



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, July 24, 2020
Athletic Administrator Update

TO: OHSAA Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: Bob Goldring, Interim Executive Director

Below are general updates and reminders to share related to our upcoming fall sports seasons. Please disseminate this information to the appropriate personnel on your staff.

OHSAA Return to Play Recommendations Document

As you are aware, Wednesday we sent you the OHSAA Return to Play Recommendations document to assist schools in their preparations for the 2020 fall sports seasons. As a supplement, we also included a student-athlete acknowledgement and pledge form that we recommend your school district/school use. To be clear, use of this form is strictly a local school decision and **NOT** a mandate. Also, due to some concerns that were raised over two bullet points within the form, here is a link to a revised edition of the form:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2020/OHSAAAcknowledgementAndPledgeForm.pdf>

Fall Sports Clarity

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to be prepared for change, and that change may occur weekly, daily or by the hour. That being said, the OHSAA Office continues in moving forward with the normal start of the fall sports seasons, meaning practices will begin on August 1 and we will conduct our usual series of tournaments in 10 fall sports. For clarity purposes, here are some additional notes:

Current Fall Non-Contact Sports

NOTE: School vs. school scrimmages, previews, contests, tournaments permitted but no earlier than OHSAA start dates

Golf – 1 scrimmage permitted any time during season; first contest Aug. 5

Girls Tennis – 1 scrimmage permitted after practice begins and prior to first match; first contest Aug. 7

Volleyball – 5 scrimmages and 1 preview permitted after practice begins; first contest Aug. 21

Current Fall Contact Sports

NOTE: School vs. school scrimmages, previews, contests, tournaments permitted but no earlier than OHSAA start dates AND WITH CURRENT OHIO HEALTH DIRECTOR'S ORDER THAT COVID-19 TESTING PROTOCOLS OCCUR

For more details, here is a link to the current Director's Order:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/2nd-Ext-Exp-2nd-Amended-Order-Contact-Sport.pdf>

Cross Country – no scrimmages permitted; first contest Aug. 24 (exception: OHSAA Invitational Aug. 15)

Field Hockey – 5 scrimmages permitted after practice begins; first contest Aug. 21

Football – 2 scrimmages or 1 scrimmage and 1 preview and one Jamboree permitted after a minimum of 7 days of practice and prior to first game; first contest Aug. 24

Soccer – 4 scrimmages plus 1 preview permitted after practice begins; first contest Aug. 21

Preseason Meetings with Student-Athletes and Parents

This is a reminder that Bylaw 3-1-4 remains in place and that a mandatory preseason fall sports meeting must be held with student-athletes and parents no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Due to COVID-19, we are encouraging all such meetings to be conducted online. If social distancing can be maintained, or multiple smaller groups used (one for each fall team), in-person meetings can be utilized but are not necessarily encouraged. Please read Bylaw 3-1-4 for more details. Additional reminders regarding the meetings will also be forthcoming from our Membership Services team. The OHSAA Office has again developed sample meeting agendas and a preseason meeting PowerPoint presentation that are welcome (but not required) to be used for your meetings. See the School Resources area of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) for more information.

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Preparticipation Physical Examinations

Bylaw 3-5-1 remains in place as it relates to the requirement that a form signed by a medical examiner, student-athletes and their parents – certifying the student-athlete has been cleared for athletic participation by a medical examiner – must be on file for all student-athletes before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. The forms must be certified by the medical examiner no less than once every 13 months. In addition, this bylaw requires that all consent forms – there are four of these – be signed by the student and parents. Please review Bylaw 3-5-1 for more details.

Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention

Please review this section in the OHSAA Handbook (following the Concussion Regulations and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Regulations) with your coaching and sports medicine staffs prior to any interscholastic practices this August. The sport of football has a five-day required acclimatization period during the first five days of practice. All athletes joining the team after the first day permitted for coaching also must participate in a five-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. The sport of cross country has a 10-day minimum requirement of practices for all student-athletes prior to any competition is permitted.

Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your coaches that all 10 OHSAA fall sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted in *myOHSAA* with the exceptions of field hockey and volleyball, which will be available beginning July 29. More details will follow from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Note that this is the first time a mandatory online rules meeting is required for the sport of cross country.

Preseason Sport Manuals

The OHSAA Sport Management team is again producing preseason sport manuals in cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, girls tennis and volleyball. These manuals contain all sorts of reminders and updates that all coaches and athletic administrators should review prior to the official start date of fall practices and contests. Visit the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org), where some manuals are already posted, and others will be soon.

New Free NFHS Learning Center On-Line Available

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center is proud to announce the addition of two new FREE course offerings – “COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators” and “The Collapsed Athlete” – to assist high school coaches and administrators in preparing for the 2020-21 school year. “COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators” presents material from the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee’s “Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities,” along with other helpful information to assist school administrators and coaches conduct workouts, practices and contests as safely as possible. “The Collapsed Athlete” teaches the importance of developing Emergency Action Plans and practicing them, including assigning responsibilities to team members. When your athlete collapses and you need to act, you will be equipped with an action plan designed to take you through the process of helping the collapsed athlete. You will be prepared when any emergency arises. For more information, visit www.NFHSLearn.com.

Adjustment to OHSAA Scholarship Bylaw

As a reminder, the OHSAA Office has temporarily suspended strict compliance with Bylaw 4-4-1 as it relates to high school students required to have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the immediately preceding grading period and Bylaw 4-4-5 as it relates to 7th-8th grade students required to have received passing grades in a minimum of four of those subjects in which the student received grades during the immediately preceding grading period. This means that all students entering grades 7-12 will be eligible for 2020 fall sports insofar as academic eligibility is concerned.

As a reminder, students enrolled in high school for the first grading period, whether the learning is virtual, in person or blended, are required to take and pass five one-credit courses or the equivalent to maintain eligibility during the second grading period. The OHSAA Office will be no doubt be reviewing this requirement to determine if potentially suspending strict compliance with this Bylaw is appropriate.

Adjustment to the OHSAA Transfer Bylaws

As of today, there are no adjustments to the transfer bylaws found in Bylaw 4-7 with the exception of the waiving of the consequence for any 2020 spring sport athlete who may have participated in a scrimmage in Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Baseball or Softball. Those students, if they should transfer, shall have full eligibility insofar as transfer is concerned for the spring sports season only in 2021.

Fall Sports Identification Camp (ID Camp) Waiver

The OHSAA Board of Directors is expected to soon approve a recommendation from the OHSAA Sport Management team that will allow a student-athlete in the sports of field hockey, soccer and volleyball to use a one-time waiver during fall 2020 to attend an Identification Camp AFTER the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage, preview or game. Identification Camp refers to an individual workout and/or camp being offered by colleges or universities and do NOT include any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice. All events must take place prior to the start of 2020 fall tournament play in that sport. The recommendation comes after changes were made to the NCAA recruiting periods.

Athletic Administrator Welcome Packet

As was completed last year, the OHSAA Office will be mailing a beginning-of-the-year Athletic Administrator Welcome Packet to the membership beginning the first week of August. A booklet will contain plenty of reminders and updates as we begin the 2020-21 school year, and the packet will also include two 2020-21 OHSAA wall calendars, an OHSAA 'who to contact' directory, a directory of member school telephone numbers and a Mercy Health insert on the Youth Resiliency & Prevention Coalition.

OHSAA Virtual Administrators Workshop

Information was recently sent to the membership inviting administrators to participate in the annual OHSAA Administrators Workshop. Traditionally an in-person meeting held in Columbus, this year's meeting will be presented in a virtual format on August 5 and will be completed using a 'live event' in Microsoft Teams. The meeting will have two sessions, with different content areas being covered in each. The first session will be held between 9:00-11:45 a.m., with the second session running between 12:00-2:30 p.m. Please refer to the separate memo that has already been sent for more details and registration instructions.

Thank you for your attention to this information!