



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, January 29, 2021

Administrator Update

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

The following updates and reminders are being sent electronically to member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Observer's Program Continues with Winter Sports

The OHSAA Observer's Program is continuing this winter, including OHSAA tournaments, and observers are attending contests statewide each week. These designated individuals' roles are to ensure mandates in the Ohio Health Director's Sports Order are being followed. **Our observers are very complimentary of the hard work our schools are doing to make their environments safe, and the OHSAA continues to share this with the Governor's office and Ohio Department of Health (ODH).** Here is a link to the checklist that the observers are using for winter sports:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2020/ObserverChecklist-WinterSports.pdf>.

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>

Administrators are reminded of these mandates within the ODH Director's Sports Order **(please share these with your coaches)**:

- Participants not in the contest **ARE REQUIRED** to wear facial coverings on the sidelines.
- Participants not in the contest and on the sidelines **ARE REQUIRED** to be socially distanced (as close to six feet apart as possible).
- Outside of game play, players are **NOT PERMITTED** to have physical contact with their teammates (such as high-fives and handshakes). Coaches and other team personnel are also not permitted to have physical contact with players.
- Players (and cheerleaders) whose level of participation is upcoming or has been completed **ARE REQUIRED** to be socially distanced and wear facial coverings wherever they sit before or after their contest.
- Any spectators in attendance **ARE REQUIRED** to wear facial coverings and to be socially distanced.
- Disinfect and clean competition and high contact areas frequently.

Winter Tournaments Draw/Seed Dates Approaching

Draw/seed dates for the upcoming OHSAA winter tournaments are quickly approaching. Athletic administrators and coaches will receive specific instructions for seeding and meetings from your respective OHSAA District Athletic Boards. Here are the draw/seed dates:

Girls Basketball, Bowling, Swimming & Diving, Individual Wrestling	Sunday, Jan. 31
Boys Basketball, Gymnastics	Sunday, Feb. 7
Ice Hockey	Wednesday, Feb. 10

Additional Basketball Tournament Draw Information

The basketball tournament draw is meant to assist with showing the pairings at the regional and state level. All other information regarding dates, times and locations remain 'to be determined' at this time. We ask for your patience as we work to gather this information during the pandemic. Our goal remains to create a memorable tournament experience for our student-athletes, but we need to do so in a manner which is both safe and financially responsible since attendance restrictions may result in significant financial losses for the OHSAA this season. More information will be shared when available. The 2021 regional and state basketball tournament draw links are:

Boys: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Basketball-Girls/2021/2021BoysRegionalandStateTournamentDraw.pdf>

Girls: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Basketball-Girls/2021/2021GirlsRegionalandStateTournamentDraw.pdf>

Additional OHSAA Winter Sports and Tournament Information

As many of you are aware, the OHSAA recently shared additional information on the winter sports seasons and tournaments with the membership. To review that information, go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20210122WinterSports&TournamentsUpdate.pdf>.

OHSAA Authority to Mandate COVID-19 Protocols/Contract Tracing Update

The OHSAA continues to receive questions about the Association's responsibility and authority to mandate and/or interpret COVID-19 protocols and restrictions. Since the health standards are expressed in the Ohio Health Director's Sports Order, the OHSAA has no authority to mandate and/or interpret these protocols and restrictions, and our role is simply to share the guidelines. **OHSAA member schools are advised to work with their local health department when specific questions regarding protocols and restrictions arise.** Should the local health department have questions, they should contact the ODH for clarification.

Additionally, the OHSAA Office has received a number of questions regarding contract tracing and, again, that is something in which the local health department would need to be involved, NOT the OHSAA Office. Here is information that the Ohio Department of Health has provided that we would like to share with the membership:

When a local health department conducts contact tracing for a COVID-19 case, its contact tracer will contact every potentially exposed individual identified during the process. Because of high numbers of COVID-19 cases throughout Ohio, not every local health department can conduct contact tracing for every COVID-19 case. When a local health department is simply overwhelmed by the number of new cases within its jurisdiction, it must prioritize on which cases it will conduct contact tracing, and it may ask the affected entity (such as a school) to notify potentially exposed individuals. When schools are asked to conduct contact tracing, the previous contest's contest officials should be notified regardless if they are considered to be a close contact. That would allow the officials to take their own precautions, without the benefit of reviewing game video, to determine if they were in close contact with someone who tested positive.

Winter Sports Hosts – Ideas to Consider

The Ohio Health Director's Sports Order limits spectators to the lesser of 15 percent permanent, fixed seats or 300 unless a variance was approved. **Our recommendation for the remainder of the regular season is that, at a minimum, host sites make tickets available to parents and family members** with consideration also given to students. Additional information will be shared with the membership on online ticketing procedures during OHSAA tournaments with the Association's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing. Please see the Dec. 4 OHSAA Administrator Update for additional ideas for administrators to consider when hosting regular season contests. These are merely ideas (**and we want to emphasize that these are strictly local school decisions and the OHSAA will not penalize schools that do not follow these suggestions**). That update can be found here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20201204administratorupdate.pdf>

OHSAA Provides School Form for Students Returning to Play from COVID-19

The Ohio Health Director's Sports Order says that a student-athlete who tests positive for COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, shall not return to sports activities until a documented medical exam is performed clearing the individual prior to the individual returning to participate in practice or games. The exam must specifically include an assessment of the cardiac/heart of high intensity exercise due to the potential of myocarditis in COVID-19 patients. To assist the membership, the OHSAA has developed a form that schools are welcome to utilize for students who have had the medical exam to verify that the student can or cannot return to practices or games. The OHSAA form is not a requirement, **but it is required that a student who has tested positive be evaluated by a physician and cleared in writing before being permitted to return to participation.** If a student's physician is reticent to issue this clearance, please advise parents to seek a second opinion from another physician. This physician is not required to be a cardiologist but could be any qualified physician who is willing to conduct this evaluation. The form is also for use by the student and schools only and is not to be returned to the OHSAA. Administrators can access the form here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2020/RTPCoronavirus.pdf>

Winter Sports State Online Rules Meetings in myOHSAA

2020-21 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling) have been available through the Rules Meeting icon in myOHSAA since October 14. The head coach, an assistant coach or the athletic administrator is required to complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date for each sport which coincides with that sport's tournament entry/withdraw date (**Jan. 25, 2021, WAS the date for:** girls basketball, bowling, swimming & diving, wrestling; **Feb. 1, 2021:** boys basketball, gymnastics, ice hockey). Athletic administrators are encouraged to use the "View State Rules Meeting Attendance" link on the school's myOHSAA account to ensure their school has received credit for these meetings prior to the final meeting dates listed above as completion of the state rules meeting is required for tournament participation. As a reminder, a \$50 late fee will be charged to access each meeting since regular season contests in each winter sport are now permitted. If your school has not received credit for the meeting due to a late hire of the head coach, please contact membershipservices@ohsaa.org regarding the late fee prior to the completion of the meeting or for general assistance.

If someone desires to simply review the rules meeting without receiving credit, a playlist of each meeting can be accessed through this link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFId40HlxWrRNPxRXdZPAx4X7VXXphXzq>

Approval Given for Spring Sports Identification Camp Waiver in Team Sports

The OHSAA has given approval for student-athletes in the sports of baseball and softball to be permitted to use a one-time waiver during spring 2021 to attend an Identification (I.D.) Camp AFTER the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage

or contest. Identification Camp refers to an individual workout and/or camp being offered by colleges or universities and do NOT include any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice. All events must take place prior to the start of spring 2021 tournament play in that sport. The recommendation comes after changes were made to the NCAA recruiting periods. The waiver form will be posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

2021 Friday Night Futbol Information

Friday Night Futbol will continue in 2021 but the date has been moved up one week due to the change in OHSAA Football Tournament format. The football regular season will now start the week of Aug. 16 (with most schools playing on Friday, Aug. 20), so Friday Night Futbol has been moved to Friday, Aug. 13. An incentive has been put into place for teams that choose to take part in the OHSAA Friday Night Futbol due to the limited number of practice days before Aug. 13. The first official day of practice begins on Aug. 1. In order to participate, teams (home and away) must complete a Service Project which will allow the schools involved to play 17 regular season contests. Schools must submit a form that is located on the OHSAA website to the OHSAA which describes the community service project. Schools approved to participate will then be permitted to schedule games on any date after Aug. 13. Schools that do not participate in Friday Night Futbol can start their regular season on Aug. 20.

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