



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, March 26, 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.

### **OHSAA Financial Meeting and Athletic Discussion Meetings to Take Place Virtually in April**

OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute will be hosting a virtual meeting with member school administrators to discuss the financial status of the Association, including membership fees. The meeting will take place on Monday, April 5, and administrators will have a choice of participating at either 10:00 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Also, 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 also take place virtually. Administrators will have a choice of participating on either Monday, April 12, or Monday, April 19. Both Athletic Discussion Meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. **More details on these meetings will be shared with the membership soon.**

### **Clarification on School Teams Practicing Together**

The OHSAA has received questions on whether teams from two schools are permitted to practice together due to a lack of numbers. The answer is no, a practice involving two or more schools is **not permitted** unless: a.) both schools consider the practice a scrimmage (and do not exceed the maximum number of scrimmages permitted) or b.) the two schools share the same board approved coach. This is because Bylaw 1-4-1 defines one of the descriptions of an interscholastic athletic contest as a practice between two or more schools. Secondly, General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 goes on to define a school contest as any type of activity that involves participants from one school against participants from either another school and, again, practices involving two or more school squads is included under the definition of a school contest.

### **Coaching Date for Fall Practices**

While some sports list a different date in the 2020-21 *OHSAA Handbook*, the starting date for coaching for all 2021 OHSAA fall sports will be Sunday, August 1. Each school/school district shall determine if they choose to start on that date or later. As a reminder, at the January 14, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved a recommendation that permits schools to complete the first two days of the football acclimatization period in July. During that time, helmets are the only equipment items that may be worn.

### **OHSAA Award Certificates**

The annual OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Awards (Archie Griffin, NFHS Award of Excellence, etc.) are now available through your school's myOHSAA account for you to print. These awards are available through June 30, 2021, on both high school and 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade school accounts. We encourage school administrators to communicate internally and follow the on-screen instructions and parameters in myOHSAA to select your recipients for each of these awards. Awards will print in color provided you use a color printer, and you can choose the type of paper used for the printing. Be sure to indicate any special paper used through the printing properties of your printer.

### **OHSAA Winter Sport Officials Ballots Deadline – April 1, 2021**

Athletic Administrators are reminded to submit your school's ballots for the OHSAA tournament officials' selection process no later than April 1, 2021. Ballots are required if your school participated in the OHSAA boys and girls basketball, ice hockey or wrestling tournaments. There is a \$50 per sport penalty for failure to submit a required ballot prior to the April 1 deadline. Please login to your school's myOHSAA account today and click the "Tournament Officials Voting by ADs" link to check the submission of these ballots.

### **March 27, 2021 – Deadline to Enter 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade OHSAA State Track and Field Tournament**

The deadline for OHSAA member 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade schools to enter the OHSAA State Track and Field tournament is March 27, 2021. **There is NO entry permitted after March 27.** Schools are encouraged to set tournament entry to **YES** since there is no penalty for not participating in the tournament. This OHSAA tournament does have entry fees and, by participating in the tournament, schools agree to pay these entry fees. The meet will take place Saturday, May 15, at Hilliard Darby High School.

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

Another addendum to the Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order was recently released 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.**

Recently, 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

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