



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Jerry Snodgrass, Executive Director
Friday, May 29, 2020
Administrative Update

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

Good afternoon to each of you as we enter an unprecedented time of planning for the future with many continued unknowns. While we are in a period of time that OHSAA-sponsored sports are not occurring, we hope to continue to provide guidance as well as updates that will help prepare for the future. Though circumstances change frequently, I want to continue to stress that important changes/updates will be communicated directly to you in updates. There have been occasions in the past where an announcement may be made at a daily news conference that we were not aware of ahead of time, but we believe we have opened the lines of communication so we are aware and can subsequently make you aware, and thus hopefully eliminating the rumors that abound. As an example, there are many rumors circulating relative to the reopening of summer basketball tournaments and, in confirmation with the Lt. Governor's office, there is simply no truth to any of those. Again, circumstances do change quickly as we have witnessed, but our direct communication with you should help you verify information better. We want to continue to serve you.

OHSAA Offices Reopening

We are reopening our office buildings to staff beginning June 16, maintaining all health and safety protocols. Our staff has been extremely successful working remotely during this time. While we will have a staggered work schedule, staff will continue the same work week hours we have always worked. However, the office buildings **will be closed to any visitors for an undetermined period of time**. Please utilize the call numbers and email addresses to reach out to staff members.

Adjustments to OHSAA Bylaws

With the passing of an OHSAA constitution issue during the recently-completed referendum voting, the OHSAA Office has been given authority to temporarily suspend strict compliance to various OHSAA constitution articles, bylaws and/or sports regulations if the non-compliance is a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and provided the suspensions remain consistent with the purpose of the rules and regulations.

Fall Scholarship Eligibility: Due to the wide-range of academic grades being given for classwork during the final grading period, all students entering grades 7-12 will be eligible for 2020 fall sports insofar as academic eligibility is concerned.

2021 Spring Sport Transfer Eligibility: No transfer student, including those who participated in a 2020 spring sport scrimmage, will be subject to the transfer consequence in spring 2021. However, the student will still be held accountable to the transfer consequence for any fall or winter sport in which he/she may have participated during the 12 months preceding his/her transfer.

5th Year Eligibility: 2020 spring sport senior student-athletes will not be provided an additional season/year of eligibility. At the time of this communication, 44 states have responded to a survey and none will be providing this option for students.

2021 Spring Sport Competitive Balance Numbers: During last week's Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved a staff recommendation that strict compliance with Bylaw 2, Section 2 be modified for the spring sports of baseball and softball as they relate to Competitive Balance, and that schools with those sports for the 2021 seasons only be assigned to tournament divisions based strictly on their EMIS numbers (and therefore no modifications utilizing Competitive Balance factors would be included). The staff proposal was based on a unanimous recommendation from the OHSAA Competitive Balance Committee.

PPE/Athletic Physicals: The following has been recommended by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine:

1. Continue with the requirement for an annual Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (PPE) - every 13 months - for all 7-12 grade students.
2. Recommend strongly discouraging the use of mass physicals for this upcoming school year for the benefit of public health and to recommend all students receive a PPE in a private setting.
3. Strongly recommend that the physical exam be done at a medical home.
4. Allow a student who has had a PPE within the last year to conduct his/her 2020-21 PPE in person or via telehealth as long as the usual forms are filled out, signed and in the provider's hands prior to the visit.

Governor DeWine's Restrictions & Recommendations Relative to COVID-19 & Athletic Participation

OHSAA Low-Contact Sports: As of today (May 29, 2020), the OHSAA Non-Contact Sports have been permitted to begin competing* as long as they are following the Responsible RestartOhio guidelines established by Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Health. Guidelines may be found at the links below:

Baseball	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Baseball-Softball.pdf
Golf	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Golf-Course-Operator.pdf
Softball	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Baseball-Softball.pdf
Swimming & Diving	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Pool-Aquatic-Centers.pdf
Tennis	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Tennis-Court-Operators.pdf
Track & Field	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/General-Non-Contact-Sports.pdf
General Guidelines	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/General-Non-Contact-Sports.pdf

OHSAA Contact Sports: As of today (May 29, 2020), the OHSAA Contact Sports listed are limited to skill training and conditioning* only. There may be no contests or scrimmages of any sort, including, but not limited to, team camps, any type of event with another team, games, scrimmages, tournaments, etc. The Responsible RestartOhio guidelines for the sports that are limited to skills training may be found at the links below:

Skills Training Only Sports	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Skills-Training-All%20Sports.pdf
Guidelines for Gyms, Dance Instruction Studios and Other Personal Fitness Venues	https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Gyms-Dance-Instruction.pdf

the decision to open school facilities **still remains at the local level, as does any decision to provide stricter guidelines and limitations beyond what the Governor has provided. Should you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your school district or local health department who should be overseeing these guidelines and decisions.*

Beyond the Responsible RestartOhio guidelines listed, the choices of how these sports are taking place across the state of Ohio is a decision to be made at the local level, as previously mentioned. It is up to your school/school district to determine how to implement these sports at your facilities in a safe and responsible manner, following the RestartOhio guidelines at a minimum. Some examples are how many are permitted in your gym for skills training, how your bleachers will be spaced out for spectators at a baseball scrimmage, how often you're able to sanitize the ball you are using—all of these decisions are up to your school district, as facilities across the state differ. Again, these decisions are to be made at the local level and not the OHSAA. We want to continue to help with guidance where needed.

From the CDC's Consideration of Schools on May 19, 2020

Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community.

Odds & Ends

Catastrophic Insurance Coverage: Many have asked if the OHSAA's Catastrophic Insurance Policy covers student-athletes during the summer months. It does not. It never has outside the season.

Referendum Voting Results: All proposed referendum issues were passed by membership with the highest return rate we have had for electronic ballots (97%). Results can be found at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/referendum-voting>

OHSAA/NFHS Guidance: During many meetings with various conferences and administrative groups, schools are to be commended for developing plans to reopen facilities. Our guidance was just that, 'Guidance.' Many have reached out asking "what should we do" and with a number of guidance documents being put out (USOC, NCAA, NFHS, etc.), we wanted to tailor suggestions to Ohio.