



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, September 10, 2020  
Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators  
FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

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

## Following the Ohio Health Director's Order

We cannot say thank you enough to all school administrators for your tremendous efforts in trying to help ensure that all mandates which are part of the Ohio Health Director's Order are being followed when hosting a contest. As we have said numerous times, Governor DeWine and the OHSAA **want** your student-athletes to be able to continue to compete, so following the mandates is the only option.

Based on last weekend's results, however, where the OHSAA sent Observers to 87 varsity football contests, areas of improvement are needed. **Please take time to review the results below. By not following the Health Director's Order, you are putting our students-athletes at risk of contracting and/or spreading COVID-19 and potentially shutting down their seasons, and you are also violating Ohio Revised Code 3701.352.** Here is a compilation of some of the conclusions from the Observers that show areas in which improvements are needed:

- 1.) **Participants maintained six-foot social distancing at all times unless on the field.**  
43 passed (49.4 percent); 44 failed (50.6 percent)
- 2.) **Participants wore facial coverings unless on the field.**  
57 passed (65.5 percent); 30 failed (34.5 percent)
- 3.) **Six-foot social distancing was maintained at all times other than those on the field – including those on the sidelines and benches – and including spectators not part of a family group.**  
58 passed (66.7 percent); 29 failed (33.3 percent)
- 4.) **No players, coaches, officials or spectators are congregated before, during or after the contest.**  
59 passed (67.8 percent); 28 failed (32.2 percent)
- 5.) **Participants had no physical contacting of other participants unless part of the on-field play (examples: handshakes, high fives).**  
63 passed (72.4 percent); 24 failed (27.6 percent)
- 6.) **All game-day personnel, staff, participants, coaches, officials and spectators are properly wearing facial coverings.**  
64 passed (73.6 percent); 23 failed (26.4 percent)
- 7.) **Spectators maintained six-foot social distancing between individuals/family groups.**  
66 passed (75.9 percent); 21 failed (24.1 percent)
- 8.) **Spectators wore facial coverings in a manner consistent with ODH orders.**  
67 passed (77 percent); 20 failed (23 percent)

## Reminders on the COVID-19 Observer's Program

For those who are unaware, the OHSAA launched a COVID-19 **Observer's Program** at the strong recommendation of the Governor's Office. Observers are designated individuals who are attending contests throughout the state to ensure mandates in the Ohio Health Director's Order are being followed. These observers are asked to make contact with a school's athletic administrator and/or Compliance Officer prior to the contest, and, throughout the contest, they may provide feedback to the school contact regarding any violations they observe. However, in general, the observers are not in attendance to police the requirements set forth by the Governor's Office . . . they are simply there to report on what they find. Further, while many schools have expressed concerns about the program, please remember that the purpose of this program is **educational** in nature. The observers file reports with the OHSAA. We will review each report and use them as a tool to help schools maintain the mandates to provide a safe atmosphere and continue to provide opportunities.

As part of this program, this means that the host school's Compliance Officer – so described in the Order – is tasked with ensuring that all mandates within the Order are followed. To assist with this process, particularly for the sport of football where OHSAA Bylaw 3-3-1 requires the principal, or a person designated to represent the principal, is present for road contests, it is highly recommended that the Compliance Officer – whether that is the athletic administrator or another person – enlist the assistance of the visiting school representative to help oversee mandates that impact that visiting school. The most successful sites we have observed through two weeks have shown collaboration between the home site's Compliance Officer and the visiting school's representative.

Thanks again for all of your work! Here are photographs that may be of assistance as you continue to host contests:



**Spectator bleachers well marked.**



**Players properly socially distanced on sidelines (but need facial coverings).**



**Players on near side properly socially distanced (but need facial coverings); players on far side need better social distancing.**



**Soccer sidelines well marked for players' social distancing.**