



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, October 8, 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 6 of the Observer's Program

The OHSAA sent Observers to a combined 83 football, boys soccer, girls soccer and volleyball contests last week. There continue to be some areas that need improvement.

*"Since we oversee education-based interscholastic athletic programs, we want the Observers program to be educational for our member schools," said OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute. "However, there are some troubling signs in these weekly reports that need definite improvement. Remember back in the summer when we partnered with the Governor's Office to promote the #IWantASeason campaign? We obviously have our seasons, and many have made great sacrifices to make that happen. However, if improvements are not made, we may not be able to continue with our seasons because the coronavirus is going to spread due to our administrators, coaches and student-athletes not following the mandates required by the Governor. I can't stress enough to everyone involved in our sports programs that **we all must do our part!**"*

Here is a compilation of some of the conclusions from the Observers that show areas in which improvements are needed:

- 1.) Players: Maintained six-foot social distancing** at all times other than those on the field / court (Home Team)
49 passed (59 percent); 34 failed (41 percent)
Players: Maintained six-foot social distancing at all times other than those on the field / court (Away Team)
37 passed (45 percent); 46 failed (55 percent)
- 2.) Players: Wore facial coverings** when not on field or court consistent with the ODH's orders (Home Team)
53 passed (64 percent); 30 failed (36 percent)
Players: Wore facial coverings when not on field or court consistent with the ODH's orders (Away Team)
52 passed (63 percent); 31 failed (37 percent)
- 3.) Facility: Players, coaches, officials or spectators did not congregate** before, during, or after the contest
68 passed (82 percent); 15 failed (18 percent)
- 4.) Coaches and Team Personnel: Sideline/Bench personnel were socially distanced and wearing masks** at all times consistent with the ODH's orders (Away Team)
66 passed (80 percent); 16 failed (20 percent)
- 5.) Players: No physical contacting** other participants outside of game play (such as high-fives, handshakes, etc.) (Home Team)
67 passed (81 percent); 16 failed (19 percent)
Players: No physical contacting other participants outside of game play (such as high-fives, handshakes, etc.) (Away Team)
68 passed (82 percent); 15 failed (18 percent)

Football Playoffs Begin This Week

The 2020 OHSAA Football Playoffs begin Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9 and 10. In general, 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. Visit the OHSAA website at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Football/Football-2020/2020-OHSAA-Football-Playoffs-Coverage> for this year's brackets.

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).

Football Playoffs Ticketing

As participating school administrators are aware, all ticketing is being handled digitally by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and information has been shared with the participating schools by OHSAA Assistant Director of Operations Jacki Windon. The OHSAA has received additional correspondence from the Ohio Department of Health, and we wanted to share it with you to help clarify some of the questions surrounding the general admission tickets that were potentially going to be available this week for football. Here is the correspondence:

As you know, the Sports Order states “the primary purpose of permitting spectators at school sports events is to allow and encourage family/household members and loved ones of players, coaches, team staff members, officials, and other event participants (band, honor guard, cheerleaders, etc.) to observe and share in the experience.” We have also said the goal is to allow two (2), and up to four (4), family members and loved ones of participants to attend their sports event.

For any remaining regular season sports events and during the playoffs, schools may allow more than four (4) family members and their guests to attend sports events if the school has surplus tickets after an initial offering to the families of participants. Please note that even if a sports venue still has surplus tickets after an expanded offering to family members and guests of participants, the extra tickets cannot be offered to the general public.

Moreover, a sports venue must remain within its spectator limit under Ohio’s Sports Order:

- *Outdoor sports venues – Lesser of 1,500 spectators or 15% of fixed seating capacity.*
- *Indoor sports venues – Lesser of 300 spectators or 15% of fixed seating capacity.*
- *Spectator variance approved by the local health department and the Ohio Department of Health.*

Given the above and to again reiterate:

- All spectators will need a passcode to be able to purchase a ticket
- Only competing schools have passcodes to their event
- Schools may only distribute these codes through your traditional methods of ticket distribution
 - Players, band, cheerleader’s families
- If one of the competing schools has not met their allotment, work with your opponent and mutually decide if you would like to give your codes to your opponent so they can sell more to their families. This is the ONLY instance in which you would share codes. Note that if you decide to do this, codes will only be valid until the allotment of tickets has been reached.

OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Change to Baseball and Softball Individual Skill Instruction Regulation

At the October 1 OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting, the Board unanimously approved a proposal from the Ohio High School Baseball and Softball Coaches Associations to adjust General Sport Regulation 8, to provide an exception for baseball and softball. General Sport Regulation 8 references school coaches providing individual skill instruction to no more than four (4) members of their school team outside of the season and defined no-contact period, at one time in all combined facilities. The baseball and softball exception now permits coaches to work with no more than **six (6)** members of their school team at one time in all facilities. There are several elements that are unique to those two sports that allowed for approval of this exception, most importantly being the increase in opportunity and value to all baseball and softball student-athletes and coaches across the state. This exception is effective immediately and baseball and softball coaches may now provide individual skill instruction to no more than six of their players at one time in all combined facilities anytime outside of the season and defined no-contact period. The main parameters of General Sports Regulation 8 are:

1. Instruction is defined as when the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught.
2. It must be skill instruction only—it *cannot* be team play.
3. There can be no more than **six (6)** players present at one time in any facility where the instruction is taking place. For example, you could not have six players receiving instruction out on the softball field and six separate players receiving instruction in the gym.
4. There is no limit to the number of coaches that may be present.
5. Individual instruction *cannot* be required of your student-athletes.

E.A. Graphics Becomes Official OHSAA Tournament Merchandise Partner

E.A. Graphics has been selected as the OHSAA’s new official tournament merchandise partner. Based in Sterling Heights, Mich., E.A. Graphics was founded on the basis of on-site sales. Its facility runs seven automatic presses and prints more than three million garments each year. In addition, an eighth automatic press is built into a 48-foot truck capable of producing more than 500 shirts per hour at on-site events. Included among many large events that E.A. Graphics has worked are the Super Bowl, Stanley Cup, NCAA Final Four and the BCS National Championship. E.A. Graphics is also an official partner of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

E.A. Graphics has built a full-service webstore that will enable customers to purchase OHSAA tournament apparel at any time. Products will be available for at least two years following each event. The webstore can be accessed at: www.shopohsaa.com. Items will be added as we progress through tournaments and as we expand our line of available items.

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

***Note:** With the survey that was recently conducted by the OHSAA on pool availability, it has been determined that the swimming and diving season will take place on the dates above as originally scheduled. 64 percent of respondents were in favor of starting the season as scheduled.

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

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