



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, September 3, 2020
Administrator Update

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

The following is a financial update on the Ohio High School Athletic Association and includes tournament modifications the OHSAA Board of Directors has recently approved for the 2020-21 school year.

The Reality of the OHSAA's Financial Status

As the membership is aware, approximately 80 percent of the OHSAA's revenues come from ticket sales at our tournaments. Our inability to conduct state tournaments in boys and girls basketball, individual wrestling and ice hockey last winter; to conduct sectional, district, regional and state tournaments in any of our spring sports, and the prospect of conducting all of our tournaments for the 2020-21 school year with spectator capacity limits of 15 percent (with no more than 1,500 permitted for outdoor events and 300 for indoor events) has already had a significant impact on the Association from a financial standpoint. Our situation could be even more dire had our corporate sponsors – which account for another 10 percent of our revenues – asked for proration in 2019-20. Because they believe so much in education-based athletics programs, we were not asked to refund monies. They may not be as benevolent moving forward.

Our mission remains the same . . . to serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students. That means we have an unwavering commitment to continue administering some of the best interscholastic athletics tournaments in the nation in 26 sanctioned sports (13 for boys and 13 for girls), and, to the best of our ability, we will continue to honor our tradition of excellence, which has served our member schools for the past 113 years. Since the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic became a reality for the OHSAA, the Association has undergone major modifications to our business practices and overall procedures. This has included cuts of not only personnel but also salaries and benefits for full-time staff. We also have explored new, untraditional revenue streams that could prove to be beneficial, but even those are not guaranteed with the status of the world's economy and no real end in sight for the pandemic.

Therefore, we need to make some unprecedented changes to our tournament financial model during the 2020-21 school year in order to ensure that we can continue to provide the overall outstanding services that our membership expects and to make certain that our programs continue to complement each participant's educational experience.

OHSAA Tournament Measures Approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors

The OHSAA Board of Directors earlier this summer approved the following tournament financial measures for the 2020-21 school year. The approval was based on a recommendation from the OHSAA Interim Executive Director's staff following discussions that included the OHSAA Finance Committee, OHSAA Board of Directors members, executive directors from other state high school athletic associations and extensive internal deliberations that were headed by the OHSAA's finance office. As previously noted, these recommendations came after the Association had already undertaken numerous financial measures — including cuts and new processes and procedures — and, combined, it is hopeful these will help ensure we can continue to provide unparalleled opportunities for students, despite the unknown status of future tournaments. The Board-approved measures include:

Online Tickets: Presale tournament tickets will be available for all sports and will be sold online. At this point we do not expect gate tickets will be offered.

Standard Ticket Pricing: All sectional and district tournament tickets will be sold online at \$8.00 (fees included).

Presale Ticket Shares/Bonuses: Football and basketball presale ticket shares/bonuses will not be paid out to member schools participating in 2020-21 OHSAA tournaments.

Team Tournament Expenses: No team expenses will be paid to member schools participating in 2020-21 OHSAA tournaments.

Tournament Entry Fees: \$25 tournament entry fees will be incorporated for the following sports: boys and girls bowling; boys and girls golf; gymnastics; boys and girls cross country; boys and girls tennis; boys and girls track & field, and boys and girls swimming & diving. As OHSAA “emerging” sports, boys and girls lacrosse will continue to have a \$100 fee per gender.

Other Fees: Bowling tournament lane fees and golf tournament greens fees will not be paid by the OHSAA in 2020-21.

Tournament Suspension: The regional and state dual team wrestling tournaments will be suspended for the 2020-21 school year (although the 83rd season of the individual wrestling tournaments will continue).

Additional General Financial Notes: The Board of Directors has determined that it will continue to expend nearly \$445,000 in 2020-21 to continue providing student catastrophic insurance coverage. The Board most likely will continue to authorize flat fees being paid to utilize facilities hosting OHSAA tournaments, the amount of which will be evaluated on a sport-by-sport basis and opportunities for reduction where reasonable and appropriate will be identified. Additionally, the Board will continue to evaluate the OHSAA’s financial situation and could decide at a later date to levy membership fees pursuant to Constitution Article 4-1-1, Membership Dues.

As these new tournament policies are incorporated, more information will continue to be shared with the membership either through your respective OHSAA District Athletic Board or the OHSAA Office in Columbus. In the meantime, feel free to share any feedback with me at bgoldring@ohsaa.org.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, for what you do to make the OHSAA so successful and for all that you do for our student-athletes!