



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, December 10, 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.

As COVID Numbers Again Surge, Please Take Precautions

After medical experts from the Ohio Department of Health detailed the surges hospitals are seeing in COVID-19 hospitalizations around the state during a Thursday (Dec. 9) news conference, the OHSAA is reminding administrators to assess risk factors as we move through our indoor winter sports and to make decisions and take precautions to protect ourselves and those around us. While the Omicron variant is a concern, the Delta variant remains the dominant strain of coronavirus, with the result being a substantial increase in COVID-19-related admissions.

As was published in this update throughout most of the fall, here are recommendations the OHSAA is asking our member schools to please consider as they relate to COVID-19. School districts and local health departments may set their own requirements, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that masks are required while using public transportation (e.g. school buses). Please remember that protocols set by a school district or local health department may be different for your participants and spectators at an away/neutral/tournament site than those in place at your home facilities.

- There currently are NO state mandates regarding vaccinations, masks and social distancing, although local executive orders in some cities may be in place. Despite no mandates, the CDC and Ohio Department of Health recommend that masks be worn at indoor events regardless of vaccination status and that social distancing of three feet be maintained when there are crowded situations.
- Anyone demonstrating signs of any infectious illness should go home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- **Continue to work with your local health department when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified and to facilitate appropriate quarantines and contact tracing.**
- Continue to encourage student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19 to gain medical clearance before they are permitted to return to practices or contests, with an approval form from the medical professional to be kept on file at the school.
- Continue to practice proper sanitation of student-athlete equipment and personal belongings and of all facilities and venues.
- Continue to utilize signage and public address announcements at your facilities that encourage spectators to practice good hygiene and know the symptoms and that encourage spectators not fully vaccinated to wear masks and stay socially distanced.

Here is a link to the Ohio Department of Health's 'Mask to Stay/Test to Play' quarantining option for students who have been exposed to others who test positive for COVID-19:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/k-12-schools-quarantine-alternative.pdf>

Additionally, here is a link to posters and signs the ODH has made available to administrators for use at schools and/or athletic facilities:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs>

Winter Tournament Information

Girls Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Jan. 30

Boys Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6

Bowling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6

Gymnastics: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6

Ice Hockey: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Wednesday, Feb. 9

Swimming & Diving: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Jan. 30

Wrestling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 13

Winter Sports State Online Rules Meetings Required

This is a reminder that 2021-22 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling) are currently live. Completion of these meetings is required for tournament participation. Please have the head coach, an assistant coach or the athletic administrator complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date* for each

sport (*coincides with the tournament entry/withdraw without penalty date). All rules meetings are available through *myOHSAA* and can be accessed through the 'Rules Meeting' icon. Here are the timelines, deadlines and additional information:

Sport	Meeting Live Dates	Late Fee Began	End Date to View Meeting	OHSAA Sport Coordinator
Basketball	Currently Live	Thursday, Nov. 25	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	John Kuzio jkuzio@ohsaa.org
Wrestling	Currently Live	Friday, Dec. 3	Mon., Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Swimming & Diving	Currently Live	Tuesday, Nov. 30	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Ice Hockey	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Fri., Feb. 4 at 11:59 p.m.	Ronald Sayers rsayers@ohsaa.org
Gymnastics	Currently Live	Tuesday, Dec. 7	Mon., Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Bowling	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason emason@ohsaa.org

Winter Tournament Regulations Approved

The OHSAA Board of Directors approved tournament regulations for the OHSAA's winter sports at a special meeting held on Dec. 2. Look for the approved tournament regulations to be posted on each sports' individual page on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) soon. In the meantime, each winter sport currently has its respective coaches manual posted on its individual sport page. The manuals contain lots of reminders, points of emphasis and new information for the 2021-22 season.

Running Clock for Regular Season Basketball Games Effective Immediately

With a running clock regulation (score differential) already in place during OHSAA basketball tournament contests, the OHSAA Board of Directors recently approved a recommendation that the running clock regulation also be extended to all levels of regular season contests. Any time a score differential reaches 35 points during the second half, a running clock will be utilized and the clock will only be stopped for an injured player on the court, team timeouts or when there is an unusual delay deemed necessary by the contest officials. If there is a running clock but the score drops below 30 points, the clock reverts to regular timing.

Board of Directors Approves Start Date and Number of Contests for Soccer

At a special meeting on Dec. 2, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation to begin the regular season in soccer one week earlier and allow for a maximum of 17 permissible contests. The first day for contests in 2022 will be Friday, Aug. 12, which allows schools the option to start the season on that Friday to highlight soccer prior to their first football game that will likely take place the following Friday. Schools could obviously choose to schedule fewer contests and/or start their seasons later. The new option may also have health and safety benefits for student-athletes by alleviating the potential of playing three matches in a week. Administrators should note that the previous requirement to complete a service project should teams choose to start the season early and add another contest is no longer in place.

Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period for Fall Sports Ends Next Friday

Administrators are reminded that the window to enter Competitive Balance roster data for the fall sports of football, soccer and volleyball has opened. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within the ArbiterGame system (under the 'Eligibility' tab). The deadline to submit fall sports roster data is **Friday, Dec. 17, 2021**. **ALL** schools that compete in a varsity contest in those sports must submit their roster data by that date. All other fall sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. For questions, contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff..

Modifications Made to Transfer Bylaws Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the concern about students changing schools for pandemic-related reasons, the OHSAA Executive Director's Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive the strict compliance with some OHSAA Transfer Bylaws. Among the modifications include: 1.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (sub-varsity transfers); 2.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but keep playing for the same school from which they transferred in accordance with state law), and 3.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but come back to the same school without playing for any other school). For complete details on these modifications, please go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/6-1-9Modifications.pdf>.

In addition, the OHSAA has used Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive Constitution Articles 3-3-4 and 3-3-5, Continuing Membership, as it relates to sponsoring two sports per sports season, the requirement to participate in 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in a team sport and, at the high school level, participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament for each of those sports. For more information, contact Manager of Compliance and Membership Services Ronald Sayers at rsayers@ohsaa.org.

Administrators Asked to Work with EMIS Coordinators to Ensure Data Accuracy

October 2021 was the month that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) obtained a snapshot of enrollment data (EMIS) from OHSAA member schools for use to determine school placement within tournament divisions for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years*. The OHSAA will be asking school administrators to review their data this winter during the review/appeal process

when the EMIS numbers are sent to you for verification for OHSAA tournament use. Please be sure to work closely with your EMIS coordinators to ensure data reported to ODE is both accurate and complete.

As a reminder, counts of students provided by ODE do not represent *eligible* students but rather enrollment at a school district using one of the EMIS status codes that are identified in the OHSAA Enrollment Business Rules that are found here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/EnrollmentBusinessRules.pdf>. There is no correlation between the data of enrollment and those students eligible to participate in athletic competition at a member school. Administrators are also reminded that the information presented by ODE to the OHSAA is for this limited purpose. ODE is not required by law to provide this data but rather does so as a courtesy.

*Denotes that the data is also used in determining school classification for governance purposes and also that tournament divisions in the eight Competitive Balance sports (football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball) are recalculated annually.

Participation Encouraged in 30th Annual OASSA Cheer & Dance Regional Qualifiers and State Championships Events

OHSAA member schools are encouraged to have their students register to participate in the 30th Annual Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators Association (OASSA) Cheer and Dance Regional Qualifier and State Championship events. The 2022 Regional Qualifiers will be held Jan. 29 (Central - Dublin Jerome); Jan. 30 (Northeast - Massillon Perry); Feb. 5 (Southwest - Cincinnati Anderson); Feb. 6 (Northwest - Whitehouse Anthony Wayne) and Feb. 6 (Southeast - Belmont Union Local); the 2022 State Cheer & Dance Championship will be held Feb. 26 (Pickerington North and Pickerington Lakeview Junior High), and the 2022 State Cheer Championship will be held Feb. 27 (Pickerington North). To register your participants, go to <https://oassa.org/regionals/2022-oassa-regional-qualifier-registration/>. For more details, call 614-430-8311.

View the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation virtual Student Leadership Conference was held on Tuesday, October 5, and administrators are welcome to gather school groups to still view the presentation at: <https://mjvirtualevents.com/ohsaa2021>. The presentation lasts approximately two hours and 20 minutes and will be available for viewing through March 2022. Featured speakers are nationally renowned motivational speaker and organizer of the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference **Harvey Alston**; **Javier Sanchez**, whose passion is to move audiences from inspiration to action through stand-up comedy, poetry and powerful story telling; **Jenny Oaks-Baker**, who will share her real life story while also displaying her Grammy-nominated talents as an accomplished violinist; **Brian Wagner**, a speaker and author whose brain surgery changed his life and he now inspires others to improve their leadership vision, and **Jason Michaels**, who overcame Tourette's Syndrome to become an award-winning sleight-of-hand artist and professional speaker.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the work you are doing with our student-athletes. Please contact us if we can be of service!