



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, April 30, 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. Included in this edition:

- COVID-19 protocols reminders
- Membership dues update
- 2021-22 PPE information
- ODH updates
- Referendum voting reminder
- Participation survey reminder
- Spring tournament ticketing
- Oct. 5 Virtual Student Leadership Conference
- Links to other reminders
- Reminder to update spectator capacities
- Spring sports dates & deadlines

Spring Tournaments Approaching – Don't Let Up in Prevention Against COVID-19

With OHSAA spring tournaments approaching, administrators are reminded that now is not the time to relax our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19. That means continue to focus on the same defense measures, such as wearing a mask, social distancing and practicing good hand hygiene. Highlights of the April 8 consolidated Ohio Health Director's Order include:

- There no longer is a spectator capacity limit for outdoor venues.
- Spectators are permitted to sit in pods of 10 (rather than six), and they do not have to be from the same household. However, that pod must still maintain six-foot social distancing from other pods or individuals. All other individuals must continue to maintain six-foot social distancing.
- Those not in the contest can be in a pod of 10 if that pod maintains six-foot social distancing from other pods/individuals.
- All spectators and those not in the contest, including coaches, must continue to wear facial coverings outdoors if they are unable to consistently maintain a distance of six feet or more from individuals who are not members of their family/household (an individual also does not need to wear a facial covering if one of the exceptions is met). **Even though CDC guidelines were updated on April 27, the CDC still says "While generally safe for vaccinated people to be outdoors without a mask, CDC continues to recommend requiring masking in crowded settings and venues where there is a decreased ability to maintain physical distance until widespread vaccination coverage is achieved."**
- A local health department has the authority to enact more stringent policies than the Health Director's Order.

Here is a link to the revised Order of April 8:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/amended-directors-order-for-social-distancing-21.pdf>

Additional Ohio Department of Health Updates

After issuing the amended Health Order on April 8, the Ohio Department of Health also issued **revised guidance** for youth, collegiate, amateur, club and professional sports. While previously a requirement in the Health Director's Sports Order, it is now a **recommendation** (by not only the ODH but also the OHSAA) that anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, should not return to sports activities until a documented medical exam is performed clearing the individual for participation. The documented medical exam should specifically include an assessment of the cardiac/heart risk of high-intensity exercise due to the potential of myocarditis occurring in COVID-19 patients. The revised guidance can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

In addition, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced April 27 that **any Ohioan who has been fully vaccinated will no longer have to quarantine if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19**. An individual is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. This amendment to the April 8 Health Director's Order can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/addendum-to-social-distancing-order-v3-21.pdf>

Spring Tournament Ticketing

All sectional and district ticketing for OHSAA spring tournaments is being handled digitally by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, and tickets will be available and open to the public by going to <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>. Unlike the fall and winter tournaments, passcodes will not be utilized unless a tournament manager would like to set up team codes for a particular matchup/event. If that is the case, site managers should contact OHSAA Director of External Affairs Jacki Windon (jwindon@ohsaa.org) to work out details.

Athletic Administrators' Help Needed in myOHSAA to Update Spectator Capacities

In order to help with digital ticketing for OHSAA tournaments, especially if a site will be limiting spectator capacity, athletic administrators are asked to login and access their school's myOHSAA account and update the spectator capacities in 'My Facilities' for spring sports prior to May 1. In addition, please provide the names for your spring venues since that same name will be used on the respective OHSAA tournament brackets.

OHSAA Membership Dues Update

Last week the OHSAA Board of Directors received a recommendation from Executive Director Doug Ute to begin charging member school dues beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The proposal calls for each high school to contribute \$50 per OHSAA sanctioned sport that the school offers. The Board will meet on May 3 to vote on the proposal, and information following that meeting will be shared with the membership. More information on membership dues is available here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/2021MembershipDues.pdf>

Referendum Voting Upcoming

Member school principals are reminded that voting on 2021 referendum issues will take place through myOHSAA beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 1, and running through Saturday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. There are a total of nine high school issues (there are no 7th-8th grade issues this year), which are outlined at this link:

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

OHSAA Director of Compliance Kristin Ronai recently conducted two virtual Athletic Discussion Meetings to review the referendum items. To view recordings of those meetings, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFId40HixWrShqcYe1I9MSDmddDFed7w2>

Updated guidance documents as they relate to student eligibility bylaws will be posted on the OHSAA website following the referendum voting sometime the week of May 17. Also posted at that time will be a preseason meeting PowerPoint presentation that schools may consider utilizing for their required preseason meetings with student-athletes and their parents.

Principals may want to consider reviewing the referendum items with their superintendents/heads of school and athletic administrators prior to casting their votes. Per Constitution Article 8-1-9, failure to submit a ballot shall result in a \$100 penalty as determined by the OHSAA Board of Directors at its September 21, 2017, meeting (although schools may abstain on any issues). To ensure principals have proper access to the ballot, their myOHSAA account set-up must be complete and should contact their athletic administrator if they need assistance. Additional instructions were sent to member school athletic administrators earlier this week, but please contact OHSAA membership services (membershipservices@ohsaa.org) if problems still exist.

OHSAA Foundation Virtual Student Leadership Conference October 5

As strange and unsettling as 2020 was with COVID-19, including the cancellation of the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference, it was by no means a "lost year." It has served as a powerful reminder that high school student leadership and character development are as essential as ever. While the pandemic isn't over and we need to remain vigilant about virus protocols, the OHSAA Foundation is proud to announce that it will host as many of Ohio's high schools as possible in a Virtual Student Leadership Conference on Tuesday, October 5, 2021. This virtual platform was created to inspire students to re-think the win-at-all-costs mentality which is so prevalent in youth sports today and provide tools to create a transformational culture, one that builds strong character and leadership traits . . . traits that will benefit them (and their school and community) long after their playing days. Online registration information will be available in August. In the meantime, school administrators are asked to mark their calendars now and think of the best ways to include student leaders of your interscholastic athletics programs in this important opportunity.

Spring Sports Dates

Baseball and Softball

Deadlines to Complete State Rules Meeting – *deadline has passed* (softball); Monday, May 3 (baseball)

*Deadlines to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – *deadline has passed* (softball); Monday, May 3 (baseball)

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2 (softball); Sunday, May 9 (baseball)

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

Deadline to Complete State Rules Meeting – Monday, May 3

*Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – Monday, May 3

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 9

Boys Tennis

Deadline to Complete State Rules Meeting – *deadline has passed*

Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – *deadline has passed*

Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – *deadline has passed*

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2

Track & Field

Deadline to Complete State Rules Meeting – *deadline has passed*

Deadline to Enter/Withdraw from Tournament – *deadline has passed*

Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, May 3

Tournament Draw/Seed Meeting – Sunday, May 2

*Indicates that the deadline to enter or withdraw from the 2021 OHSAA spring sports tournaments is **11:59 p.m. on that day.**

Athletic administrators must ensure that their high school's tournament entry is set correctly for these tournaments prior to the deadline. Tournament entry will be locked after the deadline and the athletic administrator or principal must contact OHSAA Membership Services to request a change to tournament participation as outlined in General Sports Regulation 6. No late entry will be permitted after 12:00 noon on May 7 for baseball, boys lacrosse or girls lacrosse (*the deadline has passed for boys tennis, softball or track and field*). Athletic administrators are strongly encouraged to contact your baseball and lacrosse coaches TODAY to ensure your school has tournament participants. After checking with the coach, login to the school's myOHSAA account and click the Tournament Entry link to check your school's tournament entry and make any necessary edits. If your school must withdraw from an OHSAA tournament for any reason after the deadline, the school must contact OHSAA membership services (membershipservices@ohsaa.org) to discuss the late withdraw. Contacting the tournament manager is not a substitute for contacting the OHSAA office of membership services.

2021-22 Pre-Participation Physical Exam (PPE) Form Available

The Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2021-22 school year is now available on the OHSAA website [HERE](#). The 2021-22 PPE form has been authorized by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine (JACSM). This physical form was developed for youth student-athletes by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is in its fifth edition. Like last year's form, our JACSM has chosen to retain all of the questions within the history section, with an addition of COVID-19 related health history questions. There are also two additional, and optional, questions on exercise behavior that supports the Exercise is Medicine initiative. A Spanish version of the history portion of the form is also included on the website.

The medical clearance must be completed once every 13 months and kept on file indefinitely. Although use of this OHSAA-adopted PPE is not required (for example, a school via its Board policy could accept another type of physical exam), signing all four consent forms is required before a student may commence any athletic participation in a member school. In Ohio, a physician (MD, DO), a doctor of chiropractic (DC), a physician's assistant (PA) and an advanced practice nurse (ANP) are eligible to complete the exam and sign the form.

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.

Please View April 1 OHSAA Administrator Updates to Answer Questions on the Following:

- Coaching date for fall practices
- Clarification on summer coaching in team sports (10-day rule)
- Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) waived through the 2020-21 school year
- Tournament divisions (and enrollment data) to remain the same in 2021-22
- 2021 Friday Night Futbol

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20210401AdministratorUpdate.pdf>.

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