



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, October 15, 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.

Winter Sports Requirements, Recommendations and Modifications

As occurred for fall sports, the OHSAA staff has developed sport-specific requirements, recommendations and modifications for schools when conducting interscholastic competition in winter sports. Links to the sport-specific requirements, recommendations and modifications for winter sports are available here:

Basketball: <http://bit.ly/BKRecs>

Bowling: to come

Gymnastics: <http://bit.ly/GYMRecs>

Ice Hockey: <http://bit.ly/IHRecs>

Swimming & Diving: <http://bit.ly/SDRecs>

Wrestling: <http://bit.ly/WRRecs>

COVID-19 General Guidance (Including Mandates and Recommended Best Practices)

Like the current fall sports that are on-going, all mandates in the Ohio Department of Health Director's Sports Order must continue to be followed for winter sports. Here is a link to the Health Director's Sports Order: <https://bit.ly/2RWa1jh>. In addition, here is a link to the Health Department's Responsible RestartOhio guidance document for sports:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>, and here is a link to the ODH's

Responsible RestartOhio guidance document for sports venues:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Sports-Venues.pdf>.

Views from Week 7 of the Observer's Program

The OHSAA sent Observers to a combined 91 football, boys soccer, girls soccer and volleyball contests last week. There continue to be some areas that need improvement. Here is a compilation of some of the conclusions:

- 1.) **Maintained six-foot social distancing** at all times other than those on the field / court
Home Team Players: 50 passed (55 percent); 41 failed (45 percent)
Away Team Players: 39 passed (43 percent); 52 failed (57 percent)
- 2.) **Wore facial coverings** when not on field or court consistent with the ODH's orders
Home Team Players: 57 passed (63 percent); 34 failed (37 percent)
Away Team Players: 47 passed (52 percent); 43 failed (48 percent)
- 3.) Players, coaches, officials or spectators **did not congregate** before, during, or after the contest
Host Facilities: 68 passed (75 percent); 23 failed (25 percent)
- 4.) Sideline/Bench personnel were **socially distanced and wearing masks** at all times consistent with the ODH's orders
Home Team Coaches and Team Personnel: 72 passed (79 percent); 19 failed (21 percent)
Away Team Coaches and Team Personnel: 66 passed (73 percent); 25 failed (27 percent)
- 5.) **No physical contacting** other participants outside of game play (such as high-fives, handshakes, etc.) (Home Team)
Home Team Players: 67 passed (74 percent); 24 failed (26 percent)
Away Team Players: 70 passed (78 percent); 20 failed (22 percent)

Football Playoffs Continue

The 2020 OHSAA Football Playoffs continue Friday and Saturday, Oct. 16 and 17. 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).

Other Fall Sports State Tournament Schedules

Here is the schedule for the OHSAA's other fall sports state tournaments:

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 16-17

Boys Division II State Golf Tournament, The Ohio State University Scarlet Course, Columbus, 9:00 a.m.

Boys Division III State Golf Tournament, NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury, 9:00 a.m.

Girls Division II State Golf Tournament, The Ohio State University Gray Course, Columbus, 9:00 a.m.

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 23-24

Boys Division I State Golf Tournament, The Ohio State University Scarlet Course, Columbus, 9:00 a.m.

Girls Division I State Golf Tournament, The Ohio State University Gray Course, Columbus, 9:00 a.m.

Girls State Tennis Tournament, Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 5, and Saturday Nov. 7

State Field Hockey Semifinals (Thursday at 5:00 and 7:00) and Final (Saturday, time TBA), Thomas Worthington High School

Saturday, Nov. 7

State Cross Country Tournaments, Fortress Obetz, First Race at 9:00 a.m.

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 12-15 (Exact Dates TBA)

State Volleyball Semifinals and Finals, Site and Times TBA

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 13-15 (Exact Dates TBA)

State Soccer Finals, Site and Times TBA

Playoffs/Tournament Ticketing

All ticketing for the football playoffs and all other OHSAA tournaments 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 sale of general admission tickets. 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, coaches, band, cheerleader's families
- If one of the competing schools has not met its 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.

Reminder on Sideline Personnel

Schools are reminded that OHSAA sideline requirements for host facilities says **limit sideline personnel to participants, coaches, medical staff and game-day staff**. Our office has been made aware that an inordinate number of ejections and/or the berating of contest officials this fall has been by those who do NOT fit into any of those categories, with many appearing to be individuals who are non-licensed coaches and have not been approved by the Board of Education or similar governing board. Please be aware that this requirement applies to both regular season and tournament contests and will be strictly enforced during OHSAA tournament contests.

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

Winter Sports State Online Rules Meetings Now Live

This is a reminder that 2020-21 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling) are now live and that completion of these online meetings 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 have been emailed additional information regarding tracking state rules meeting attendance from the OHSAA Membership Services team. Please contact membershipservices@ohsaa.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

NFHS Learning Center Offers Variety of Online Courses for Administrators, Coaches and Parents

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center has a variety of online courses available to assist administrators, coaches and parents, and many of these courses are free. Some examples include *Teaching and Modeling Behavior*, a course where athletic administrators and coaches will learn how to help their student-athletes make good choices and demonstrate appropriate behavior in difficult situations; *The Parent Seat: A Lasting Relationship*, the third installment of "The Parent Seat" series, a resource that can be used at parent meetings designed to help parents create healthy, life-long relationships with their child through their participation in interscholastic athletics and activities, and *Positive Parenting Within School Programs*, designed to help parents understand that their behavior in the stands, how they talk to their student after a practice or game and the way they interact with the coaches and officials, makes all the difference in the enjoyment of their children's experience. For more information, go to: <https://nfhslearn.com>.

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