



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, March 12, 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.

State Boys Basketball Tournament Information

The OHSAA series of winter tournaments concludes next week with the Boys State Basketball Tournament Thursday through Sunday, March 19-21, at the University of Dayton Arena. All ticketing is being handled digitally by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and direct contact with the participating schools will come from OHSAA staff member Jacki Windon. In conjunction with policies set by the University of Dayton and Dayton-Montgomery County Public Health, at least 650 tickets will be made available to the fans of each school for a team's semifinal and championship game in the state tournament, and the athletic administrator of each participating school will distribute the purchase codes for the school's ticket allotment. Should any additional tickets be available, information will be shared with the membership next week.

Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order Addendum

As was shared with the membership last week, an addendum to the Ohio Department of Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order was released, has increased capacity limits to 25 percent for indoor events and 30 percent for outdoor events. The addendum can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ODHOrderAddendum>. Some key pointers to remember:

- Capacity limits for indoor and outdoor events 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. That order can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2RWa1jh>. Here are some key reminders from the Second Amended Sports Order. **Please share these with your spring sports coaches since they may not have been aware of the protocols that were in place for the fall and winter:**
 - Participants not in the contest and coaches **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.
 - Any spectators in attendance **ARE REQUIRED** to wear facial coverings and to be socially distanced.
 - Family and household members should sit together socially-distanced from other individuals/family/household groups.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to develop spectator pathways that allow for social distancing along with seating that includes staggered rows and six-foot social distancing between groups.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to install signage and communicate with spectators on social distancing, facial coverings and hygiene.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to designate a Compliance Officer who is responsible for the compliance with the Sports Order.
 - Facilities/venues **ARE REQUIRED** to disinfect and clean competition and high contact areas frequently.

Spring Sports Modifications, Requirements and Recommendations

As occurred for fall and winter sports, the OHSAA staff has developed sport-specific modifications, requirements and recommendations for schools when conducting interscholastic competition in spring sports. These documents have been reviewed by the Ohio Department of Health. As announced by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine yesterday (Thursday, March 11), the areas highlighted in red in the documents note that the quarantine time for students exposed to someone with COVID-19 may be reduced. Please continue to work with your local health department for specifics on each individual case. Links to the spring sports documents are available here:

Baseball: <http://bit.ly/ODHBBRecs>

Boys Lacrosse: <http://bit.ly/BLARecs>

Girls Lacrosse: <http://bit.ly/GLARecs>

Softball: <http://bit.ly/ODHSBRecs>

Boys Tennis: <http://bit.ly/BTERecs>

Track & Field: <http://bit.ly/TFRecs>

Here are a few common questions that administrators and coaches may have regarding the spring sport-specific documents:

Do We Have Limits on Dressing Students for Contests: Unlike the fall and winter sports seasons, there are no limits on the number of players dressed for contests. That is a local decision made by your school. Please note that, once OHSAA tournament contests begin, there will be limits on the number of players permitted in uniform for baseball, softball and lacrosse contests.

Who is Permitted to be on Team Sidelines/Infields: This decision is up to the host facility administrator. The OHSAA highly recommends that sidelines for lacrosse contests be limited to participants, coaches, medical staff, game-day personnel and media, with media members located outside the team area, and that only these same personnel and contest officials be on the immediate inside or outside of the track during a track and field meet. As much as possible, any other personnel should be in the fixed, permanent bleachers or grandstands. Virtually everyone other than the competitors on the field or in the contest must wear facial coverings and be socially distanced (the sport-specific documents provide exact details).

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 started. 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

OHSAA Board Resolution Card Delayed

To continue membership in the OHSAA, Constitution Article 3-3-1 indicates that each school's board of education or similar governing body must adopt a resolution authorizing continuing membership for each of their 7th-8th grade schools and/or high schools that they so desire. While the OHSAA Board Resolution Card is normally in the hands of the membership by now, the cards have been delayed until some additional information is finalized. We expect the cards to be available in early April. Please note that OHSAA Board Resolution Cards for the ensuing school year must be returned to the Executive Director's Office by **June 30, 2021**.

Compliance Reminders

The compliance department has created a "March Compliance Reminders" video with some important updates. This particular update is especially important if you have non-enrolled students playing on their local residential school team. We strongly encourage building-level administrators to review this five-minute YouTube video at your convenience: <https://youtu.be/sVduGyGLV8s>.

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.

OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings to Take Place Virtually

As required by the OHSAA Constitution, all referendums to the OHSAA Constitution and/or Bylaws must be explained to school administrators by staff of the Executive Director's Office prior to voting on the issues by member school principals between May 1 and May 15. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings, traditionally known as OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings, will take place virtually this year sometime in April. Information on dates and times for these meetings will be shared with the membership soon.

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