



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, March 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.

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Waived Through 2020-21 School Year Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and after much consideration, the Executive Director's Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 and **waive the scholarship bylaws found in 4-4-1, 4-4-5 and 4-4-3 for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.** We applaud the schools that have been able to uphold these standards thus far, and each school is still permitted to continue enforcing these scholarship bylaws, or any other modified version, if you believe your school/district has implemented effective educational delivery methods which would support a student's ability to meet the bylaw's requirements. However, this decision to waive the scholarship bylaw through the school year is being made because we recognize that quarantines, differing educational models, varying access to the internet, etc. have made this a very challenging school year for our STUDENT-athletes.

With this decision, **all student-athletes will be eligible for the first grading period of the 2021-22 school year (unless your district elects to uphold the standard).** After that time, students will then be required to pass the appropriate number of credits/classes in order to remain eligible for the second grading period of the 2021-22 school year. Please contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) in our compliance office if you have any questions.

NOTE: The OHSAA Office has no authority to waive ORC § 3313.535, which requires each district to set a minimum GPA standard for students to be afforded a participation opportunity.

Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order Addendum

As was shared with the membership earlier this week, an addendum to the Ohio Department of Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order was released and became effective at 12:01 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2. The addendum to the Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ODHOrderAddendum>, and the complete Second Amended Health Director's Sports Order from Sept. 25, 2020, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2RWa1jh>. Some key pointers to remember:

- Capacity limits have been increased to 25 percent for indoor events and 30 percent for outdoor events. Both capacity limits include spectators who sit in fixed, permanent seats in grandstands or bleachers. Participants, coaches, officials, cheerleaders, medical staff, game-day personnel and media do not need to count in that total.
- The addendum says that all other requirements and guidance in the Second Amended Sports Order (from September 25, 2020) remain in effect. The addendum also says that indoor venues are expected to employ filtration of MERV 13 or higher as soon as practically possible.
- The OHSAA is **NOT** requiring tournament hosts to increase their capacity and is leaving the decision up to each site. Some sites may believe they can only handle the lower capacity limits that were already in place and are not comfortable with modifying their plans and/or adding more personnel to help administer their contest.

Please read the OHSAA Administrator Memo from Tuesday, March 2, for additional details, including a list of key elements in the second amended Health Director's Sports Order for schools to remember:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20210302AdminUpdate.pdf>

Winter Tournament Information; Tournament Brackets

Here are the dates and sites for the upcoming state tournaments in OHSAA winter sports:

Mar. 5-6: Division I Bowling – Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl

Mar. 5-6: Gymnastics – Hilliard Bradley High School

Mar. 13-14: Ice Hockey – OhioHealth Ice Haus in Columbus (attached to Nationwide Arena)

Mar. 13-14: Individual Wrestling – Hilliard Darby High School (Division I), Marengo Highland High School (Division II) and Marion Harding High School (Division III)

Mar. 11-13: Girls State Basketball – University of Dayton Arena

Mar. 19-21: Boys State Basketball – University of Dayton Arena

For more information on OHSAA winter tournaments, including links to find tournament brackets in the respective sports, visit: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports>.

Basketball Tournament Ticketing/State Basketball Tournament Ticketing

All ticketing for OHSAA basketball 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 were to enter 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.

As has been done during fall and earlier winter tournaments, each school will have control on who can purchase tickets. The OHSAA is recommending that, at a minimum, tickets be made available to parents and family members of the participants with consideration also given to students. Again, additional information on ticketing is being shared directly with the hosts and participating schools. Please note that whether or not a site increases capacity, **traditional student sections are still not permitted** since spectators not from the same household must maintain six-foot social distancing. In addition, the OHSAA is also requiring the principal, or a representative authorized by the principal (in addition to the coaches), to be in attendance to help monitor your crowd at basketball tournament contests.

Lastly, ticket allotments for each team participating in the OHSAA girls and boys state basketball tournaments the University of Dayton will be announced soon. Plans will also be shared on whether any additional tickets will be available for more than just the participating teams.

Spring Sports State Online Rules Meetings in myOHSAA

2021 OHSAA state rules meetings for each spring sport (baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, track & field) are available through the Rules Meeting icon in myOHSAA. 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 (April 26 for softball, boys tennis and track & field; May 3 for baseball, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse). As a reminder, a \$50 late fee will be charged to access each meeting beginning with these dates: *March 20*-boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse; *March 27*-boys tennis, and *March 28*-baseball, softball and track & field. 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**. Please contact membershipservices@ohsaa.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

Spring Sports Schedules

Spring sports practices have either started or will be soon. Here is a calendar of important dates for the OHSAA's spring sports:

Baseball and Softball

First Day of Practice – Monday, Feb. 22
Scrimmages with Other Schools – 4 after practice begins (or 3 scrimmages and 1 preview)
First Contest – Saturday, March 27
Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Saturday, March 27
Fines Begin to Take State Rules Meeting – Sunday, March 28
Deadlines to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26 (softball); Monday, May 3 (baseball)
Deadlines to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26 (softball); Monday, May 3 (baseball)

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

First Day of Practice – Monday, Feb. 22
Scrimmages with Other Schools – 3 after practice begins
First Contest – Friday, March 19
Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Friday, March 19
Fines Begin to Take State Rules Meeting – Saturday, March 20
Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, May 3
Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, May 3

Boys Tennis

First Day of Practice – Monday, March 8
Scrimmages with Other Schools – 1 after practice begins but before first contest
First Contest – Friday, March 26
Fines Begin to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, March 27
Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26
Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, April 26
Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26

Track & Field

First Day of Practice – Monday, Feb. 22
Scrimmages with Other Schools – none permitted
First Contest – Saturday, March 27
Fines Begin to Take State Rules Meeting – Sunday, March 28
Deadline to Take State Rules Meeting – Monday, April 26
Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, April 26
Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, May 3

Spring Sports Rules Modifications and Recommendations and General Requirements and Recommendations

The OHSAA staff has developed sport-specific rules modifications and recommendations and general requirements and recommendations for schools when conducting interscholastic competition in spring sports, and these documents are currently in the hands of the Ohio Department of Health for final approval. Links to the sport-specific spring sports rules modifications and recommendations and general requirements and recommendations will be available in this update soon. We thank you for your patience!

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