

The following are the preliminary minutes from the August 28, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its September 26, 2025, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (August 28, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 28, 2025, at the OHSAA Offices in Columbus. President Walt Skaggs called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions of guests in attendance and a moment of silence for the recent tragedies that occurred at Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis; Tuscarawas Valley High School in Zoarville, and Harrison Central High School in Cadiz.

Board Members In Attendance: Walt Skaggs, president; Stephanie Evans, vice president; John Carter; Ray Hibbs; Matt Hutchinson; Tom Nerl; Mark Rose; Randy Tevepaugh; Lane Warner, 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, Michael Cornathan, Amanda Harding, Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Michelle Kern, Claudia Markoff, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers, Zachary Taylor and Lizzy Wilson.

Others In Attendance: Joe Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Tom Nerl second by Stephanie Evans to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the August 28, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ray Hibbs, second by Tom Nerl to **approve** the minutes from the June 12, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

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

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the unaudited financial report through July 31, 2025, which is the end of the OHSAA's 2024-25 fiscal year. She said the Association ended the fiscal year with over \$6.6 million of operating cash and has over \$17.2 million in total cash when including investments and board-designated funds. That amount can cover 8.6 months of expenses. Ms. Vermilya said that, while overall attendance for 2024-25 decreased, the OHSAA still had over \$360,000 in profits, expenses were three percent better than what was budgeted and the Association's investments earned over \$800,000. The financial report is summarized as follows:

OHSAA Financial Report (Through May 31, 2025)

	Total	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
District	Cash	Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$10,792,733	\$17,798,865	\$17,099,525	\$699,340
Central	\$1,020,877	\$964,673	\$1,161,421	— \$196,748
East	\$953,172	\$530,354	\$514,715	\$15,639
Northeast	\$661,407	\$1,532,245	\$2,182,824	— \$650,579
Northwest	\$1,651,461	\$1,702,302	\$1,654,234	\$48,068
Southeast	\$799,988	\$602,315	\$699,555	— \$97,240
Southwest	\$1,373,719	\$1,329,870	\$1,810,470	— \$480,600
Totals	\$17,253,357	\$24,460,624	\$25,122,744	— \$662,120
		Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking		\$5,624,328	\$5,731,794	\$6,713,741
Savings		\$1,034,641	\$1,031,815	\$1,003,302
Total Operating Cash		\$6,658,969	\$6,763,609	\$7,717,043
Months on Hand		3.3	3.5	4.0
Board Designated Funds		\$1,015,575	\$1,012,397	\$487,563
Investments - Morgan Stanley		\$9,578,813	\$9,538,963	\$8,976,459
Total Investments		\$10,594,388	\$10,551,360	\$9,464,022
Months on Hand		5.3	5.4	4.9
Total Cash & Investments on Hand		\$17,253,357	\$17,314,969	\$17,181,065
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)		8.6	8.9	8.9
Athletic Enrichment Fund		\$2,162,837	\$3,174,746	\$2,557,431

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Motion by Mark Rose second by John Carter to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2025-26 Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Board was provided with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for the 2025-26 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 increase slightly to \$10.00 for sectional and district tournaments, \$12.00 for regional tournaments and \$16.00 for state tournaments, where some sites will have additional ticketing and parking charges.

Ms. Vermilya said the OHSAA will also offer a new flex pass, where, for a discounted price of \$85, spectators will be granted 10 admissions that will be valid at any OHSAA tournament event except state tournaments and any swimming event. The pass can be used for early rounds, districts and regionals and will be good for the entire year, expiring in mid-June. If a spectator is using the Hometown Fan app, they can display the pass and see how many punches they have left. The flex passes will be available for purchase on-line only between September 15 and October 27; February 9 and March 7 and May 4 and May 30.

Motion by John Carter, second by Ray Hibbs to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

While student ticket prices will not change, it was noted that the increase in adult ticket prices is the first for the OHSAA in five years. It was also noted that by increasing the adult ticket prices, it is hopeful the Association can provide the same team travel reimbursements for regional and state tournaments that were issued for the 2024-25 school year.

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 39 taking classes, which accounted for 99 class seats. Four athletic administrators earned their CAA (Certified Athletic Administrator), a national board certification that recognizes experienced athletic administrators who have met specific professional and educational standards. Mr. Gillespie also noted that the OIAAA membership has reached 803. He thanked the OHSAA for allowing the OIAAA to use its office space for the classes.

B. Review of OHSAA Administrator 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 workshops 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. Ms. Ronai thanked her staff for their assistance and the rest of the OHSAA staff who were available to welcome the attendees.

C. Review and Reminder of OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute said his office has conducted two of the six scheduled Regional Update Meetings this fall. The meetings in Westerville and Waverly have been completed, with upcoming meetings scheduled for Streetsboro (Sept. 2), Findlay (Sept. 9), Cincinnati (Sept. 11) and Cambridge (Sept. 15). 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 Joe Fraley and Josh Fraley (legal issues).

D. 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. **Wauseon High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, 50 Percent Limitation, when more than six boys' soccer student-athletes participated on the same non-interscholastic team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the number of summer contact days has been reduced from 18 to 10. **Clermont Northeastern Middle School** had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-3-4 and Bylaw 4-3-5 when he participated on the 7th-8th grade boys golf team as a sixth grader for one semester during the 2023-24 school year. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties; Bylaw 4-3-4 and 4-3-5, Semesters, and Bylaw 3-3-1, Administrative Responsibility, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th-8th grade athletics during the second semester of 2025-26 school year, and the school was fined \$250. **Toledo Whitmer High School** had a student-athlete in girls soccer violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when she participated in a scrimmage 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, the school was required to forfeit any regular season contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy** had

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a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for a one-time waiver, under Soccer Regulation 6.2.2, participation in an identification camp, after the student-athlete participated in an interscholastic competition. However, the school failed to submit the waiver to the Executive Director's Office prior to her participation in the camp. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy was fined \$100. **Lakewood St. Edward High School** violated General Sport Regulation 11.2, Mandatory No-Contact Period, when four ice hockey student-athletes worked at the school's youth ice hockey camp during the no-contact period in August. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the start date of ice hockey coaching, tryouts and instruction was pushed back by one day for the school's ice hockey program.

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 11 rulings on 11 appeals held during two hearings this school year, and three appeals were either granted or the penalties modified. Nine 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, Legal Counsel Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on current OHSAA legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Fall Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2025 fall sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators Kelly Schoenly (soccer); John Kronour (girls tennis); Emily Mason (field hockey and girls volleyball), and Monroe Britton (golf), 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 **soccer**, pep bands and mascots will be permitted during all levels of the tournament. The state tournament will return to Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus from Nov. 7 through 10. In **girls tennis**, the state tournament Oct. 16 and 17 will return to the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason for the first time since the fall of 2022. During sectional tournaments, schools will be permitted to enter the traditional three singles players and two doubles teams or choose a new entry option of one singles player and three doubles teams. In **field hockey**, the state tournament will return to Thomas Worthington High School Oct. 30 (semifinals) and Nov. 1 (finals). Wright State University will continue to host the state **girls volleyball** finals on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8 and 9, with state semifinals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6, 7 and 8, at sites to be announced. In **golf**, schools will be permitted to make substitutions to their rosters between the first and second day of the state tournament. The state tournaments will be held as follows: Monday, and Tuesday, Oct. 6 and 7 – Div. II boys at NCR Country Club Kettering and Div. II girls at Heatherwood Country Club in Springboro; Sunday and Monday, Oct. 12 and 13 - Div. I boys and girls at Firestone Country Club in Akron, and Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 13 and 14 — Div. III boys at NorthStar Golf Club in, Sunbury.

B. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Division Dividing Lines in the Spring Sports of Baseball, Softball, Boys Track & Field and Girls Track & Field

The Board was provided with 2026 tournament division dividing lines for the spring Competitive Balance sports of baseball and softball and the 2026 tournament division dividing lines for the spring sports of boys track & field and girls track & field. Staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes.

Even though this is the second year of a two-year cycle for boys and girls track & field, new division dividing lines were generated since the sport will be increasing to five tournament divisions in the spring (from three). While the division dividing lines will not change, modifications to school assignments could occur in baseball or softball should a school(s) decide to move to Division I. Modifications to school assignments could occur in track & field should schools prefer both genders be in the same division (but must choose the gender that is in the higher division). Once the school requests are completed by the deadlines, the Board of Directors will take action again on final school tournament division assignments and representation.

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.

Baseball Division Dividing Lines (2026)

Division I, 65 teams (624 males or more from October 2023 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 72 teams (430 to 623 males)

Division III, 122 teams (265 to 429 males)

Division IV, 123 teams (197 to 264 males)

Baseball Division Dividing Lines (2026), Continued

Division V, 121 teams (143 to 196 males)
Division VI, 123 teams (101 to 142 males)
Division VII, 122 teams (100 or less males)
Total Teams: 748

Softball Division Dividing Lines (2026)

Division I, 64 teams (573 females or more from October 2023 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)
Division II, 72 teams (403 to 572 females)
Division III, 118 teams (258 to 402 females)
Division IV, 118 teams (184 to 257 females)
Division V, 118 teams (132 to 183 females)
Division VI, 118 teams (93 to 131 females)
Division VII, 119 teams (92 or less females)
Total Teams: 727

Boys Track and Field Division Assignments (2026)

Division I, 82 teams (529 males or more from October 2023 enrollments)
Division II, 151 teams (268 to 528 males)
Division III, 151 teams (181 to 267 males)
Division IV, 150 teams (117 to 180 males)
Division V, 151 teams (116 or less males)
Total Teams: 685

Girls Track and Field Division Assignments (2026)

Division I, 77 teams (529 females or more from October 2023 enrollments)
Division II, 139 teams (276 to 528 females)
Division III, 142 teams (177 to 275 females)
Division IV, 143 teams (113 to 176 females)
Division V, 143 teams (112 or less females)
Total Teams: 644

C. Recommendation to Approve 2025-26 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 2025-26 school year and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that these schools be approved. A total of 815 high schools and 741 7th-8th grade schools have submitted the form. New schools previously approved by the Board of Directors for membership as high schools were Toledo Horizon Science Academy and Westerville Genoa Christian Academy, while Hartville Lake Center Christian School was approved as a 7th-8th grade school. High schools that have left the membership are Beallsville (closed, so students will attend one of the other two schools in the district, Hannibal River or Woodsfield Monroe Central); Cincinnati Riverview East (closed); Bellaire St. John Central (closed), and Cleveland Campus International (withdrew).

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 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.

E. Recommendation to Approve 2025-26 Handbook for Officials

Director Beau Rugg reviewed with the Board proposed modifications to the 2025-26 Handbook for Officials 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 various tournaments. Mr. Rugg thanked OHSAA Manager of Officiating Charles Anderson for his work on the handbook and OHSAA Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya for her recommendations on the fee structures.

F. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Fall Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2025 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the fall sports of football, soccer and girls volleyball, 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 July. Mr. Rugg said assignments for winter and spring sports will be shared on a seasonal basis throughout the 2025-26 school year.

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G. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to District Athletic Board Handbook

Director John Kronour said that modifications have been made to the OHSAA's District Athletic Board Handbook, which had not been updated in a few years. Among the modifications were some hierarchy changes due to personnel changes within the Executive Director's Office and a change in the description of the annual All-Districts Boards Meeting that is held in June.

H. Recommendation to Ratify Recommendation to Appoint Interim Ethnic Minority Representative on the East District Athletic Board (Through July 31, 2026)

Board President Walt Skaggs said the East District Athletic Board has recommended that Angelita Forte, youth services coordinator for the Steubenville City Schools, be appointed as the interim Ethnic Minority representative on their board through July 31, 2026. The position was open when no candidates ran for the expiring position in the elections that were held this past May. If interested in continuing in that position, Ms. Forte 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, 2031. Dr. Skaggs asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

I. Recommendation to Ratify Recommendation to Appoint Interim Class A Representative on the Northeast District Athletic Board (Through July 31, 2026)

Board member Randy Tevepaugh said the Northeast District Athletic Board has recommended that Steve Watkins, superintendent of the Dalton Local Schools, be appointed as the interim Class A representative on their board through July 31, 2026. The position was previously held by Ryan Kelber, who left his position as athletic administrator at Cuyahoga Heights High School to become the athletic administrator at the Berea City Schools (which is a Class AAA school). If interested in continuing in that position, Mr. Watkins 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, 2029. Mr. Tevepaugh asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

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

Board member Tom Nerl said the Southwest District Athletic Board has recommended that Chuck Richardson III, athletic administrator superintendent of the Norwood City Schools, be appointed as the interim Class AA representative on their board through July 31, 2026. The position was previously held by Doug Foote, who retired as athletic administrator/dean of students at New Richmond High School. If interested in continuing in that position, Mr. Richardson 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, 2032. Mr. Nerl asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

Motion by Matt Hutchinson, second by Mark Rose 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

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked the OHSAA staff for their work and praised Executive Director Doug Ute for continuing to emphasize that the organization is student-centered. The returning Board members also welcomed their fellow new Board members and noted how last year's members whose terms expired were great mentors. Several new Board members noted that attending Board of Directors Work Sessions and Meetings starting in February before their terms began were invaluable. Board Vice President Stephanie Evans said she looks forward to the expanded tournament divisions this year in cross country and track & field just as she was excited with the expansion of some OHSAA team tournaments last school year. Board President Walt Skaggs thanked staff members Michelle Kern and Tim Stried for their excellent work in organizing the annual Board and staff photos that were taken earlier that morning.

Motion by Ray Hibbs, second by Tom Nerl to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 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: September 26, 2025 (a Friday); October 23, 2025; January 15, 2026; February 19, 2026; April 23, 2026; June 11, 2026 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).