



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

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.

OHSAA Regional Update Meetings and Administrators' Workshops Upcoming

The Executive Director's Office will be conducting in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings later this month and in September for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators in each of the six OHSAA athletic districts. The meetings are designed to provide updates and reminders on key issues, and attendance is highly recommended. Information was recently sent to the membership, and we ask that all registration go through the high school athletic administrator. All meetings will run from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and staff will be available afterward to answer questions. The dates and locations are:

- Thursday, Aug. 25, **Columbus** (Quest Conference Center, Westerville)
- Tuesday, Aug. 30, **Cincinnati** (Sharonville Convention Center)
- Wednesday, Sept. 7, **Athens** (Ohio University Inn & Conference Center)
- Tuesday, Sept. 13, **Cleveland** (DoubleTree by Hilton, Independence)
- Thursday, Sept. 15, **Cambridge** (Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center)
- Wednesday, Sept. 21, **Findlay** (Findlay High School Auditorium)

In addition, the OHSAA will be hosting Administrator Workshops that will provide an overview of important issues in the areas of compliance and sport management. Designed specifically for new administrators but also for those who desire to "brush-up" in these areas, in-person Administrator Workshop options at the OHSAA Office in Columbus will take place between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 on Wednesday, Aug. 10, and Tuesday, Aug. 23, with a virtual Administrator Workshop option available between 9:00 a.m. and noon on Monday, Aug. 29. Registration information has been sent to the membership.

For questions, contact the OHSAA Executive Director's Office at 614-267-2502.

Reminder of School's Responsibility When Hosting a Contest (Bylaws 3-2-1, 3-3-1 and 3-4-1)

As the fall season quickly approaches, the OHSAA would like remind administrators of their responsibilities when hosting a contest as outlined in Bylaws 3-2-1, 3-3-1, 3-3-2 and 3-4-1.

Bylaw 3-2-1, School's Responsibility When Hosting A Contest

The host school has the responsibility to ensure that a contest or event is administered in a manner which emphasizes the educational values inherent in interscholastic athletics. It is the host school's responsibility to remove any individual(s) who disrupts the educational goals of the contest or event.

Likewise, the host school is ultimately responsible for the safety of all participants (players, coaches, officials, spectators, etc.) in the interscholastic contest immediately before, during and immediately after each contest or event. Therefore, the host school shall appoint a site director/manager or administrator-in-charge for every contest or event. The host school shall ensure that the site director/manager or administrator-in-charge is aware of the school's emergency action plan and how to adjust it to meet the needs of the particular contest or event.

Included in the emergency action plan shall be procedures to deal with emergencies, crowd management and health and safety protections. The plan shall also include procedures to ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field; to provide safety and security for the visiting team(s), their spectators and the contest officials, and to provide safety and security for parking areas related to the contest or event.

Bylaws 3-3-1 and 3-3-2, School Representative Must Accompany Team

The principal or representative(s) authorized by the principal, in addition to the coaches, shall be present throughout all varsity football and boys and girls varsity basketball games, home and away. It is highly recommended that a school administrator be present for all interscholastic contests, home and away, especially in the sports of boys and girls soccer and ice hockey. In all other sports, the host school shall appoint a site director/manager, who could be a coach, or administrator-in-charge, for every contest or event.

When a male coach is assigned to a girls' team, an adult female (non-high school student) should be present at the contest. When a female coach is assigned to a boys' team, an adult male (non-high school student) should be present at the contest.

Bylaws 3-4-1, Courtesy to Officials and Visiting Schools

Recognized law enforcement officials should be given specific instructions by the school administrator as to duties before, during and after the contest. This will include keeping spectators from the field or floor during the contest, supervision of parking and safe conduct of contest officials and visiting team from the contest. Failure to protect the contest, the teams or the officials constitutes a violation of the bylaws.

Fall Coaching Dates for Start of Season and OHSAA Sport Administrator Contacts

<u>Sport</u>	<u>First Contest Date</u>	<u>OHSAA Sport Administrator</u>
Cross Country	Monday, Aug. 22	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Girls Field Hockey	Friday, Aug. 19	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Football	Monday, Aug. 15	Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)
Golf	Season has started	Tyler Brooks (tbrooks@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Friday, Aug. 12	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Season has started	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Girls Volleyball	Friday, Aug. 19	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

OHSAA Athletic Administrators' Welcome Packet Mailed; 2022-23 OHSAA Handbooks on the Way

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office is in the process of mailing a beginning-of-the-year Athletic Administrator Welcome Packet to the membership. The packet includes a booklet containing plenty of reminders and updates as we begin the 2022-23 school year, two 2022-23 OHSAA wall calendars and an OHSAA directory of member school telephone numbers. In addition, the 2022-23 *OHSAA Handbook* has been printed and is currently being mailed to member school superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and guidance counselors. The Handbook can also be found on the OHSAA website at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility>.

Sickle Cell Trait Status Guidance for Students Starting Collegiate Athletic Careers in 2023-24

Effective August 1 of 2022 per the NCAA, student-athletes in their initial season of eligibility (and currently enrolled students in college) no longer have the option to sign a waiver declining confirmation of sickle cell trait status. Therefore, the OHSAA is asking member school administrators to inform prospective 2022-23 collegiate student-athletes (whether they receive a scholarship or not or even plan to try out for a team) that the new sickle cell trait status requirement is that ALL new student-athletes MUST be tested for the sickle cell trait or show proof of a prior test. Sickle cell trait status requirements can be met in the following ways:

- 1.) Newborn Screening Test Results: Student-athletes/parents can contact their hospital of birth/pediatrician's office and request a copy of their sickle cell trait status from their birth. Most states required newborn sickle cell trait testing beginning in 1990. Please refer to the link below for Ohio Department of Health-specific information:
<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/Newborn-Screening/Program-Details/>
- 2.) Get tested: Provide a copy of a recent Sickle Cell Solubility Test indicating the student's sickle cell trait status. This requires a written request from a physician, a blood draw from a physician's office or lab and a lab test with results indicated.

Here is additional information and resources regarding the sickle cell trait:

Sickle cell trait is not a disease; it is an inherited red blood cell condition that can affect athletes at all levels. While sickle cell trait is not a barrier to playing competitive sports, athletes with sickle cell trait have experienced significant physical distress, including collapse and death during intense exercise. Heat, dehydration, inadequate acclimatization, altitude and asthma can increase the risk for medical complications in athletes with sickle cell trait. Through awareness, education and proper physical conditioning under the supervision of a primary athletics health care provider, athletes with sickle cell trait may safely achieve outstanding athletic performance. Here are links to resources to assist student-athletes and coaches:

- [Sickle Cell Trait Fact Sheet for Student Athletes \(PDF\)](#)
- [Sickle Cell Trait Fact Sheet for Coaches \(PDF\)](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Toolkit on sickle cell disease is available here:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/toolkit.html>

For questions, please contact the Ohio Sickle Cell and Health Association (OSCHA) at 614-228-0157.

For additional information published in the July 15, 2022, OHSAA Administrator Update, please go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/07152022AU.pdf>. Included are:

- Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements
- Preseason Meeting Requirements with Student-Athletes and Parents
- Preparticipation Physical Examination Requirements
- Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention Reminders
- 2022-23 Tournament Divisional Alignments and/or Representation
- Updating Information in *myOHSAA*
- Update on Pupil Activity Permits for Coaches
- Preseason Sport Manuals Information
- On-Line Courses Available at NFHS Learning Center
- Key OHSAA General Sports Regulation and Sport-by-Changes for 2022-23 School Year

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please contact us if we can be of service!