



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, October 2, 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 and winter sports seasons. Please disseminate this information to the appropriate personnel on your staff.

Views from Week 5 of the Observer's Program

The OHSAA sent Observers to a combined 82 football, boys soccer, girls soccer and volleyball contests last week. Here is a compilation of some of the conclusions from the Observers that show areas in which improvements are needed:

- 1.) **Players:** Players **maintained six-foot social distancing** at all times other than those on the field / court (Home Team)
60 passed (74.1 percent); 21 failed (25.9 percent)
Players: Players **maintained six-foot social distancing** at all times other than those on the field / court (Away Team)
45 passed (55.6 percent); 36 failed (44.4 percent)
- 2.) **Players:** Players **wore facial coverings** when not on field or court consistent with the ODH's orders (Home Team)
63 passed (77.8 percent); 18 failed (22.2 percent)
Players: Players **wore facial coverings** when not on field or court consistent with the ODH's orders (Away Team)
52 passed (64.2 percent); 29 failed (35.8 percent)
- 3.) **Facility:** Players, coaches, officials or spectators **did not congregate** before, during, or after the contest
65 passed (80.2 percent); 16 failed (19.8 percent)
- 4.) **Coaches and Team Personnel:** Sideline/Bench personnel were **socially distanced and wearing masks** at all times consistent with the ODH's orders (Home Team)
67 passed (83.8 percent); 13 failed (16.2 percent)
Coaches and Team Personnel: Sideline/Bench personnel were **socially distanced and wearing masks** at all times consistent with the ODH's orders (Away Team)
64 passed (80 percent); 16 failed (20 percent)
- 5.) **Spectators:** **Wore facial coverings** consistent with the ODH's orders (Home Team)
67 passed (83.8 percent); 13 failed (16.2 percent)
Spectators: **Wore facial coverings** consistent with the ODH's orders (Away Team)
63 passed (78.8 percent); 17 failed (21.2 percent)
- 6.) **Players:** **No physical contacting** other participants outside of game play (such as high-fives, handshakes, etc.) (Home Team)
65 passed (80.2 percent); 16 failed (19.8 percent)
Players: **No physical contacting** other participants outside of game play (such as high-fives, handshakes, etc.) (Away Team)
67 passed (82.7 percent); 14 failed (17.3 percent)

Football Playoffs Begin Next Week

The 2020 OHSAA Football Playoffs begin next Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9 and 10. Divisions I, II, III and VII will play on Friday nights and Divisions IV, V and VI will play on Saturday nights. Each division will have seven playoff rounds with the exception of Division I, which will have six. Division I will hold its championship game on Friday, Nov. 13, while Divisions II through VII will be played the following week.

Head coaches in each region earlier this week voted to seed the teams in their region, and the OHSAA placed teams on the brackets. Visit the OHSAA website at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Football/Football-2020/2020-OHSAA-Football-Playoffs-Coverage> for this year's brackets. The higher seed on the bracket of the specific game will have the first opportunity to host the game throughout the regional playoffs. If the higher seed on the bracket cannot host, the other team will host the game. The OHSAA will determine sites for the state semifinals and state championships. If a team is unable to play a playoff game on the assigned day according to the bracket, its opponent will advance on the bracket.

As a reminder, schools eliminated from the OHSAA playoffs or that choose not to enter the OHSAA playoffs have the option to schedule additional regular season contests through Saturday, Nov. 14 (maximum of 10 regular season contests permitted).

Winter Sports Schedules

With tournament season just beginning for some fall sports and other sports concluding regular seasons, it won't be long before winter sports will be starting. Here is the schedule for the beginning of practices and contests for the OHSAA's winter sports:

Girls Basketball

First Day of Practice – Friday, Oct. 23

Scrimmages with Other Schools – Can begin when practice begins

First Contest – Friday, Nov. 20

Boys Basketball

First Day of Practice – Friday, Oct. 30

Scrimmages with Other Schools – Can begin when practice begins

First Contest – Wednesday, Nov. 25

Bowling

First Day of Practice – Friday, Oct. 30

Scrimmages with Other Schools – None permitted

First Contest – Friday, Nov. 13

Ice Hockey

First Day of Practice – Friday, Oct. 30

Scrimmages with Other Schools – Tuesday, Nov. 3

First Contest – Friday, Nov. 20

Swimming & Diving

First Day of Practice – Friday, Oct. 30

Scrimmages with Other Schools – None permitted

First Contest – Monday, Nov. 30

Gymnastics

First Day of Practice – Friday, Nov. 6

Scrimmages with Other Schools – None permitted

First Contest – Monday, Dec. 7

Wrestling

First Day of Practice – Friday, Nov. 13

Scrimmages with Other Schools – Can begin when practice begins

First Contest – Thursday, Dec. 3

Additional Winter Sports Notes

As was done for fall sports, the OHSAA staff is working to finalize sport-specific requirements, recommendations and modifications for schools when conducting interscholastic competition in winter sports. When completed, links to these sport-specific documents will be provided in the Administrator Update and posted on the OHSAA website.

Although science and medical professionals are predicting that COVID-19 cases will increase as we get later in the fall as more people move indoors combined with the beginning of flu season, there currently are not any major modifications and/or restrictions expected for the winter sports seasons. However, as with nearly everything else with the pandemic, the Governor's Office could modify this in an instant. Currently, the Governor's Office issues weekly recommendations for individuals to quarantine for 14 days if they are returning to Ohio from "hot spot" states. Other states may have further restrictions regarding travel from Ohio into their states. With that in mind, the OHSAA is advising schools to proceed with caution and recommends you compete within your geographical area. In the meantime, please remember that all of the Ohio Health Director's Orders must be followed. The latest Order (last updated on September 25) can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2RWa1jh>. We will obviously keep the membership updated in the event of any adjustments.

Spectator Attendance/Variance

As most administrators are aware by now, the Ohio Health Director's Order has placed limitations on the number of spectators permitted at sports venues. The maximum number permitted for outdoor venues is the lesser of 1,500 or 15 percent of fixed, seated capacity, while the maximum number permitted for indoor venues is the lesser of 300 or 15 percent of fixed, seated capacity. The primary purpose of permitting spectators is to allow and encourage family and household members and loved ones of players, coaches, team staff members, officials and other event participants to observe and share the experience. Should a school have additional tickets remaining after the ticket allotment for family, household members and loved ones is depleted, tickets can be made available to additional patrons per a plan devised by each individual school. Don't forget that all other items within Section 7 of the Order must be followed (social distancing; facial coverings; spectator pathways; ingress and egress plans; signage; groups assigned in staggered rows and sections, etc.). In addition, a venue-specific plan (variance) may be submitted in writing that differs from the venue capacity requirements of the Order to the local health department for review. If approved by

the local health department, final approval for variance must come from the Ohio Department of Health.

Please Make Updates to Staff Management in myOHSAA

The OHSAA sends updates, notices, publications and reminders to principals, athletic administrators and head coaches with great frequency. To ensure that these communications get to the correct people, schools should add the **school principal, athletic administrator, any assistant athletic administrators, athletic secretaries and all varsity head coaches (high schools) for all sports offered to their staff management** page in *myOHSAA*. Junior high schools should add the eighth-grade coach to staff management in addition to the principal and athletic department staff. For more information on how to add staff to your school's *myOHSAA* account, please use the video icons on the 'Staff Management' page in *myOHSAA*.

It is essential that the **building principal** listed under the STAFF section AND in the BUILDING PRINCIPAL'S box is accurate at ALL times for each OHSAA high school and 7th-8th grade school. Weekly communication is sent to the member schools, and the building principals are included as recipients. Further, the OHSAA has automated the OHSAA Referendum Voting and District Board Elections through *myOHSAA*, and **only the building principal may submit these ballots**. It is also imperative for your **head coaches** to be listed on your school's *myOHSAA* not only for communication purposes but also for them to access and complete the state rules meeting, allowing the school to receive meeting credit for that particular sport.

Fall Sports Tournament Entry/Withdraw Deadlines

As recently shared with member school athletic administrators, October 5 is the deadline to enter or withdraw from the OHSAA cross country, field hockey, soccer and volleyball tournaments. October 5 is also the last day the state rules meeting for these sports will be available. Please login to your school's *myOHSAA* account TODAY and make sure your tournament entry is set correctly and your school has credit for the required state rules meeting for each sport in which your school will participate in the OHSAA tournament. Schools that enter or withdraw from any of these tournaments after October 5 are subject to a penalty. In addition, **schools that have not completed the state rules meeting are ineligible for the OHSAA tournament**. If your school does not have state rules meeting credit for a sport, please contact: **cross country**: Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org); **field hockey and volleyball**: Emily Gates (egates@ohsaa.org), or **soccer**: Kathleen Coughlin (kcoughlin@ohsaa.org). **Schools that suspend their sports programs due to an outbreak of COVID-19 and will not be participating in OHSAA tournaments must notify OHSAA Membership Services (membershipservices@ohsaa.org) immediately upon suspension of your sports program to avoid further penalties.**

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the service you are providing our student-athletes!