



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Monday, August 17, 2020
Administrator Update

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

Below are general updates and reminders to share related to our upcoming fall sports seasons. Please disseminate this information to the appropriate personnel on your staff.

TRANSFER BYLAW REMINDERS

This is a reminder that there have been **no COVID-19-related changes** to OHSAA Transfer Bylaws 4-7 outside of the waiver of the transfer consequence for spring 2020. Due to the cancellation of all spring sports, no 2020 spring sport athlete – even if he or she did participate in a scrimmage last spring – will be subject to the transfer consequences for spring 2021. Because there are no other COVID-19-related changes to the Transfer Bylaw, any transfer student whose transfer does not qualify under a duly adopted exception to the Transfer Bylaw shall become ineligible beginning with the second half of the regular season, using the varsity contest schedule, plus the OHSAA tournament based solely on the maximum allowable regular season contests that the Board has approved in each of our 26 sports.

The revised football schedule and tournament format has generated some questions relative to the Transfer Bylaw and for what contests a transfer student who does not meet an exception is or is not eligible. Perhaps the best way to approach these questions is as follows: 1.) no transfer student who does not meet a transfer exception shall be eligible for any OHSAA-sponsored tournament football games **REGARDLESS** of how many “regular season games” a school/team may have played prior to the start of the tournament; 2.) a transfer student who does not meet a transfer exception will be eligible for up to five (5) “regular season contests” (i.e. any non-tournament game) regardless of when those “regular season contests” fall on the calendar relative to the OHSAA football tournament.

With respect to any other sport, the interpretation and application of the transfer bylaw remains the same in that no transfer student who does not meet a transfer exception is eligible for the OHSAA tournament. As in past years, transfer students whose transfer does not qualify under an enumerated exception shall be ineligible for the tournament regardless of the actual number of regular season contests in which the school actually competes.

SCHOLARSHIP BYLAW UNDER REVIEW

The OHSAA is hearing from school administrators who are concerned about modifications due to COVID-19 as they relate to class sizes, building capacities and social distancing. In particular, COVID-19 has raised the concern for seniors meeting the requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, which says students must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the preceding grading period in order to be eligible for the next grading period. With many seniors having either earned the credits needed to graduate or not needing five full credits to graduate, many families are desiring to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 for their student combined with schools working to reduce class sizes, balancing the number of students in the building and/or perhaps not offering enough courses online. Please be aware that the OHSAA is studying this issue to determine if the required number of courses should be reduced **ONLY** for seniors on track to graduate. Per newly adopted Constitution Article 6-1-9, the Executive Director's Office does have the authority to temporarily suspend strict compliance to specific Constitution Articles, Bylaws and/or Sports Regulations due to COVID-19. Currently, the regulation remains unchanged, but we will keep the membership apprised if any changes are made.

CLARIFICATION ON OHSAA TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Our office has received a lot of questions on the OHSAA Tournament Participation Agreement form. The OHSAA Tournament Participation Agreement form certifies that your school is operating its sports programs according to current state directives as set by the state and local departments of health and the Governor's Office. This agreement

needs to be submitted by the principal or athletic administrator of each member school. Access to the participation agreement will remain part of the Tournament Entry 2020-21 link on the school's *myOHSAA* account until the school accepts the agreement. Schools that cannot accept the agreement at this time (do not know if they will be entering the OHSAA tournament) may choose to decline the agreement, which would make the school currently ineligible for OHSAA tournaments. HOWEVER, schools that decline the agreement can regain tournament eligibility any time throughout the school year by accepting the agreement and setting the tournament entry to 'Yes' for sports prior to specific sport tournament entry deadlines.

If your school district/system has suspended or cancelled all fall sports AND has not accepted the participation agreement, please email membershipservices@ohsaa.org the specific sport tournaments from which to withdraw your school. Upon the tournament entry/withdrawal date for each OHSAA sport, schools that have not accepted or declined the agreement will be notified and removed from that sport tournament.

Please remember that the tournament participation agreement applies to all sports and only needs accepted once for the entire 2020-21 school year. In addition, OHSAA State Rules Meetings are required for OHSAA tournament participation. Please contact membershipservices@ohsaa.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

OHSAA STATE RULES MEETINGS REMINDER

This is a reminder that completion of the OHSAA state rules meeting for each fall sport is required for tournament participation. Schools are encouraged to have either the head coach, an assistant coach or the athletic administrator complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date for each sport. The final meeting date coincides with the tournament entry/withdraw without penalty date. All state rules meetings are available through *myOHSAA* and can be accessed through the Rules Meeting icon. Athletic administrators were emailed additional information regarding tracking state rules meeting attendance in the monthly *myOHSAA* update sent earlier this morning. Please contact membershipservices@ohsaa.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

Thank you for your attention to this information!