



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, August 13, 2020
Administrator Update

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

Good evening! As has been done previously, we wanted to provide updated information on the plan to begin our fall sports seasons.

Although there was no definite commitment today from Governor DeWine during his news conference regarding the approval of the contact sports of football, soccer and field hockey being permitted to have school vs. school competition with modifications being made to the Ohio Department of Health Director's Order, we continue in conversations with the Governor's Office, are working tirelessly in a cohesive effort and believe our plans to move forward with the start of our seasons are in concert. The Governor, in fact, said an announcement will be forthcoming on Tuesday (August 18).

"The Lt. Governor and I will have an announcement on Tuesday about high school sports," Governor DeWine said. "We've been working with the Ohio High School Athletic Association to get it right, to provide guidelines to make it as safe as possible. This is a decision that is going to be made by parents and by schools, and even local health departments. They're going to make those decisions. I have a great deal of confidence in the coaches because they have the opportunity – not just in practice and not just in games – to impress upon their young men and women to keep a distance and be safe, but that it's also important what they do when they're not playing. We're going to restrict the number of fans. We want the athletes to compete, we want the young people to have their seasons, but we want to do it as safely as possible. It's about the kids. So we'll be able to announce everything in more detail on Tuesday."

We realize our administrators want all the details in order for planning to be finalized. We want that for you as well. As we have said numerous times in these updates, and assuming we do indeed receive the go-ahead Tuesday, there will be mandates and requirements that will be part of each member schools' protocols for contests. Hopefully, those plans have been in place at your school for some time since we anticipate most of these items will either be state mandates that are already in place or recommendations that the OHSAA has previously provided to you. While the guidelines from the Governor's Office and Department of Health are not finalized – as the Governor said today – we respectfully ask that you remain patient and understand that we will provide you the final details specific to hosting an event as it relates to your student-athletes, coaches, contest officials, game-day personnel and spectators just as soon as they are finalized by the Governor's Office and Ohio Department of Health next week.

Thank you for your understanding, and we will continue to provide updates as they become available!