



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, March 18, 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.

### **Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order Additional Addendum (Quarantines)**

Another addendum to the Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order was released this week and slightly modifies the previous order. Only the language highlighted in yellow below (and red text for new language) has been updated as it relates to quarantines.

- The CDC continues to endorse quarantine for 14 days and recognizes that any quarantine shorter than 14 days balances [the] reduced burden [of quarantine] against a small possibility of spreading the virus [beyond 10 days]. CDC recognizes that reducing the length of quarantine may make it easier for people to quarantine by reducing the time they cannot play sports. Close contacts who remain asymptomatic may consider the following to consider stopping quarantine:
  - After day 10 without testing.
  - After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).
- After stopping quarantine, close contacts should:
  - Watch for symptoms until day 14 after exposure.
  - If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Youth who are not required to quarantine due to exposure occurring in a classroom setting under school-based exposure guidance are permitted to participate in **outdoor organized sports activities and extracurricular activities** as long as they remain symptom-free and follow applicable sports guidance.
- If the identity of all persons in close contact with an infected individual cannot be readily determined or if the coaches, players or their parents/guardians or administration of the team do not effectively cooperate with the local health department contact tracing process, then the local health department may require the entire team, including coaches, to self-quarantine for 14 days following exposure. Individuals may return to play afterward if they have not had any COVID-19 symptoms.

This new addendum to the Sports Order can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/sports-order-addendum-v3-reader.pdf>

**As before, school administrators must work with their local health department to determine the exact protocols for each individual case. The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will not determine those protocols.**

Last week, the addendum was released that increases spectator capacity limits to 30 percent for outdoor events. It can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ODHOrderAddendum>. Note that 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.

### **Additional Sports Order Reminders**

As a reminder, the addendums that were recently released say 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 and to be socially distanced.  
**\*Note:** Refer to the Sports Order for exceptions for the facial coverings requirement.
- 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**

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 on 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>

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

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

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

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

**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. The late fee is assessed through myOHSAA to each user accessing the meeting. Athletic Administrators are encouraged to login to their school's myOHSAA account and use the View State Rules Meeting Attendance link to ensure the school has received credit since completion of the state rules meeting is **required for tournament participation**. If your coach completed the meeting and the school does not have credit, check that your coach is listed in staff management with the email address of the account used to complete the meeting. If this is accurate, have your coach email the screenshot of the last slide to [MembershipServices@ohsaa.org](mailto:MembershipServices@ohsaa.org) along with the school name and sport.

### **Spring Sports Schedules**

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

#### **Baseball and Softball**

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**

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**

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**

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

## **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/sVduyGLV8s>.

## **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](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)) or Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto: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.*

## **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.

## **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!