

The following are the preliminary minutes from the October 24, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 16, 2025, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (October 24, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 24, 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).

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance, and staff members Charles Anderson, Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Amanda Harding, Keaton Jones, Michelle Kern, Claudia Markoff, Emily Mason, Kelly Schoenly, Zachary Taylor and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others In Attendance:** Joe Fraley and Steve Craig (participated virtually), OHSAA legal counsels; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Paul Stone, second by Andy Bixler to **adopt** the agenda for the October 24, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mark Rose, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** the minutes from the September 26, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

#### A. OHSAA Financial Report Through September 30, 2024

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through September. She noted that August and September do not produce much revenue for the OHSAA and said the Association currently has \$7.4 million of operating cash, and \$17 million when including investments and board-designated funds. When totalling all cash and investments at the end of September, the Association can cover 8.8 months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Total Cash	Year to Date Gross Revenue	Year to Date Gross Expenses	Year to Date Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$10,895,047	\$1,456,747	\$1,337,152	\$119,595
Central	\$974,959	\$6,315	— \$4,157	\$10,472
East	\$910,300	\$5,896	— \$1,884	\$7,780
Northeast	\$631,657	\$4,092	\$5,077	— \$985
Northwest	\$1,577,180	\$10,216	— \$6,698	\$16,914
Southeast	\$764,006	\$4,949	\$2,768	\$2,180
Southwest	\$1,315,740	\$8,523	\$18,757	— \$10,235
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,068,889</b>	<b>\$1,496,738</b>	<b>\$1,351,015</b>	<b>\$145,721</b>

  

	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$6,420,861	\$7,000,574	\$6,281,827
Savings	\$1,009,508	\$1,006,615	\$866,356
<b>Total Operating Cash</b>	<b>\$7,430,369</b>	<b>\$8,007,189</b>	<b>\$7,148,183</b>
Months on Hand	3.8	4.1	3.7
Board Designated Funds	\$490,552	\$489,094	\$592,546
Investments - Morgan Stanley	\$9,147,968	\$9,064,678	\$8,138,070
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$9,638,520</b>	<b>\$9,553,772</b>	<b>\$8,730,616</b>
Months on Hand	5.0	4.9	4.5
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments on Hand</b>	<b>\$17,068,889</b>	<b>\$17,560,961</b>	<b>\$15,878,799</b>
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	8.8	9.1	8.2
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,579,416	\$2,568,749	\$2,055,595

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

##### A. Update on Fall Sports

OHSAA sport administrators provided brief updates to the Board on their respective fall sports tournaments. In **golf**, it was noted that the state tournaments have concluded, with NorthStar Golf Club in Sunbury (Div. III) doing its usual outstanding job as host, while positive feedback was received for the new hosts at Firestone Country Club in Akron (Div II) and NCR Country Club in Kettering (Div. I). The **girls tennis** state tournaments also have been completed, with the College of Wooster doing a great job as the host site. In **cross country**, regional tournaments will be held this weekend with the state tournament at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus on Nov. 2. Fortress Obetz also hosted the annual OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Invitational this past Sunday. In **field hockey**, the regional finals will be completed this weekend before the state tournament returns to Thomas Worthington High School Oct. 31 and Nov. 2. The **girls volleyball** tournament is continuing with district finals this weekend before regionals will be held next week in the expanded seven-division format. The state semifinals will be divided up between Wright State University and Kettering Fairmont, Clayton Northmont and Vandalia Butler high schools on Nov. 7-8 with the finals Nov. 8-9 at Wright State. District finals in the expanded five-division **soccer** tournaments will be held this weekend with the regionals to follow next week. Following the state semifinals, the state finals will be held at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus over a four-day period (Nov. 8-11). In **football**, this is week 10 of the regular season, which means the tournament pairings and assignments of officiating crews will be released on Sunday. The state finals will again be held Dec. 5-7 at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

##### B. Review of OHSAA Student Leadership Conference at Cincinnati Princeton

Executive Director Doug Ute said the OHSAA Student Leadership Conference was held at Cincinnati Princeton High School this past Tuesday with over 600 students in attendance. He thanked the administrative staff at Princeton for serving as hosts, said the speakers were again outstanding and praised Harvey Alston, who coordinates the conference and is also a speaker at the event. Funds from the OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund are used to pay for the event, which continues to utilize a regional format and will be held in Akron next October.

##### C. Update on Appeals, Legislative Issues and Legal Cases

Staff member Lizzy Wilson provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Stewart Federal Hocking High School** had a high school student-athlete violate Bylaw 1-1-5, Participation, when they participated in a 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball practice. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for two regular season contests. **Ashland Mapleton High School** had two girls' soccer coaches violate Bylaw 4-10-2a, Amateurism, and Bylaw 5-1-1, Awards, when they provided cash prizes to their student-athletes. In order to maintain their amateur status for the 2024-25 school year, and in accordance with Bylaw 4-10, each of the student-athletes returned the cash prize to the coaches. Additionally, the school will provide education on this and other bylaws to the entire Mapleton coaching staff. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Mapleton High School has been issued a public reprimand. **Massillon Washington High School** violated Media Regulations A.1.B, Videotaping and Photographing Regulations – Regular Season Contest, when an eighth grade football coach videotaped a game between two other schools without the written consent of the two schools participating. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Washington High School has been issued a public reprimand. **Monroe Jr./Sr. High School** had two 7th grade football players violate Football Regulation 1.32a, participation in more than four quarters, when they participated in the third quarter of the 8th grade game. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Monroe Jr./Sr. High School has been issued a public reprimand. **Shaker Heights High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in two non-interscholastic contests after establishing themselves as a member of the Shaker Heights field hockey program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, and Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the student-athlete was suspended for two regular season contests and the school forfeited the victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Seaman North Adams High School** had a student-athlete in boys soccer 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. **Galloway Westland High School** had a student-athlete in boys soccer 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.

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 39 rulings on 32 appeals on six dates, and three appeals have been granted. Ms. Ronai also provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues. Additionally, OHSAA Legal Counsel Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on a current legal case.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Winter Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2025 winter sports tournaments were provided to the Board by Executive Director Doug Ute (basketball) and OHSAA sport administrators Emily Mason (bowling), Kelly Schoenly (gymnastics and swimming & diving), John Kronour (ice hockey) and Monroe Britton (boys wrestling and girls wrestling), and the staff recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. In **basketball**, it was noted that the girls and boys tournaments will expand to seven divisions this year, and regional and state draws have already taken place. Mr. Ute thanked the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association for their work with MaxPreps, whose RPI system will again be used for seeding this year with some modifications. In **bowling**, it was noted that the number of Baker games included in the state tournament team competition has increased from three to five games. In **gymnastics**, it was noted that there will be two district tournaments in the Northeast District, with one tournament qualifying three teams to the state tournament and the other qualifying two teams. In **swimming & diving**, it was noted that a change was made in the Division I district tournament format and state tournament representation since the Northwest District will now continue to host a combined district tournament that will include teams from the Northeast District as it has in the past, and the Northeast District will only host one district tournament. Therefore, in both divisions for boys and girls, three automatic qualifiers will advance from the district to the state tournament (plus the 20 at-large qualifiers based on times). *It was noted that the Board of Directors had previously approved different representation at its April 25, 2024, meeting than what was recommended for approval at this meeting.* In **ice hockey**, it was noted that some team assignments to the various regionals tournaments were adjusted to ensure each regional had a near-equal number of teams. In **girls wrestling**, it was noted that the early rounds of the tournament will be referred to sectionals and districts (rather than regionals), making the format similar to **boys wrestling**. In the latter, the only significant changes were some slight modifications to the state tournament timeline.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Winter Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation with Modifications

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2025 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the winter sports of basketball, (regional and state tournaments); ice hockey (regional and state tournaments); swimming & diving (state tournaments), and wrestling (state tournaments), 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 had registered with the OHSAA by the middle of October. It was also recommended that flexibility be granted this year in the sports of boys and girls basketball in terms of officials possibly being assigned to the state tournament for the second consecutive year since there could be a shortage of said officials due to the expanded tournament divisions in those two sports. Mr. Rugg said assignments for spring sports will be shared later this school year.

C. Recommendation to Approve Modification to Baseball Regulations at the Sub-Varsity Level

Staff member Emily Mason said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the Board approve a proposal to modify the baseball regulations by permitting unlimited substitutions during sub-varsity games only to provide more playing opportunities for athletes at that level. This would not be a requirement but would be an option for the participating teams. The regulation would state that "In games that are not counted as varsity contests (i.e., sub-varsity), re-entry may occur an unlimited number of times, given that such player(s) occupies the same batting position when they are in the lineup." Ms. Mason said there is no interest in modifying this regulation at the varsity level and, if there ever was, it would require a rule change by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Motion by Paul Stone, second by David Alvarado to **approve** New Business Consent items VI. A., VI. B. and VI. C. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

A. Recommendation to Approve Initial 2025 Referendum Items

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said the OHSAA's eligibility team and legal counsels have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws that would be placed before the membership for referendum if approved by the Board of Directors. At this meeting, Ms. Ronai reviewed the first two 2025 proposed items (both Bylaws), and recommended that they be approved by the Board for referendum. If approved by the Board to place on the referendum ballot, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. The two recommendations were as follows:

**Bylaw 4-7-3, Midseason Transfer - Definition of Sports Season (Modification)**

This proposed modification would clarify that once a student's former school team is eliminated from the OHSAA tournament, that student's "sports season" would be considered completed. Therefore, if a transfer occurs and the new school to which the student transferred still has contests remaining, the student would not benefit from having those contests "count" and the transfer consequence prorated (sit out the rest of the current season and then the first half of the next regular season until the 50 percent consequence is fulfilled). Instead, that student would be subject to the normal transfer consequence (sitting out the second half of the next regular season and the OHSAA tournament), unless an exception to the transfer bylaw can be met.

**Bylaw 4-7-2, #5, Change of the "Look Back" Period When Transfer Back to a Non-Public School (Modification)**

This proposed modification would change the "look back" period for a student who has been continuously enrolled in the same system of non-public education as the school into which the student is transferring. If that student meets the exception and has shown a previous commitment to that system of education, the OHSAA would consider what system of education the student attended continuously between sixth and eighth grade rather than the current regulation which looks at the fourth through eighth grades. As a grade 7-12 organization, the "look back" to sixth grade is deemed more practical in showing that the student has made a commitment to that same system of education while still more closely aligning with the grade levels that the OHSAA oversees.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** the recommendation to place the two proposed bylaw changes up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that the Executive Director's Office will recommend additional items to be placed before the membership for referendum at upcoming Board of Director's meetings.

**VIII. ONCE AROUND**

Board members thanked Executive Director Doug Ute and his staff for their work and said they were looking forward to the remaining state tournaments and are excited to see how the expanded divisions in soccer and girls volleyball will play out. Board member Mark Rose singled out Cameron Phillips, a senior from Lucasville Valley High School, who recently won medalist honors at the boys Division III state golf tournament.

Board member Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, said his association's annual state conference will be held Nov. 10-12 at the Hilton Easton in Columbus.

Board member David Alvarado thanked the Board and staff for their continued dialogue and work involved on the possibility of expanding tournament opportunities for student-athletes in cross country and track & field. Board President Jay Selgo noted that the Board and executive staff spent time during the Board's monthly work session discussing expansion in those two sports again yesterday, and he added that discussions also continues with BJ Duckworth, the OHSAA's cross country and track & field sport administrator, who is keeping the lines of communication open with the state coaches association.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Stephanie Evans to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 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:** January 16, 2025; February 20, 2025; April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).