

The following are the preliminary minutes from the March 21, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 24, 2025, meeting.

## **OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (March 21, 2025)**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Friday, March 21, 2025, that was called to order by President Jay Selgo at 9:43 a.m. The meeting was held at the University of Dayton Arena prior to the OHSAA State Boys State Basketball Finals.

**Board Members In Attendance:** Jay Selgo, president; Andy Bixler, vice president (arrived at 9:49 a.m.); David Alvarado; Stephanie Evans; Molly Feesler; Mark Rose; Walt Skagg; Randy Tevepaugh, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

**Board Member Excused:** Paul Stone.

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour and Beau Rugg; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance, and staff members Greg Bossick, Alexis Holderman, Michelle Kern, Ronald Sayers and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others in Attendance:** OHSAA Legal Counsels Joe Fraley, David Fraley and Josh Fraley.

### **I. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2025 Referendum Issues**

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai, her eligibility team and the OHSAA legal counsels have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws that the Board of Directors would place before the membership for referendum. At the October 24, 2024; January 16, 2025, and February 20, 2025, meetings, the Board of Directors approved placing nine proposed modifications (one constitution; eight bylaw) before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Ms. Ronai reviewed four additional 2025 proposed items (one constitution, three bylaws), and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that they be approved by the Board for referendum. If approved, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. The four recommendations were as follows:

#### **Constitution Article 7-4-3, District Athletic Board Voting, Same Classification (New)**

This proposed modification would add language to cover the rare situation when one OHSAA district athletic board has an expiring board position and an unexpired position (interim) in the same classification at the same time. If this occurs, the recommendation is that the appropriate high school principals would vote for their top two candidates. The candidate with the most votes would choose which position he/she would serve (either the longer, expiring term or and shorter, unexpiring term). The candidate with the second-most votes would fill the other position.

#### **Bylaw 2-2-1, Tournaments, Exception 2 (New)**

This proposed new exception would allow schools that offer the sports of bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, track & field and/or wrestling for both genders to choose to move to the higher division if the genders in both sports are not in the same division. For example, if school A's girls track & field team is Division II and the boys team is Division III, the school could choose to move the boys team to Division II (Note: Schools may have the desire to do this if they have the same coach for both teams and/or to avoid site and date conflicts).

#### **Bylaw 2-2-4, Tiering for Public Schools, Exception A (New)**

This proposed new exception, which would be part of the Competitive Balance Formula, would allow students who live outside a public school district where they attend high school to be counted as Tier 1 students if they attended a terminal non-public elementary school (i.e. ends after grade 8) that is physically located within the public school's district, and there is a Superintendent's Agreement in place which permits these non-resident students to play 7th-8th grade sports at the public school where the nonpublic school is physically located. Other criteria would also have to be met for this exception to be utilized.

#### **Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency, Exception 7 (New)**

With current Exception 7 of this bylaw no longer being applicable, the newly proposed exception tracks with Exception 2 of this bylaw and would permit a non-relative custodian/guardian of a student when their parents move outside of Ohio and for the student to regain eligibility once the custody arrangement has been in place for at least one year. Other criteria would also have to be met for this exception to be utilized.

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Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the recommendation to place the four additional proposed changes (one constitution, three bylaws) up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve Preliminary Tournament Divisional Assignments for the Competitive Balance Sports of Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball Along with the Sports of Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country for 2025

The Board was provided with tournament divisional assignments for the fall competitive balance sports of football, boys soccer, girls soccer and girls volleyball along with the sports of boys cross country and girls cross country for 2025. The cross country divisional assignments were modified from what was approved at the April 25, 2024, meeting since the Board approved at its January 16, 2025, meeting for cross country to expand to four tournament divisions from three beginning this coming fall.

If approved, it was noted that the cross country divisional assignments will only be in place for 2025 since it will be the second of the usual two-year cycle. In addition, it was noted that representation for boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys cross country and girls cross country will not be presented at this meeting since schools will have an option to move up to Division I (in the competitive balance sports) or a higher division (in cross country, depending upon approval of a May referendum item), and some schools may move down a division. Therefore, representation will be presented to the Board for approval in an upcoming meeting. Additionally, it should be noted that tournament divisions are always based on the schools that competed in the tournament the previous year, and the data includes their OHSAA Board of Directors-approved tournament enrollment from the most recent cycle of the EMIS count (October 2023). The list of schools posted on the OHSAA website are those schools that competed in last year's tournament and are used to determine the tournament divisions.

After staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes, he said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the proposed preliminary 2025 school tournament divisional assignments be approved as follows:

### **Football**

Division I, 72 teams (592 males or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2024 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 104 teams (378 to 591 males)

Division III, 107 teams (268 to 377 males)

Division IV, 105 teams (202 to 267 males)

Division V, 106 teams (157 to 201 males)

Division VI, 106 teams (112 to 156 males)

Division VII, 106 teams (111 or less males)

Total Teams: 706

### **Boys Soccer**

Division I, 64 teams (626 males or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2024 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 73 teams (431 to 625 males)

Division III, 145 teams (248 to 430 males)

Division IV, 144 teams (166 to 247 males)

Division V, 144 teams (165 or less males)

Total Teams: 570

### **Girls Soccer**

Division I, 64 teams (582 females or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2024 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 72 teams (388 to 581 females)

Division III, 127 teams (236 to 387 females)

Division IV, 127 teams (167 to 235 females)

Division V, 130 teams (166 or less females)

Total Teams: 520

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### Girls Volleyball

Division I, 64 teams (581 females or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2024 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 73 teams (402 to 580 females)

Division III, 130 teams (257 to 401 females)

Division IV, 130 teams (188 or 256 females)

Division V, 130 teams (132 to 187 females)

Division VI, 132 teams (89 to 131 females)

Division VII, 131 teams (88 or less females)

Total Teams: 790

### Boys Cross Country

Division I, 81 teams (563 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 167 teams (245 to 562 males)

Division III, 167 teams (141 to 244 males)

Division IV, 163 teams (140 or less males)

Total Teams: 578

### Girls Cross Country

Division I, 66 teams (528 females or more from October 2023 enrollments)

Division II, 133 teams (245 to 527 females)

Division III, 137 teams (141 to 244 females)

Division IV, 134 teams (140 or less females)

Total Teams: 470

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** the 2025 tournament divisional assignments in the sports of football, boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys cross country and girls cross country as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

**Note on Football:** The Board also approved the slight modification that Division I will be no less than the top 72 schools based on enrollment plus Competitive Balance factors. All other divisions will be divided as evenly as possible.

**Note on Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball:** The Board also approved the modification in boys soccer, girls soccer and girls volleyball that Division I will be no less than the top 64 schools based on enrollment plus Competitive Balance factors and Division II will be no less than the next 72 schools based on enrollment plus Competitive Balance factors. All other divisions will be divided as evenly as possible.

**Note of Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country:** The Board also approved the recommendation in boys cross country and girls cross country that Division I will be the top 14 percent of schools based on enrollment. All other divisions will be divided as evenly as possible.

## II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussion also took place on items including expanded tournament divisions, partnership contracts, legal issues and upcoming meetings.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Randy Tevepaugh to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Motion passed 8-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

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

**2024-25 School Year:** April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).