



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

FR: Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. We know things are difficult for our administrators, but we appreciate all your efforts in working with our student-athletes so that they have the opportunity to participate. We are also appreciative of the Governor's Office permitting our seasons to continue, while understanding that our focus is on the health, safety and well-being of our student-athletes.

With the announcement yesterday afternoon from Governor DeWine regarding our winter sports seasons and in following up with our messaging, we wanted to take this opportunity to reemphasize that our schools should **do all that they can to keep crowds to a minimum**, even going below the Ohio Health Director's Sports Order that limits spectators to the lesser of 15 percent permanent, fixed seats or 300. **Our recommendation is that you limit your crowds to parents and immediate family members.**

By not being cautious and reducing the number of spectators, we are putting our student-athletes at risk of not only contracting and/or spreading COVID-19 but also risking the possibility of losing the winter sports seasons for our students, their families, their teammates, their schools and their communities. So again, we strongly suggest you follow our recommendation on spectator limits.

As further recommendations:

- Limit media to those who normally cover your school and consider providing live video streaming for those who cannot attend your contest(s).
- There is no prohibition on cheerleaders and pep bands, but schools should make their own decisions on these students' participation and should strongly consider not sending cheerleaders to away contests.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we wish you and your loved ones a blessed Thanksgiving!