



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, February 5, 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.

Clarification on Summer Coaching in Team Sports (10-Day Rule)

If you recall, the Executive Director's Office **removed** the regulation last spring that limited coaches in team sports from coaching students from their school teams, and removal of that restriction was extended through August 31, 2020 (coaches in team sports were previously limited to coaching for 10 days between June 1 and July 31). Member school administrators are reminded that, to ensure students can obtain coaching from their school coach during these uncertain times of the pandemic, the Executive Director's Office has **removed** the 10-day limitation between June 1 and July 31 in 2021. That means coaches in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball **MAY** coach students from their school teams without restriction between June 1 and July 31, 2021. This regulation is explained further on page 65 of the 2020-21 *OHSAA Handbook* under General Sports Regulation 7.5.1.

Note that: 1.) Participation under General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 cannot be mandatory; 2.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted; 3.) General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 should be reviewed since it pertains to out-of-season instruction, which is different than the regulations pertaining to General Sports Regulation 7.5.1; 4.) The 50 percent limitation (General Sports Regulation 7.3.1) must still be observed, and 5.) A similar regulation (General Sports Regulation 7.5.3) has already been in place for the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling.

Compliance Reminders

The compliance department has created a "February Compliance Reminders" video with an update on department personnel changes and some reminders about different student eligibility items. We encourage building-level administrators to review this three-minute YouTube video at your convenience: <https://youtu.be/6fJmxxNKVYc>.

Winter Sports Observer's Program

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>.

Health Director's Sports Order Reminders

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.
- Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to designate a Compliance Officer who is responsible for the compliance with the Sports Order. **Note that this becomes especially important for OHSAA tournament contests/events.**
- Disinfect and clean competition and high contact areas frequently.

Winter Tournaments Draw/Seed Meetings Nearly Complete

Draw/seed dates for the remaining OHSAA winter tournaments will be held within the next week. Athletic administrators and coaches will receive specific instructions for seeding and meetings in boys basketball and gymnastics from your respective OHSAA District Athletic Boards and on ice hockey from the Executive Director's Office. Here are the remaining draw/seed dates:

Boys Basketball, Gymnastics: Sunday, Feb. 7

Ice Hockey: Wednesday, Feb. 10

Tournament Information; Draw Links

Dates, times and locations for OHSAA winter regional and state tournaments remain fluid during the pandemic, and we ask for your patience as we work to gather this information. 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 details will be shared when available. For more information on OHSAA winter tournaments, including links to tournament draws, visit: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports>.

Additional OHSAA Winter Sports and Tournament Q's and A's

Here is a link to some common questions the Executive Director's Office has received on the winter seasons and tournaments along with the answers to those questions:

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

Winter Tournament Ticketing/Hosting Contests or Events

All ticketing for OHSAA winter sports tournaments is being handled digitally by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and direct contact with the participating schools will come from OHSAA Assistant Director of Operations Jacki Windon. Schools are reminded to put your facility information into myOHSAA so allotments for basketball tournament games can be established since tickets will be split 50/50 split between the participating schools. To clarify the comp tickets policy for administrators at the swimming & diving and wrestling tournaments, these will not be issued due to capacity limitations and the volume of participants.

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. The OHSAA is recommending that, at a minimum, host sites make tickets available to parents and family members with consideration also given to students. Again, additional information on ticketing is being shared directly with schools. Please see the Dec. 4 OHSAA Administrator Update for additional ideas for administrators to consider when hosting contests:

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

As your school participates in OHSAA tournaments where spectators are permitted – either at a higher seed's facility or a neutral site – the OHSAA is requiring the principal, or a representative authorized by the principal (in addition to the coaches), to be in attendance to help monitor your crowd.

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.

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>.

ArbiterPay Update

As you may have seen, Arbiter released a new version of its 'Payments' tab. Currently, you may be seeing an issue where ArbiterPay processing fees are not grouped for officials who have worked two games in one day in ArbiterGame at this time, thus indicating you are paying two processing fees for just one official. **This is just a visual error.** If the official or officials are being paid for two games in one day, it will only charge one processing fee. This is a known issue and will be worked on shortly. In short, when the payment is made, it will charge the processing fees correctly despite displaying incorrectly - one per official per day of game.

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