



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, April 9, 2021

Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

The following updates and reminders are being sent electronically to member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Ohio Health Director's Order Consolidated

As many of you are aware, Governor DeWine on Monday (April 5) announced that the Ohio Department of Health has issued a simplified Health Director's Order that streamlines previous orders into a single order which underscores the most important tenants of infection prevention. While some elements have changed, the new order focuses on the same defense measures against COVID-19 that have been previously required, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, limiting large gatherings, guidelines when outside and practicing good hand hygiene. Here are some highlights:

- There no longer is a spectator capacity limit for outdoor venues.
- Spectators are permitted to sit in pods of 10 (rather than six), and they do not have to be from the same household. However, that pod must still maintain six-feet social distancing from other pods or individuals. All other individuals must continue to maintain six-feet social distancing.
- Those not in the contest can be in a pod of 10 so long as that pod maintains six-feet social distancing from other pods or individuals. Conferences/leagues or schools may want to consider continuing policies that maintain six-feet social distancing for everyone not in the contest to help slow the contracting and/or spreading of COVID-19.
- All spectators and those not in the contest, including coaches, must continue to wear facial coverings unless six-foot social distancing can be maintained (or if one of the exceptions for not wearing a facial covering is met).
- The local health department has the authority to enact policies that are more stringent than the Health Director's Order.

"As before, the key for our school administrators, coaches, participants and spectators is to use common sense when conducting or attending our spring sports contests or events in order to slow the contracting and/or spreading of COVID-19," said OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute. *"We want our students to continue to be able to participate, especially those in spring sports who were unable to conduct their seasons a year ago. With some areas seeing an increase in the virus among teenagers, with the majority in that population not having been vaccinated, now is not the time to relax and let our guards down."*

The bullet points above and revised Ohio Health Director's Order take precedence over any other ODH- or OHSAA-issued documents. Here is a link to the revised Order:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/do-social-distancing-facial-coverings-and-non-congregating.pdf>.

Athletic Administrators' Help Needed in myOHSAA to Update Spectator Capacities

With the newly updated health order as noted above, which removes restrictions on spectator capacities for outdoor venues, **high school athletic administrators are asked to login and access their school's myOHSAA account and update the spectator capacities in 'My Facilities' for spring sports prior to May 1.** A reminder that the spectator capacities entered will be used for the upcoming OHSAA spring tournaments, so please enter the exact number of spectators your school is willing to accommodate. In addition, please provide the names for your spring venues since that same name will used on the respective OHSAA tournament brackets. Thank you for your assistance!

Your Participation Is Important → OHSAA Financial Meeting Upcoming

OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute will be hosting a virtual meeting with member school administrators to discuss the financial status of the Association, including membership fees. Two meetings were held earlier this week with the final meeting occurring:

- **Tuesday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m.**

Please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for that meeting and receive your link. If you have any questions, please contact OHSAA Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org). To view recordings of the first two meetings, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFId40HlxWrR4nuOeNuFjliNTtamaHkrv>.

Your Participation Is Important → **Athletic Discussion Meetings/Items Approved for Referendum**

As required by the OHSAA Constitution, all referendums to the OHSAA Constitution and/or Bylaws must be explained to school administrators by staff of the Executive Director's Office prior to voting on the issues by member school principals between May 1 and May 15. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings, traditionally known as OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings, will also take place virtually. Member school administrators will have two choices to participate:

- **Monday, April 12, at 9:00 a.m.** **or**
- **Monday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m.**

Please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for one of the meetings and receive your link. If you have any questions, please contact OHSAA Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org).

The OHSAA Board of Directors has approved the final **Referendum Items** for the 2021 voting cycle. There are a total of nine high school issues (there are no 7th-8th grade issues this year), which are outlined at this link:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/FINAL2021-22ReferendumItems.pdf>.

Spring Sports State Online Rules Meetings in myOHSAA

2021 OHSAA state rules meetings for each spring sport are available through the Rules Meeting icon in myOHSAA. The head coach, an assistant coach **or** the athletic administrator is required to complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date for each sport which coincides with that sport's tournament entry/withdraw date (April 26: softball, boys tennis and track & field; May 3: baseball, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse). As a reminder, a \$50 late fee is now being charged to access each meeting. The late fee is assessed through myOHSAA to each user accessing the meeting. Athletic Administrators are encouraged to login to their school's myOHSAA account and use the View State Rules Meeting Attendance link to ensure the school has received credit since completion of the meeting is **required for tournament participation**. If your coach completed the meeting and the school does not have credit, check that your coach is listed in staff management with the email address of the account used to complete the meeting. If this is accurate, have your coach email the screenshot of the last slide to membershipservices@ohsaa.org along with the school name and sport.

Spring Sports Dates

Baseball and Softball

Deadlines to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26 (softball);
Monday, May 3 (baseball)

Deadlines to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26
(softball); Monday, May 3 (baseball)

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2 (softball); Sunday,
May 9 (baseball)

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, May 3

Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, May 3

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 9

Boys Tennis

Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26

Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26

Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, April 26

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2

Track & Field

Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26

Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26

Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, May 3

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2

OHSAA Award Certificates

The annual OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Awards (Archie Griffin, NFHS Award of Excellence, etc.) are available through your school's myOHSAA account for you to print and are available through June 30, 2021, on both high school and 7th & 8th grade school accounts. Administrators are encouraged to communicate internally and follow the on-screen instructions and parameters in myOHSAA to select recipients for these awards. Awards will print in color provided you use a color printer, and you can choose the type of paper used for the printing. Be sure to indicate any special paper used through the printing properties of your printer.

Help Needed – NFHS Participation Survey

The NFHS Student Participation Survey is now live on each school's myOHSAA account. The NFHS Student Participation Survey is conducted annually and is an important data collection tool completed by athletic administrators. We have made the survey easier to complete by making it available throughout the school year rather than just the end, so the survey no longer needs to be done all at one time. You can add, remove and edit participation numbers any time before the June 1, 2021, deadline.

Please View Last Week's OHSAA Administrator Updates to Answer Questions on the Following:

- Coaching date for fall practices
- Clarification on summer coaching in team sports (10-day rule)
- Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) waived through the 2020-21 school year
- Tournament divisions (and enrollment data) to remain the same in 2021-22
- 2021 Friday Night Futbol

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20210401AdministratorUpdate.pdf>.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the service you are providing our student-athletes!