



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, April 16, 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.

Don't Let Up in Prevention Against COVID-19

As was announced last week and shared in the April 9 OHSAA Administrator Update, the Ohio Department of Health 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 continues to focus 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, since the pandemic lingers.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recent infection rates among our youth are much higher, especially in selected areas of the country and states like Michigan. While data is inconclusive and the spread may be the result of gatherings before and after participation, it is possible the rate increase among youth may have been the result of close contact from practices and contests.

"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."

| |
|---|
| <p>Help Slow the Spread of the Coronavirus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Distance • Wear a Mask • Wash Your Hands  |
|---|

Ohio Health Director's Order Consolidated

Here are some highlights of the Ohio Health Director's consolidated Order:

- 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-foot social distancing from other pods or individuals. All other individuals must continue to maintain six-foot social distancing.
- Those not in the contest can be in a pod of 10 so long as that pod maintains six-foot social distancing from other pods or individuals. Conferences/leagues or schools may want to consider continuing policies that maintain six-foot 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.

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/amended-directors-order-for-social-distancing-21.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!

OHSAA Financial Update

OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute hosted three virtual meetings during the last two weeks with member school administrators to discuss the financial status of the Association, including membership dues. Mr. Ute will be making a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding membership dues at the April 22 Board of Directors Meeting.

To view recordings of the three meetings, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFId40HlxWrR4nu0eNuFiliNTamaHkry>. Member school administrators will be provided updates on any action taken by the Board of Directors immediately following the April 22 meeting.

Your Participation Is Important → Athletic Discussion Meeting/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, the second of two meetings, traditionally known as OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings, will take place virtually on **Monday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m.** The first 2021 virtual Athletic Discussion Meeting was held on April 12. To view recordings of that meeting, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFId40HlxWrShqcYe1I9MSDmddDFed7w2>.

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

*Indicates that the deadline to enter or withdraw from the 2021 OHSAA spring sports tournaments is **11:59 p.m. on that day**.

Athletic administrators must ensure that their high school's tournament entry is set correctly for these tournaments prior to the deadline. Tournament entry will be locked after the deadline and the athletic administrator or principal must contact OHSAA Membership Services to request a change to tournament participation as outlined in General Sports Regulation 6. No late entry will be permitted after 12:00 noon on April 28 for boys tennis, softball or track and field or after 12:00 noon on May 7 for baseball, boys lacrosse or girls lacrosse. Athletic administrators are strongly encouraged to contact your coaches of these sports TODAY to ensure your school has tournament participants. After checking with the coach, login to the school's myOHSAA account and click the Tournament Entry link to check your school's tournament entry and make any necessary edits. If your school must withdraw from an OHSAA tournament, for any reason after the deadline, the school must contact OHSAA Membership Services (membershipservices@ohsaa.org) to discuss the late withdraw. Contacting the tournament manager is not a substitute for contacting the OHSAA office of Membership Services.

2021-22 Pre-Participation Physical Exam (PPE) Form Available

The Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2021-22 school year is now available on the OHSAA website [HERE](#). The 2021-22 PPE form has been authorized by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine (JACSM). This physical form was developed for youth student-athletes by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is in its fifth edition. Like last year's form, our JACSM has chosen to retain all of the questions within the history section, with an addition of COVID-19 related health history questions. There are also two additional, and optional, questions on exercise behavior that supports the Exercise is Medicine initiative. A Spanish version of the history portion of the form is also included on the website.

The medical clearance must be completed once every 13 months and kept on file indefinitely. Although use of this OHSAA-adopted PPE is not required (for example, a school via its Board policy could accept another type of physical exam), signing all four consent forms is required before a student may commence any athletic participation in a member school. In Ohio, a physician (MD, DO), a doctor of chiropractic (DC), a physician's assistant (PA) and an advanced practice nurse (ANP) are eligible to complete the exam and sign the form.

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 April 1 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!