



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, April 1, 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.

### **Your Participation Is Important** → **OHSAA Financial Meetings Upcoming**

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. Member school administrators will have three choices to participate:

- **Monday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m.** or
- **Monday, April 5, at 1:30 p.m.** or
- **Tuesday, April 13, at 1:00 p.m.**

Please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for one of the meetings and receive your link. If you have any questions, please contact OHSAA Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)).

### **Your Participation Is Important** → **Athletic Discussion Meetings/Items Approved for Referendum**

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. Member school administrators will have two choices to participate:

- **Monday, April 12, at 9:00 a.m.** or
- **Monday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m.**

Please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for one of the meetings and receive your link. If you have any questions, please contact OHSAA Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)).

On March 29, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved the final **Referendum Items** for the 2021 voting cycle. There are a total of eight high school issues (there are no 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade issues this year), which are outlined at this link:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/FINAL2021-22ReferendumItems.pdf>

### **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.

### **Help Needed – NFHS Participation Survey**

The NFHS Student Participation Survey is now live on each school's *myOHSAA* account. The NFHS Student Participation Survey is conducted annually and is an important data collection tool completed by athletic administrators. We have made the survey easier to complete by making it available throughout the school year rather than just the end, so the survey no longer needs to be done all at one time. You can add, remove and edit participation numbers any time before the June 1, 2021, deadline.

### **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 **TODAY** (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 ballot prior to the April 1 deadline. Please login to your school's *myOHSAA* account and click the "Tournament Officials Voting by ADs" link to check the submission of these ballots.

### **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, a recommendation was approved that permits schools to complete the first two days of the football acclimatization period in July. During that time, a helmet is the only equipment that may be worn.

## **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 (GSR) 7.5.1.

Note that: 1.) Participation under GSR 7.5.1 cannot be mandatory; 2.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted; 3.) GSR 8.2.1 should be reviewed since it pertains to out-of-season instruction, which is different than the regulations pertaining to GSR 7.5.1; 4.) The 50 percent limitation (GSR 7.3.1) must still be observed, and 5.) A similar regulation (GSR 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.

## **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 2021-22. Note that the OHSAA 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. For questions, 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.

## **Tournament Divisions (and Enrollment Data) Remain the Same in 2021-22**

Per action by the OHSAA Board of Directors on October 1, 2020, current 2020-21 enrollment data and tournament divisions will be utilized again in the 2021-22 school year. Constitution Article 6-1-9 allowed the Executive Director's Office to make this change, and it was subsequently approved by the Board. With some schools not offering sports along with many students transferring to non-traditional learning modules this past fall due to COVID-19, the Executive Director's Office deliberated on how to handle enrollment data, since October 2020 is when the OHSAA traditionally would have received that data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education for use in tournament representation, tournament division breakdowns and classifications for OHSAA District Athletic Board elections. While understanding many schools had various unique enrollment situations this year, it was determined that utilizing the same data for a third and final year was the fairest for all OHSAA member schools since any new data collected would likely be severely skewed and/or an unreliable representation.

## **2021 Friday Night Futbol Information**

Friday Night Futbol will continue in 2021 but the date has been moved up one week due to the change in OHSAA Football Tournament format. The football regular season will now start the week of Aug. 16 (with most schools playing on Friday, Aug. 20), so Friday Night Futbol has been moved to Friday, Aug. 13. The first official day of practice begins on Aug. 1. In order to participate, teams (home and away) must complete a Service Project which will allow the schools involved to play 17 regular season contests. Schools must submit a form to the OHSAA that is located on the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/soccer>) which describes the community service project. Schools approved to participate will then be permitted to schedule games on any date after Aug. 13. Schools that do not participate in Friday Night Futbol can start their regular season on Aug. 20.

## **Please View Past OHSAA Administrator Updates for the Following:**

- Ohio Health Director's Second Amended Sports Order Additional Addendum (Quarantines)
  - Additional Sports Order Reminders
  - Spring Sports Modifications, Requirements and Recommendations
  - Spring Sports State Online Rules Meetings in *myOHSAA*
  - Spring Sports Schedules
- <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20210318AdministratorUpdate.pdf>

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