

The following are the preliminary minutes from the December 4, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 15, 2026, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (December 4, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Thursday, December 4, 2025, that was called to order by President Walt Skaggs at 2:23 p.m. The meeting was held at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton prior to the OHSAA State Football Finals.

Board Members In Attendance: Walt Skaggs, president; Stephanie Evans, vice president; Ray Hibbs; Matt Hutchinson; Tom Nerl; Mark Rose; Randy Tevepaugh; Lane Warner, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Board Member Excused: John Carter.

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; directors Bob Goldring and John Kronour; Laura Vermilya, chief financial officer, and staff members Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, Michael Cornathan, Steve Hoffbauer, Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Ronald Sayers, Kelly Schoenly, Calvin Vermilya and Lizzy Wilson.

I. INFORMATION ITEM

- A. Approval of Request by Amanda-Clearcreek to Transfer from the Central District to the Southeast District
Executive Director Doug Ute said his office has completed the process to review a request from a school to change OHSAA athletic districts, and he said Amanda-Clearcreek High School has been approved to transfer from the Central District to the Southeast District beginning with the 2026-27 school year. Constitution Article 5-7-3 permits the Executive Director's Office to approve or deny such a request, and feedback is provided by the two OHSAA District Athletic Boards that are involved.

II. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to 2026 Spring Sports Tournament Regulations
Updates in regulations for 2026 spring sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA staff members Emily Mason (baseball and boys volleyball); John Kronour (boys tennis); Kelly Schoenly (softball); Monroe Britton (boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse), and BJ Duckworth (track & field). Most updates reflect date changes or modifications or other changes made for clarity purposes. In **baseball**, clarity was provided on the pitch count regulation when a contest goes past midnight. The National Federation of State High School Associations has also approved Ohio to experiment and allow the use of communication devices by pitchers for schools that request their use. The state tournament will be held June 11-14 at Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium in Canton and 7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron (formerly Canal Park). In **softball**, the state tournament will return to Firestone Stadium in Akron June 3-7. In **lacrosse**, the boys state finals will be held June 6 at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus, while the same site will host the girls state finals on June 7. The **boys tennis** state tournament will move to Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason May 28-29. Lindner hosted the girls state tennis tournament in the fall. **Track and field** will be expanding from three divisions to five, so numerous changes have been made in the regulations. Some major changes noted at the state tournament include the 3,200 moving from the second to the first day and a jury of appeals being utilized that will only consider appeals if it is believed there was a misapplication of the rules. Division I will no longer have a district tournament; there will be four super regionals, and four qualifiers in each regional event, plus the next two best times, heights or distances from all the regionals, will advance to the state tournament. Divisions II through V will have 12 district tournaments and three regionals per division. Five qualifiers in each regional event, plus the next three best times, heights or distances from all the regionals, will advance to the state tournament. With the move to five divisions, the state tournament will expand from two to four days and be held June 4-7 at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus.
- B. Recommendation to Approve Reinstating Full Membership for Three High Schools
Three member high schools - Cleveland Collinwood, Dayton Jefferson Township and Youngstown Academy for Urban Scholars - had their membership placed on probation by the OHSAA and were not permitted to participate in OHSAA tournaments for failure to sponsor the required number of OHSAA recognized sports as outlined in Constitution Articles 3-3-4 and 3-3-5. After petitioning to re-activate their membership and acknowledging they now meet the requirements of the Constitution articles, the Executive Director's Office recommended that the three schools be reinstated to full membership and be permitted to participate in OHSAA tournaments beginning with the upcoming winter.

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C. Recommendation to Approve Modifying the Season Start Dates for Field Hockey

At the October 26, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Executive Directors Office to modify the starting date for contests in the sports of golf (2026); soccer (2027), girls volleyball (2026 and 2027), and basketball (2026 and 2027). At this meeting, Director John Kronour said the Executive Director's Office recommended that changes also be approved for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 seasons in the sport of field hockey, moving start dates to the Mondays of the weeks where Fridays were previously approved, giving schools and leagues/conferences more flexibility in their scheduling. The proposed changes (in ***BOLD ITALICS***) are:

<u>FIELD HOCKEY</u>		<u>Season</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Coaching</u>	<u>Starts</u>
2026	8/1 (Sat.)	<i>8/17 (Mon.)</i>
2027	8/1 (Sun.)	<i>8/16 (Mon.)</i>

D. Ratification of Recommendation for Recipients of 2026 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service (Northeast and Northwest Districts)

The OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to interscholastic athletics in Ohio. Two of the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards make selections on a rotating basis each year, the recommendations are ratified by the Board of Directors and the honorees are traditionally recognized during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. Board member Randy Tevepaugh said the Northeast District Athletic Board (NEDAB) has recommended **Mark McGuire** be a 2026 recipient. Mark is retired after serving for several years as the athletic administrator at Elyria Catholic, Elyria and Solon high schools; is a former member of the OHSAA's NEDAB, and is currently serving as that board's treasurer. Board member Matt Hutchinson said the Northwest District Athletic Board (NWDAB) has recommended **Gray Kreinbrink** be a 2026 recipient. Gary served as the girls basketball coach at Leipsic High School for 38 years before retiring after the 2022-23 season and winning over 500 games. He also taught at the school, was the school's athletic administrator for 18 years and previously was the head varsity coach in cross country, softball and track & field. Gary served on the OHSAA's NWDAB and had a two stints on the OHSAA Board of Directors.

Motion by Ray Hibbs, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** Action Items A., B., C. and D. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

Motion by Tom Nerl, second by Randy Tevepaugh to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:43 p.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.)

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