

The following are the preliminary minutes from the June 12, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its August 28, 2025, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (June 12, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 12, 2025, at Canal Park in Akron prior to the OHSAA State Baseball tournament. President Jay Selgo called the meeting to order at 9:53 a.m. The meeting began with introductions of guests in attendance.

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

**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 Charles Anderson, Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Amanda Harding, Alexis Holderman, Ronald Sayers, Kelly Schoenly, Calvin Vermilya and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others In Attendance:** Incoming Board of Directors members John Carter, Doug Foote, Ray Hibbs, Matt Hutchinson and Lane Warner; Joe Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Northeast District Athletic Board members Bill Nye and Paul Powers and treasurer Mark McGuire; Northwest District Athletic Board members Matt Flewelling, Brenda Frankart, Todd Hoehn and secretary Kevin Calver; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Gerald Cooke, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Kim Metz, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Molly Feesler second by Stephanie Evans to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the June 12, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mark Rose, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the minutes from the April 24, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting, and the May 21, 2025, Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

#### A. Recommendation to Approve the OHSAA Financial Report through May 31, 2025

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through May 31, 2025. While the report does not include the revenue and expenses for the spring tournaments, she said she expects the year-end totals in both categories to be better than budgeted. Ms. Vermilya said the Association currently has \$7.5 million of operating cash, and \$17.8 million when including investments and board-designated funds. Total cash and investments as of May 31 can cover 9.0 months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

#### OHSAA Financial Report (Through May 31, 2025)

<u>District</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>	<u>Year to Date Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Year to Date Gross Expenses</u>	<u>Year to Date Net Profit/Loss</u>
OHSAA Office	\$11,541,634	\$13,620,995	\$12,467,266	\$1,153,728
Central	\$996,205	\$769,512	\$912,198	— \$142,686
East	\$930,136	\$428,135	\$398,693	\$29,442
Northeast	\$645,422	\$1,225,056	\$1,616,174	— \$391,118
Northwest	\$1,611,549	\$1,385,483	\$1,306,974	\$78,509
Southeast	\$780,655	\$482,204	\$499,921	— \$17,717
Southwest	\$1,344,320	\$1,067,775	\$1,407,279	— \$339,504
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$17,849,921</b>	<b>\$18,979,160</b>	<b>\$18,608,505</b>	<b>\$370,654</b>
		<u><b>Actual</b></u>	<u><b>Prior Month</b></u>	<u><b>Prior Year</b></u>
Checking		\$6,466,842	\$6,595,619	\$10,057,625
Savings		\$1,026,954	\$1,026,954	\$988,010
<b>Total Operating Cash</b>		<b>\$7,493,796</b>	<b>\$7,622,573</b>	<b>\$11,045,635</b>
Months on Hand		3.8	3.8	5.7
Board Designated Funds		\$1,008,807	\$1,006,182	\$482,875
Investments - Morgan Stanley		\$9,347,317	\$9,177,966	\$8,787,194
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>\$10,356,124</b>	<b>\$10,184,148</b>	<b>\$9,270,069</b>
Months on Hand		5.2	5.1	4.8
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments on Hand</b>		<b>\$17,849,920</b>	<b>\$17,806,721</b>	<b>\$20,315,704</b>
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)		9.0	8.9	10.5
Athletic Enrichment Fund		\$3,163,781	\$3,152,473	\$2,535,245

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Motion by Walt Skaggs second by Andy Bixler to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### B. Recommendation to Approve and Adopt OHSAA Budget for 2025-26

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the Board with the proposed budget for the OHSAA for the 2025-26 school year that includes the Columbus office and the six District Athletic Boards. She said the annual budget is meant to guide the financial health of the organization and provide measures of accountability and transparency. The most significant changes from the 2024-25 school year are the tournament divisional expansion in cross country and track & field, and reducing the number of qualifiers for the football tournament from 16 per region to 12, which results in 112 less games. Those changes are projected to reduce the OHSAA's net revenue by more than \$1 million dollars. To offset the reduction, adult ticket prices may be increased as much as \$1.00 and travel stipends to schools may be reduced. Ms. Vermilya added that the budget was reviewed by the OHSAA Finance Committee and Executive Director's Office, which recommends that the Board approve the budget. The budget is as follows (shown are the actual figures from the 2023-24 school year, the projected figures through the 2024-25 school year that ends July 31 and the estimated budget for 2025-26):

<u><b>2023-24 Actual</b></u>	<u><b>2023-24 Actual</b></u>	<u><b>2023-24 Actual</b></u>
<u><b>Revenue</b></u>	<u><b>Expenses</b></u>	<u><b>Net Income/Loss</b></u>
\$26,432,368	\$25,204,511	\$1,227,857
<u><b>2024-25 Projected</b></u>	<u><b>2024-25 Projected</b></u>	<u><b>2024-25 Projected</b></u>
<u><b>Revenue Thru July 31</b></u>	<u><b>Expenses Thru July 31</b></u>	<u><b>Net Income/Loss Thru July 31</b></u>
\$24,105,968	\$23,964,902	\$141,066
<u><b>2025-26 Projected</b></u>	<u><b>2025-26 Projected</b></u>	<u><b>2025-26 Projected</b></u>
<u><b>Revenue</b></u>	<u><b>Expenses</b></u>	<u><b>Net Income/Loss</b></u>
\$24,709,622	\$24,644,612	\$65,010

Motion by Paul Stone, second by Andy Bixler to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### C. Recommendation to Approve Athletic Enrichment Fund Donation for 2024-25 School Year

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended distributing \$1,250 to each member school for the 2024-25 fiscal year as a donation from the OHSAA's Athletic Enrichment Fund. Schools that return their membership cards and past due invoices by June 30 will receive a check from the OHSAA in August 2025.

It was noted that in April 2023, the Board approved the establishment of the athletic enrichment fund for the purpose of providing a financial contribution, on an equitable basis, to each member high school's athletic department to assist with costs of equipment, uniforms, game transportation, officials and improving student sportsmanship and adult fan behavior. On an annual basis, the Board will determine whether to transfer money to the fund from operating cash and then decide the contribution amount to be provided - which may fluctuate each year - for each school. The donation was \$1,250 in 2022-23 and \$2,000 in 2023-24.

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Updates on Spring Sports Tournaments

OHSAA sport administrators provided brief updates to the Board on their respective spring sports tournaments. Of note, there was record attendance at both the state **softball** and state **track and field** tournaments. Melvin Blake was recognized for his outstanding work as the state softball tournament manager. In addition, it was noted that the state tennis tournaments will return to the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason starting with the girls tournament in the fall following major renovations. The College of Wooster was thanked for serving as an outstanding host the past two years of both the girls and boys tournaments.

### B. Review of OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that the six in-person OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings were again a success. 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 are spent with Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai or staff member Ronald Sayers reviewing those items. Mr. Ute thanked Streetsboro, Clayton Northmont and Logan high schools that volunteered to host three of the meetings, which were also held at facilities in Cambridge, Tiffin and Westerville.

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### C. Review of 2025 Referendum Voting

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said voting on the 13 OHSAA Referendum issues (two Constitution, 11 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/School-Resources](http://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources)). Member school principals are required to vote but may abstain on any issue, and 813 of 817 principals voted.

### D. Review of 2025 District Athletic Board Election

Staff member Ronald Sayers said voting for the 15 expiring and unexpired/interim 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 (<https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>). Mr. Sayers said voting will likely take place in Final Forms in 2026.

### E. Update on 2025 Fall Meetings

The OHSAA will again conduct Regional Update Meetings in August and September and Administrator Workshops in August. Regional Update Meetings are intended for superintendents, principals and athletic administrators and will consist of updates, reminders and a review of key changes from Executive Director Doug Ute and other staff members within the Association as we begin the 2025-26 school year. The two-hour meetings all begin at 10:00 unless noted and will be on the following dates and locations: **Tuesday, Aug. 19**, Westerville, Quest Conference Center (9:30 starting time); **Tuesday, Aug. 26**, Waverly High School; **Tuesday, Sept. 2**, Streetsboro High School; **Tuesday, Sept. 9**, Findlay High School; **Thursday, Sept. 11**, Cincinnati Princeton High School, and **Monday, Sept. 15**, Cambridge, Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center.

The three Administrator Workshops that are intended for new school administrators and those interested in brushing up on key OHSAA bylaws and regulations along with hearing various updates and reminders. Two of the workshops will be in-person at the OHSAA Office in Columbus and one will be virtual. All meetings will begin at 10:00 and will be on the following dates: **Thursday, Aug. 7**, OHSAA Office; **Wednesday, Aug. 20**, OHSAA Office, and **Monday, Aug. 25**, virtual. Registration information for all meetings will be sent to administrators later this summer.

### F. 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 43 of the 669 expected cards have yet to be 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 28 Board of Directors Meeting.

### G. 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. **Burton Berkshire High School** had a student-athlete in softball violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when she participated in four regular season contests after failing to pass five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Berkshire High School was required to forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Bexley High School** violated track and field regulation 1.9, Exhibition or Scratch Competition, and Bylaw 1-7-1, Team Competition Between Sexes, when it hosted a mixed-gender, non-scored exhibition event during a meet. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the school received a written reprimand and \$100 fine. **Mansfield Madison Comprehensive High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when more than three boys basketball players participated on the same non-interscholastic team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students will be suspended for two scrimmages during the 2025-26 basketball season. **Dayton Northridge High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when more than three boys basketball players participated on the same non-interscholastic team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students will be suspended for two scrimmages during the 2025-26 basketball season. **Mansfield Madison Comprehensive High School** had three student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic practice after establishing themselves as a member of the school's softball program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the students were suspended for one regular season contest. **Cleveland Garrett Morgan High School** had a student-athlete in baseball violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when he participated in 14 regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending the 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, Garrett Morgan was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Liberty Township Lakota East High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.10.1, Individual Skill Instruction, when more than seven student-athletes per coach participated in football skill instruction prior to the May 12 through July 31 coaching period. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the number of summer contact days for the school has been reduced from 13 to 11. **Cleveland St. Ignatius High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.10.1, Individual Skill Instruction, when more than three student-athletes per coach participated in boys basketball

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skill instruction prior to May 12 through July 31 coaching period. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the number of summer contact days for the school has been reduced from 13 to 12. **Logan High School** had a student-athlete in boys tennis violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in a regular season contest after failing to pass five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Southington Chalker High School** had two student athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility, regarding Bylaw 4-7-5 Provision 2, (formerly Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9), Transfer to Local Residential School. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the students participating in an interscholastic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school was fined \$100.

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 80 rulings on 73 appeals held during 17 hearings this school year, and 12 appeals were either granted or the penalties modified. Sixty-six of the rulings dealt with the transfer bylaw. Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai also provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

None

### VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

#### A. Recommendation on New Member Schools for the 2025-26 School Year

Staff member Alexis Holderman reported that two high schools and one 7th-8th grade school have applied for membership and gone through the probationary period as required, have met the requirements of Constitution Article 3, Section 2, and, therefore, it is recommended that the schools be approved for membership beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Recommended for membership as high schools were Toledo Horizon Science Academy and Westerville Genoa Christian Academy, and recommended for membership as a 7th-8th grade school was Hartville Lake Center Christian School.

#### B. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Division Assignments and Representation for Winter Sports

The Board was provided with final 2026 tournament division assignments and representation for the winter Competitive Balance sports of boys basketball and girls basketball and the final 2026 tournament division assignments and representation for the winter sport of boys wrestling. Preliminary division assignments and representation had been approved at the April 2025 meeting.

As Competitive Balance sports, boys basketball and girls basketball division assignments and representation are updated annually and, because a school in each gender requested to move up to Division I in 2026, changes were made (in girls basketball, Wadsworth moved to Division I; in boys basketball, Cincinnati Elder moved to Division I). Although boys wrestling is entering the second year of a two-year cycle, it was updated since schools have the option to move up to Division I on an annual basis, and one school that made that request for 2025 chose to stay in Division II in 2026 (Cincinnati LaSalle).

Staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes. It should be noted that tournament divisions and representation 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.

#### **Boys Basketball**

Division I, 66 teams (625 males or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)  
Division II, 72 teams (431 to 624 males)  
Division III, 130 teams (269 to 430 males)  
Division IV, 129 teams (196 or 268 males)  
Division V, 131 teams (144 to 195 males)  
Division VI, 130 teams (100 to 143 males)  
Division VII, 132 teams (99 or less males)  
Total Teams: 790

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2026 would be: **Division I:** Central 6; Combined Northeast and three Northwest schools (Findlay, Perrysburg and Toledo Whitmer) 4, 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 2; Northeast 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **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 1; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 6; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.



### Girls Basketball

Division I, 65 teams (577 females or more from October 2023 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)  
Division II, 71 teams (407 to 576 females)  
Division III, 127 teams (262 to 406 females)  
Division IV, 128 teams (189 or 261 females)  
Division V, 127 teams (132 to 188 females)  
Division VI, 125 teams (91 to 131 females)  
Division VII, 126 teams (90 less females)  
Total Teams: 769

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2026 would be: **Division I:** Central 6; Combined Northeast and three Northwest schools (Findlay, Perrysburg and Toledo Whitmer) 5, and Southwest 5; **Division II:** Combined Central and one Southeast school (Logan) 3; Northeast 8; Northwest 1, and Southwest 4; **Division III:** Central 2; Combined East and Southeast 1; Northeast 6; Northwest 3, and Southwest 4; **Division IV:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 2; Southeast 1, and Southwest 4; **Division V:** Central 2; East 2; Northeast 4; Northwest 2; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division VI:** Central 1; East 1; Northeast 4 Northwest 6; Southeast 2, and Southwest 2, and **Division VII:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 5; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

### Boys Wrestling

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 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, Sandusky) 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 four teams (Ashland, Fremont Ross, Mansfield Senior and Sandusky) 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 Southeast District in 2026 after the East hosted in 2025.

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 Southwest District in Troy in both 2025 and 2026. The Northeast district has declined to host a fifth section tournament, so the Central District will host a second sectional. For 2026, the westernmost Central sectional will combine with the Northwest and Southwest for district competition hosted by the Southwest District in Troy. The easternmost Central sectional will combine with the East and Southeast for district competition hosted by the East District in Coshocton.

It should be noted that a referendum issue that passed in May 2025 allows schools to request to “play up” in a higher division of a sport if the opposite gender in the same sport is placed in a higher division in the same sports season. Therefore, schools in the fall and winter sports of cross country, golf, bowling and swimming & diving had the opportunity to request to “play up” for the 2025-26 school year. No schools made that request in those sports. Tournament division assignments and representation for those sports for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years were approved at the April 25, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting, with a modification in girls tennis approved at the June 30, 2024, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Also, the Board approved the final 2025 tournament division assignments for the Competitive Balance sport of football and the final 2025 tournament division assignments and representation for the Competitive Balance sports of boys soccer, girls soccer and girls volleyball at its April 24, 2025, Meeting. Also at that meeting, the Board approved 2025 tournament division assignments and representation in the sports of boys cross country, girls cross country and girls tennis. Cross country was updated for the second year of the two-year cycle since a fourth tournament division has been added. And even though this is the second year of the two-year cycle for girls tennis, representation was recalculated since one school that opted up to Division I in 2024 chose to remain in Division II in 2025.

In addition, the Board is expected to approve tournament division assignments and representation for the spring Competitive Balance sports of baseball and softball at either its August or September 2025 meeting along with any other spring sports that have been modified for the second year of the two-year cycle.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Football Tournament Format

Executive Director Doug Ute said the Executive Director's Office recommended that two significant changes be made for the football tournament beginning with the 2025 season: 1.) The number of qualifiers per region will be 12 instead of 16, with the top four seeds in each region earning a first-round bye, and 2.) The first three rounds of the tournament will be hosted by the higher seeded team instead of the first two rounds. Mr. Ute said feedback from the membership and conversations with stakeholders around the state led the recommendation to return to 12 qualifiers. The OHSAA football tournament expanded from 12 to 16 qualifiers per region from 2021-24.

D. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Football Tournament Regulations

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board of Directors with a draft of 2025 football tournament regulations that included proposed modifications, and it was recommended that the regulations be approved. Besides date changes and modifications made for clarity, the format changes as noted in New Business Consent Item VI. C. were included. Mr. Rugg said details on whether or not drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) will be permitted is still to be determined. He also 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 4-6 (Divisions I, II, III and IV on either Thursday or Friday and Divisions V, VI and VII on Saturday).

E. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Cross Country Tournament Regulations

Sport Administrator BJ Duckworth provided the Board of Directors with a draft of 2025 cross country tournament regulations that included proposed modifications, and it was recommended that the regulations be approved. Besides date changes and modifications made for clarity, the tournament formats have been changed since a fourth division has been added beginning this fall. In particular, Division I will only compete in regional and state competition, while Divisions II, III and IV will compete in district, regional and state competition. The regulations also include charts showing the number of teams and individuals from each district qualifying from the district to the regional tournaments for Divisions II, III and IV and the number of teams and individuals from each regional to the state tournament for all four divisions. At the state tournament, 20 teams and 40 individuals not on the qualifying teams will advance to the state tournament in Division I, while 24 teams and 48 individuals not on the qualifying teams will advance to the state tournament in Divisions II, III and IV. The 2025 state tournament will be held Saturday, Nov. 1, at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus with the following schedule: 10:00: Division IV girls; 10:40: Division IV boys; 11:50: Division III girls; 12:30: Division III boys; 1:40: Division II girls; 2:20: Division II boys; 3:30: Division I girls, and 4:10: Division I boys. Awards for both genders will follow each specific division.

F. Recommendation to Approve Girls Flag Football as an OHSAA Sponsored Championship

Executive Director Doug Ute said the OHSAA has been working with several entities on the possibility of recognizing girls flag football in the future that includes the National Football League, Pro Football Hall of Fame, Cleveland Browns and Cincinnati Bengals. He recommended that the Board approve the sanctioning of girls flag football as an OHSAA sponsored championship event beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Details, including the date for the championship, will be shared with the membership in the near future.

G. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2025-26 Sport-by-Sport Regulations for OHSAA Handbook

OHSAA sport administrators reviewed proposed modifications to the sport-by-sport regulations that will appear in the 2025-26 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**, coaches will be required to meet after each contest to agree on pitch counts. In **basketball**, the state tournament calendar has been adjusted to reflect the removal of the separate week for the state semifinals that were contested at neutral sites across the state and shows the start date of the 2026-27 season is one week later. In addition, if a school is unable to field a roster of at least 10 players in grades 9-12, the school can request a waiver to approve combining practices with the high school and 7th-8th grade teams as long as both the high school and 7th-8th grade school are OHSAA member schools and both the high school and the 7th-8th grade school are part of the same district/system. Note that the request will not be approved for an individual 7th-8th grade student to practice with the high school, and those teams approved shall not be placed on any high school roster nor are they permitted to play in any high school contests. In **bowling**, a substitute will be required to be used if an athlete is removed from the lineup. In **field hockey**, the same summer contact rules that are in place for soccer have been added (between July 15 and July 31, coaches are permitted five additional contact days for individual skill/coaching instruction). In **golf**, instruction will now be permitted to be provided by coaches to athletes on the putting green. In **ice hockey**, a change in National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules will be that a puck that rests on top of the net will result in a faceoff. It was also noted that the Executive Director's Office is studying a proposal to increase each period from 15 to

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17 minutes for OHSAA tournament contests. In lacrosse, the season will begin earlier, which means the tournament draw date will be held earlier. In **soccer**, it was noted that the Executive Director's Office is studying a proposal to reduce the time in overtime periods. In **swimming & diving**, the OHSAA will be using backstroke ledges in district and state tournament competition. Backstroke ledges at the sectional level will only be used if all sectional sites within a particular OHSAA district have backstroke ledges available for all swimmers. It was noted that the NFHS permits state associations to adopt the use of backstroke ledges if it so chooses. In **tennis**, waivers approved for students to participate in non-interscholastic contests/events during the school season shall count toward the individual's maximum of 22 contests permitted during the regular season. It was also noted that in the OHSAA tournaments, schools will now be permitted to enter either the traditional three singles players and two doubles teams or one singles player and three doubles teams. In **track & field**, language was added to require mixed gender and/or speciality relays to follow the procedures outlined in the coaches and officials manual, and mixed gender relays must also obtain an OHSAA waiver. The regulation requiring 10 days of practice prior to the first contest for 7th-8th grades has been removed and replaced with the recommendation that five days of acclimatization is recommended prior to the first contest at both the high school and 7th-8th grade levels. While previously only listed in the coaches and officials manual, added to the regulations was the requirement that schools which offer the pole vault have at least one coach take a pole vault training safety course. Additionally, schools may request a one-time waiver for a student to participate in a non-interscholastic contest during the school season, which means students in those contests could also participate in non-OHSAA events such as the steeplechase, javelin, triple jump, heptathlon or pentathlon. In **volleyball**, use of the libero is now permitted for 7th-8th grade teams, and students at that level may now participate in a maximum of four sets per day per opponent (up from three).

### H. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA Strategic Plan

Executive Director Doug Ute said the OHSAA administrative staff and Board of Directors members Walt Skaggs and Stephanie Evans have been meeting since December with Victoria Kimmel of Maximize Performance Group, LLC, to update a new five-year strategic plan for the OHSAA that was completed on March 31, 2025, and Mr. Ute recommended that the Board approve the plan.

Ms. Kimmel was scheduled to present an overview of the strategic plan to the OHSAA District Athletic Boards later that morning. As part of the plan, the following additional steps were suggested:

- Share, discuss and reinforce ongoing the strategic plan with entire OHSAA team.
- The administrative staff should adopt a monthly or quarterly review cadence with the goals of:
  - Discussing progress towards achieving goals;
  - Celebrating wins;
  - Reviewing barriers that are impeding progress or success, and
  - Making course-corrections where needed.
- Annually revisit and refresh the strategic plan.
- Conduct a facilitated session with the entire leadership team and a subset of board members.

### I. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to 2025-26 Team (Staff) Handbook

Director John Kronour provided the Board with a draft of 2025-26 OHSAA Team (staff) Handbook. Besides date changes and updates made for clarification, some modifications were made to the employee benefits and parental leave sections. Dr. Kronour said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the handbook be approved.

### J. Recommendation to Ratify Recommendation to Appoint Interim Class AA Representative on the Southeast District Athletic Board (Through July 31, 2026)

Board member Mark Rose said the Southeast District Athletic Board has recommended that Natalie Lucas, assistant principal at Albany Alexander High School, be appointed as the interim Class AA representative on their board through July 31, 2026. She would replace Leonard Steyer, who retired as the assistant athletic administrator at Chillicothe Southeastern High School. If interested in continuing in that position, Ms. Lucas would then have to go through the election process in May 2026 to fill the position, with the term running August 1, 2026, through July 31, 2027. Mr. Rose asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E., VI. F., VI. G., VI. H., VI. I. and VI. J. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

## **Board of Directors Minutes (6/12/25) — 8**

### **VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS (ELECTION OF 2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS)**

Board President Jay Selgo asked for nominations for the position of president of the Board of Directors for the 2024-25 school year.

Mark Rose nominated Walt Skaggs to serve as president of the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year. Molly Feesler seconded the motion.

Stephanie Evans moved to close nominations. Mark Rose seconded the motion.

There was a unanimous motion to close nominations.

**Walt Skaggs** was unanimously elected president of the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year.

Board President Selgo asked for nominations for the position of vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year.

Mark Rose nominated Stephanie Evans to serve as vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year. Molly Feesler seconded the motion.

Andy Bixler moved to close nominations. Jay Selgo seconded the motion.

There was a unanimous motion to close nominations.

**Stephanie Evans** was unanimously elected vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2025-26 school year.

Motion by Paul Stone, second by Walt Skaggs to adjourn the meeting at 11:01 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.)**

**2025-26 School Year:** August 28, 2025; **Friday**, September 26, 2025; October 23, 2025; January 15, 2026; February 19, 2026; April 23, 2026; June 11, 2026 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).