

The following are the preliminary minutes from the March 20, 2026, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 23, 2026, meeting.

## **OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (March 20, 2026)**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Friday, March 20, 2026, that was called to order by President Stephanie Evans. The meeting was held at the University of Dayton Arena prior to the OHSAA State Boys Basketball Tournament. New Board ex-officio member Jerod Cole, an appointee of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, was introduced.

**Board Members In Attendance:** Stephanie Evans, president; Randy Tevepaugh, vice president; John Carter; Ray Hibbs; Matt Hutchinson; Tom Nerl; Mark Rose; Lane Warner; Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio) and Jared Cole (ex-officio).

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Beau Rugg and Ronald Sayers, directors; Laura Vermilya, chief financial officer, and staff members Monroe Britton and Alexis Holderman.

**Others in Attendance:** OHSAA legal counsels Joe Fraley, Josh Fraley and David Fraley and Scott Kaufman, a member of the OHSAA Southwest District Athletic Board and an OHSAA assistant basketball coordinator.

### **I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Tom Nerl, second by Jeff Wheeler to approve the Board to go into executive session at 8:34 a.m.

Motion approved 9-0.

The Board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Motion by Ray Hibbs, second by Lane Warner to approve the Board coming out of executive session at 8:49 a.m.

### **II. ACTION ITEMS**

#### **A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2026 Referendum Items**

Director Ronald Sayers said the OHSAA's eligibility team and legal counsels have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws that would be placed before the membership for referendum if approved by the Board of Directors. The Board previously approved placing two items for referendum at its October 23, 2025; five items at its January 15, 2026, meeting, and two items at its February 14, 2026, meeting, all Bylaw modifications (three 7th-8th grade issues; six high school issues). At this meeting, Mr. Sayers reviewed additional 2026 proposed items (one constitution, two bylaws), and recommended that the three issues be approved by the Board to place on the referendum ballot. If approved by the Board for referendum, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15, 2026. The recommendations are as follows:

#### **Constitution Article 8, Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws (Modification)**

In the event that a state law which previously modified a bylaw or article of the constitution is subsequently stricken from the Ohio Revised Code, this proposed modification would permit the Board of Directors to immediately authorize a change in the bylaws and/or constitution so that the previously approved language of the affected bylaw and/or article of the constitution is restored.

#### **Bylaw 4-7-8, Superintendent's Memorandum of Understanding (New)**

This proposed addition to the bylaw would permit the sending school, which has expressed its support of the student's transfer even though the student does not meet the requirements of an exception, to enter into a memo of understanding with the receiving school to provide the student with full eligibility.

If passed, Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 4 (self-support), Exception 9 (discontinues entire interscholastic athletics program) and Exception 10 (death of immediate family member) would be stricken.

#### **Bylaws 4-10-2 and 4-11-8, Amateurism and NIL (Modification and New)**

The proposed modification to Bylaw 4-10-2 would provide clarity to the regulations but does not change the application of the requirements that have been in place since November 2025. The addition of Bylaw 4-11-8 would permit students to enter into an agreement with an athlete agent, as defined within the Ohio Revised Code. If the bylaw is approved, these agreements with an athlete agent must be disclosed to the OHSAA Office within 14 days of entering into the agreement.

If passed, this modification and new bylaw would become effective May 16, 2026.

## Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes (3/20/26) — 2

Motion by Matt Hutchinson, second by Tom Nerl to **approve** placing the three proposed items as presented before the membership for referendum.

Motion passed 9-0.

### B. Recommendation to Approve Enrollment (EMIS) Figures and Classifications for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 School Years

Director Ronald Sayers provided the Board with school enrollment figures and classifications for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, and it was recommended that the figures and classifications be approved. Enrollments are based on figures submitted by schools in October 2025 to the State Department of Education's Education Management Information System (EMIS), with data reviewed by the OHSAA eligibility staff. Schools are divided as evenly as possible within each OHSAA athletic district into classifications. The OHSAA uses classifications for District Athletic Board elections.

Boys classifications are as follows (801 total schools): **Central Boys** (113 total) - 38 in Class A (enrollments of 156 and less), 37 in Class AA (enrollments of 159 to 449), 38 in Class AAA (enrollments of 486 and more); **East Boys** (54 total) - 18 in Class A (enrollments of 129 and less), 18 in Class AA (enrollments of 133 to 188), 18 in Class AAA (enrollments of 195 and more); **Northeast Boys** (227 total) - 76 in Class A (enrollments of 149 and less), 76 in Class AA (enrollments of 150 to 306), 75 in Class AAA (enrollments of 307 and more); **Northwest Boys** (160 total) - 53 in Class A (enrollments of 86 and less), 53 in Class AA (enrollments of 87 to 176), 54 in Class AAA (enrollments of 182 and more); **Southeast Boys** (73 total) - 24 in Class A (enrollments of 98 and less), 25 in Class AA (enrollments of 110 to 170), 24 in Class AAA (enrollments of 171 and more); **Southwest Boys** (174 total) - 58 in Class A (enrollments of 145 and less), 58 in Class AA (enrollments of 146 to 312), 58 in Class AAA (enrollments of 320 and more).

Girls classifications are as follows (804 total schools): **Central Girls** (113 total) - 37 in Class A (enrollments of 148 and less), 38 in Class AA (enrollments of 163 to 415), 38 in Class AAA (enrollments of 420 and more); **East Girls** (54 total) - 18 in Class A (enrollments of 110 and less), 18 in Class AA (enrollments of 115 to 172), 18 in Class AAA (enrollments of 173 and more); **Northeast Girls** (229 total) - 76 in Class A (enrollments of 146 and less), 76 in Class AA (enrollments of 147 to 277), 77 in Class AAA (enrollments of 283 and more); **Northwest Girls** (160 total) - 55 in Class A (enrollments of 88 and less), 52 in Class AA (enrollments of 89 to 168), 53 in Class AAA (enrollments of 178 and more); **Southeast Girls** (73 total) - 24 in Class A (enrollments of 98 and less), 25 in Class AA (enrollments of 99 to 158), 24 in Class AAA (enrollments of 160 and more); **Southwest Girls** (175 total) - 58 in Class A (enrollments of 137 and less), 59 in Class AA (enrollments of 140 to 282), 58 in Class AAA (enrollments of 294 and more).

The OHSAA also uses enrollment figures solely to determine tournament divisional assignments in 18 sports, while an additional eight sports use enrollment figures and additional Competitive Balance factors to determine tournament divisional assignments. Boys enrollments in grades 9, 10 and 11 are used for boys sports and girls enrollments in grades 9, 10 and 11 are used for girls sports. School enrollments that will be used for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years are currently available here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/school-resources/school-enrollment>.

Motion by Lane Warner, second by Ray Hibbs to **approve** the enrollment figures and classifications as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Mark Rose to **adjourn** the meeting at 10:13 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:** April 23, 2026; June 11, 2026 (8:30 at 7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron).

**2026-27 School Year:** August 27, 2026; October 1, 2026; October 29, 2026; January 14, 2027; February 18, 2027; April 22, 2027, and June 10, 2027 (8:30 at 7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron).