

The following are the preliminary minutes from the May 21, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 13, 2025, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (May 21, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special virtual meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Board Members Participating:** Jay Selgo, president; David Alvarado; Stephanie Evans; Molly Feesler; Mark Rose; Walt Skaggs; Paul Stone; Randy Tevepaugh, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio) and Kim Miller (ex-officio).

**Board Member Excused:** Andy Bixler, vice president.

**Staff Members Participating:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director (excused at 9:27 a.m.); Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour and Beau Rugg, and staff members Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth, Alexis Holderman, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers, Kelly Schoenly and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others Participating:** Incoming Board of Directors members John Carter, Ray Hibbs, Matt Hutchinson and Lane Warner.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was a unanimous motion to **adopt** the agenda as presented.

### II. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2025-26 General Sports Regulations that Appear in the OHSAA Handbook

Members of the Executive Director's Office met several times to discuss changes to the General Sports Regulations that will appear in the 2025-26 OHSAA Handbook, and, at this meeting, Director John Kronour reviewed the proposed changes and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the modifications be approved. The proposed changes are as follows (**bold, italics = changes**):

##### GSR 1 – Official Playing Rules and Rule Books

Under status, moved wrestling (girls) and volleyball (boys) to **RECOGNIZED** status from EMERGING.

##### GSR 5 and 6

With the OHSAA modifying its online technology system and currently using multiple platforms, references to *myOHSAA* have either been removed or replaced with **the OHSAA designated system**.

##### GSR 6.7, Table of fines and penalties for tournament activities

Below the chart of issues and penalties, added the note **Failure to pay a fine could result in forfeiture of any OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund payouts**.

##### GSR 7.3.1 a.) and 7.5.1 and 7.10.2

In the three references to when students are permitted to participate on non-interscholastic teams outside of the interscholastic team's season, the team sports' 13-day rule begins and individual skill/coaching instruction in team sports, the specific date for the start of these activities has been changed to **beginning the Monday of the week of May 15** (rather than on May 15).

##### GSR 11.2 – Mandatory No-Contact Periods – Coaches

The mandatory no-contact period in August for two sports has been shortened, and added was **The period for basketball and ice hockey shall be between August 1 and August 24**.

##### GSR 14.1.1 – Standard Ejection Penalty (for Students)

Language at the end of the regulation, and prior to the Notes, has been added for clarity and says **Students disqualified from a contest for non-sporting conduct reasons are not subject to the additional ineligible contest(s) described here (the fifth personal foul in basketball is an example). These types of disqualifications will be documented in the sport specific regulations**.

##### GSR 16.2.1 – Emerging Sports

With the recommendation to move boys volleyball and girls wrestling to recognized sports status, this regulation has been changed to **There are no Emerging Sports for the 2025-26 school year**.

##### GSR 17.1 – Tournament Assignments (under Divisions Determination)

In the "Exceptions" that are listed under the charts, girls wrestling and boys volleyball have been added and that section now reads **The Board of Directors may schedule tournament play in divisions other than specified in the table above for all emerging sports and for the recognized sports of boys and girls lacrosse, boys and girls wrestling and boys and girls volleyball**.

### **GSR 17.2 – School Assignments - Divisions**

Slight modifications have been made to the two sections (one for Football, one for Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball) currently shown in the chart.

For football, the change is that the top **72** (rather than the top 10 percent) of football-playing schools . . . will be placed in Division I of the football tournament.

For girls volleyball, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball, it continues to say the largest 64 schools . . . will be placed into Division I. The change is that the next largest **72** (rather than 64) schools . . . will be placed in Division II.

Guidelines were added for the sports of boys and girls cross country and boys and girls track and field since the number of tournament divisions in those sports has increased.

***Boys and Girls Cross Country – The top 14 percent of cross country teams based on enrollment will be placed in Division I of the cross country tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into three additional cross country divisions based on enrollment.***

***Boys and Girls Track and Field – The top 12 percent of track and field teams based on enrollment will be placed in Division I of the track and field tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into four additional track and field divisions based on enrollment.***

### **GSR 17.3 – Failure to Appear and School Closures – OHSAA Tournament Contests**

Language was added for clarity with a new third paragraph and at the end of the Note in the first paragraph of that section.

The new paragraph is ***For head-to-head tournament contests which involve a school that was closed on the day of the scheduled contest, the District Athletic Board and/or the Executive Director's Office shall work with the impacted schools to reschedule the contest, if desired, as long as the contest can be completed before the next level tournament game is scheduled. For tournament contests which include three or more teams (meets, etc.), the tournament shall proceed as scheduled unless the District Athletic Board and/or the Executive Director's Office reschedules the event because of a natural disaster, a national/state emergency, inclement weather or another force majeure. However, an individual school closing shall not automatically cause the meet to be rescheduled.***

The addition to the Note section: A local school or school district may be open but a local school or school district's board of education/governing board or superintendent/head of school may also determine that it is unsafe for its school's team to travel to the site of the tournament contest. ***If so, the above guidance would apply.***

### **GSR 19.3 – Grades 7 & 8 Participation for OHSAA Member Schools (re: practices)**

This section on practices has been modified as follows: 7th and 8th grade students shall not practice with 9th through 12th grade students, and vice versa, ***unless specified in the sport specific regulations. And per Bylaw 1-1-2, "students enrolled in grades 7 or 8 are ineligible for interscholastic competition on the same squad with students in grade 9 or higher."*** Please note Bylaw 1-7-1 for competition between sexes.

#### **B. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2025 Football Regulations for OHSAA Handbook**

Director Beau Rugg reviewed proposed modifications to the football regulations that will appear in the 2025-26 OHSAA Handbook and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the modifications be approved. Most of the modifications reflect date changes or were made to provide clarity. Some modifications: 1.) Subvarsity games may have their quarters last a maximum of nine minutes, and 2.) The running clock procedure may be used at any time when the score differential reaches 30 points in the first half upon agreement by both head coaches. In addition, a regulation previously approved by the Board of Directors regarding all-star competition was added and says "In the sport of football, athletes may participate in one All-Star contact football competition after the conclusion of the season, subject to reporting to the Executive Director's Office. Graduating seniors are exempt from the one-game limit for All-Star contests, though discretion is advised for contests played in excess of one All-Star game."

#### **C. Recommendation to Approve Continued Use of an Appeals Panel for 2025-26 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, Director Bob Goldring asked the Board to approve appointing an appeals panel for the 2025-26 school year, which would be the 14th consecutive year for such a panel.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** Action Items A., B. and C. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0 (Andy Bixler excused).

**III. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Board and staff members discussed the draft of the OHSAA budget for the 2025-26 school year. The Board is expected to take action on a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office on the 2025-26 budget at the June 2025 meeting.

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

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:** June 13, 2025 (9:00 at Canal Park in Akron).

**2025-26 School Year:** August 28, 2025; **Friday**, September 26, 2025; October 23, 2025; January 15, 2026; February 19, 2026; April 23, 2026; June 12, 2026 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).