legal counsel, Dr. Kronour said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the handbook be approved. Once approved, a copy will be distributed to each staff member.

E. Recommendation to Approve Use of Investigative Services

OHSAA Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the Board give approval of the OHSAA's continued use of outside investigative services as deemed warranted by the office to investigate schools and/or individuals who violate Association regulations.

F. Recommendation to Approve 2024-25 Officials Handbook

Director Beau Rugg reviewed with the Board proposed modifications to the 2024-25 Officials Handbook and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that they be approved. He said besides date changes or changes made for clarity, the significant proposed changes are fee increases for the team sports that increased tournament divisions. In addition, Mr. Rugg said that, due to the increased tournament divisions in some team sports, the handbook has a recommendation to suspend the policy that does not permit officials to work state tournaments in consecutive years.

G. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Fall Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation

H. Recommendation to Approve Medical Device Policy (Addition to General Sports Regulation 20)

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said the Executive Director's Office recommended that a policy be added to OHSAA General Sports Regulation 20, Athletic Uniforms, that outlines when medical devices can be worn during competition. There was also the recommendation to allow the staff to modify any sport-specific regulation which conflicts with the new policy. The new policy would be as follows:

Unless the specific rules code stipulates otherwise, athletes in sports of a collision/contact nature should not be permitted to wear devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitoring equipment and/or other diagnostic or therapeutic appliances while participating in interscholastic contests. In the event that a medical professional prescribes a student-athlete to wear or carry a medical device during competition in a non-contact sport, such medical necessity shall be specified in writing and signed by the prescribing physician. The device shall be attached to the body in a manner fitting with the device that is safe for the athlete and does not cause danger to other athletes. Items may be carried by hand or in a pouch/fanny pack if they cannot be safely attached to the body in another manner. The medical statement shall be shown to the head contest official prior to the athlete's being permitted to participate; this statement can be shown on paper or electronically. Examples of approved medical devices include but are not limited to EpiPens, inhalers, insulin pumps, glucose monitors and heart monitors. Athletes participating with these devices are still subject to NFHS Rules if their medical device is dropped or becomes dislodged from the body and interferes with other athletes.

I. Recommendation to Approve 2024-25 Media Regulations and Tournament Rights Fees

Director Tim Stried provided the Board with a draft of proposed modifications to the media regulations and rights fees for broadcasting 2024-25 OHSAA tournament contests, and he said the Executive Director's Office recommended that they be approved. He noted that there were no changes recommended for rights fees. The most significant changes in the media relations included further explanations that telecasts/live streaming cannot occur when OHSAA partners Spectrum or the NFHS Network are broadcasting a contest along with details on when live video is or is not permitted.

J. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to 7th-8th Grade Track & Field Championships Qualifier Criteria

Staff Member BJ Duckworth provided the Board with a draft of proposed modifications to the OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Track & Field State Championship qualifier criteria, and he said the Executive Director's Office recommended that they be approved. Among the major changes are: the entry deadline has been moved from November to March 28, 2025; the application must include the MileSplit ID and meet URL; officiating requirements for qualification meets have been reduced to four, reducing costs for schools while still ensuring adequate supervision of non-officials working field events; team requirements have been reduced to

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four per gender, allowing schools more opportunities to qualify while still ensuring meets are large enough to be competitive; the maximum requirement of two entries from each team per event has been removed, giving athletes more opportunities to qualify, and field event operational requirements have been changed to allow the events to be completed quicker while also ensuring athletes have needed coaching time between events.

K. Ratification of Recommendation from the Central District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim Class A Representative

Board member Molly Feesler said the Central District Athletic Board (CDAB) has recommended that Lindsey Smith, chief operating officer and athletic administrator at The Wellington School in Columbus, be appointed as the interim Class A representative on their board through July 31, 2025. If interested in continuing in that position, Ms. Smith would then have to go through the election process in May to fill the position, with the term running August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026.

L. Ratification of Recommendation from the Northeast District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim Class AA Representative

Board member Randy Tevepaugh said the Northeast District Athletic Board (NEDAB) has recommended that Dan May, athletic administrator at Grafton Midview 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. May would then have to go through the election process in May to fill the position, with the term running August 1, 2025, through July 31, 2026.

Motion by XX, second by XX to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E., VI. F., VI. H., VI. I, VI. J. VI. K. and VI. L. as presented and to table New Business Consent Item IV. G.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members welcomed new staff members Zachary Taylor, Michelle Kern and Kelly Schoenly. Some mentioned they looked forward to the leadership of new Board of Directors President Jay Selgo and Vice President Andy Bixler, and the new board members thanked everyone for making their transition to the board smooth. Also noted was the excitement surrounding the expansion of some OHSAA team tournaments.

Executive Director Doug Ute said that on behalf of the staff, he wanted the Board of Directors members to know their work and leadership were appreciated, especially since they have full-time jobs back at their respective schools. He noted that the board this year is made up strictly of third- and first-year members.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Molly Feesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 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: 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).