



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Snodgrass, Executive Director
Friday, May 8, 2020
Administrator Update

To: All OHSAA Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
From: Jerry Snodgrass, Executive Director

Good afternoon to each of you as another week of "Zoom" meetings will be behind us all. Continued thanks for keeping students engaged and congratulations to ALL of you for the creative ways you have recognized student-athletes. We all want to recognize them more, but the many efforts I have seen have been tremendous. We will continue to update you in a timely manner and remain prepared to respond to changes that may occur rapidly from the Governor's office and the Ohio Department of Health's office. We then will update you as quickly as possible how those changes affect various regulations.

Update on School OHSAA Mandatory No-Contact Period

As indicated last week, The OHSAA's "No-Contact Regulation" is now extended through May 31, 2020. While the OHSAA has no authority over school facilities, we have continued to stay in step with the Governor's and Department of Health's regulations to limit mass gatherings by restricting coaches' physical contact with student-athletes. While local departments of health are issuing restrictions on non-instructional facility usage, we urge you to hold off on making facilities available to any non-school program until the no-contact period expires.

Financial Effects to OHSAA – Commitment to our Mission Statement

Governor DeWine's announcement on Wednesday that included devastating budget cuts to education has everyone concerned. While I have talked little publicly about the financial impact to our organization, I would like to share with you a few important items on the impact of tournament cancellations and how we are dealing with it. First, after a complete financial analysis, the cancellation of OHSAA winter and spring tournaments resulted in \$2 million dollars in lost revenue. Because we unfortunately do not know the length of this pandemic nor its complete financial impact on our organization, we needed to be proactive now in order to help offset potentially long-lasting, negative effects in the future. Our goal is to preserve cash, and our priority is to implement actions that have the most impact and/or can be achieved quickly ***without being directly tied to a drop in services to our member schools.***

The OHSAA has already taken initial steps to reduce non-essential spends. For example, all senior director employees recently took indefinite 20% salary reductions. As executive director, I have taken a 25% pay cut. All other employees, including District Athletic Board employees, have seen a minimum 10% salary reduction. We also are scrutinizing all of our contracts, suspending organization travel and meetings, suspending budgeted building improvements and are working on restructuring all full-time employees' benefit packages. All part-time employees have been furloughed, and one full-time employee has been laid off. All staff members have been required to submit cost-savings measures from their areas.

Communicating with OHSAA Staff Members

While the OHSAA offices remain closed, staff is working remotely for a yet to-be-determined time. Staff assignments and sport assignments and their respective phone numbers and email addresses were shared with all member schools in the "welcome packet" we instituted at the start of the year. Please do not hesitate to communicate with the proper individual during this time of remote teleworking. While we are completing a 'return to work' plan, no definite timetable has been set for that.

Bylaw Adjustments & Additional School Athletics Guidance

Just as we have done along the way, I want to continue to assure you that every possible consequence of the current crisis is being looked at in detail. While the No-Contact Period essentially puts everything on hold until June 1, we will be providing guidance in the following areas in advance:

- **Return to Activity**
 - Along with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), we will be providing guidance relative to usage of facilities and conducting events when restrictions are lifted. While premature to put these out prior to any restrictions being known, we want to inform you that guidance WILL be provided.
- **Athletic Physicals**
 - Much has been publicly released that Indiana has waived PPE's (athletic physicals) for 2020-21. The OHSAA's Sport Medicine Advisory Committee has been meeting and, while they remain hesitant to waive any 'standard of care,' it remains premature to provide any recommendation since all current PPE's are valid for a 13-month period. See below regarding "referendum voting."
- **Eligibility**
 - Adjustments to current eligibility standards will be provided toward the end of the month. Though our Board of Directors will need to approve any changes (see below on "referendum voting"), holding on to this is an intent to keep students engaged in remote learning efforts and discouraging them from 'checking out' knowing they might all be eligible.
- **Out-of-State Travel**
 - Much advice on this will be provided to Athletic Directors. While it is too early to tell if out-of-state travel will be restricted by forthcoming regulations issued by the ODH, please consider this before making any **further** commitments to out-of-state travel.
- **NCAA Eligibility/Regulations**
 - The NEOIAAA recently had a great presenter on from Cleveland State reviewing NCAA Eligibility guidelines for NCAA institutions. Kathleen Coughlin, our liaison to Athletic Administrators, will be sharing those with Athletic Administrators in an upcoming communication.
- **Competitive Balance Adjustments**
 - Staff continues to work through options available for "Spring Competitive Balance." Please note that since there were no tournament rosters or regular season games played, schools will not be required to input 2020 spring sport CB data for baseball or softball for use in 2021. Discussions will continue with the Competitive Balance Committee and recommendations will be made soon to the Board of Directors.

Referendum & District Athletic Board Voting

Balloting for referendum items and District Athletic Board positions opened on May 1. Principals are the designated voter per OHSAA Constitution. PLEASE take the time to log in to your *myOHSAA* account and vote. While many look forward to our guidance on such things as eligibility, Competitive Balance adjustments, etc., current OHSAA member school-adopted bylaws do not permit me/the OHSAA Office to amend/change these bylaws without approval by the member schools. Since it becomes nearly impossible to put every item in front of the membership that is affected by the current crisis, passage of Issue 7-C will provide the opportunity for our office to make recommendations for ADJUSTMENTS (not permanent change) to bylaws such as eligibility, transfer, PPE's, etc. to the Board of Directors.

#howicompete Campaign Launched by OHSAA and Allied Organizations

With school facilities shuttered through June 30 and student-athletes not being permitted to gather together, our staff is launching the #howicompete campaign to encourage student-athletes to train on their own at home and with instructions sent electronically by their school coaches. This campaign will collect and promote messages and videos posted by OHSAA member schools, media and the OHSAA's allied organizations. We are asking organizations such as the various Ohio high school coaches associations, Greater Columbus Sports Commission, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) and many more to help encourage and promote content from student-athletes and tag the OHSAA using #howicompete. Content will be promoted through the OHSAA's social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) on its handle @OHSAASports.

Odds & Ends

- The OHSAA announced Wednesday the 2020 (and beyond) State Cross Country meet will be held at "The Fortress" in Obetz, a large facility that will provide a tremendous fan and participant experience. This is a great venue and we are looking forward to this exciting change.