



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Friday, June 4, 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.

Member Schools Encouraged to Set Up Vaccination Partnerships

The OHSAA, in partnership with the Governor's Office and Ohio Department of Health, is encouraging its member schools to partner with COVID-19 vaccine providers in their communities to set up vaccination clinics for eligible students. Students below the age of 18 who are not emancipated must have parental or legal guardian consent for any vaccine. A parent or legal guardian generally should accompany the minor to receive the vaccine, unless the administration of the vaccine occurs in a physician's office, school-based or school-associated clinic setting, or similar setting. In those cases, parents/legal guardians will be asked to provide consent in advance of the vaccination. School administrators can go to this link, which lists providers who are interested in creating partnerships for vaccination clinics in their communities: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/vaccine/business-provider-partners.pdf>

Board Resolution Cards Due June 30

Superintendents/Heads of School Systems are reminded that OHSAA Board Resolution Cards that were mailed to you on April 22, 2021, are due in the OHSAA Executive Director's Office by Wednesday, June 30. The card must be returned to continue OHSAA membership for the school listed on the card and to confirm the requirement to follow OHSAA regulations. Once your Board of Education or similar governing body has passed the resolution for continued membership, the front of the "Board of Education Resolution Card" needs to be completed and signed by both the superintendent/head of school system and the current president of your Board/governing body.

Please Complete NFHS Participation Survey ASAP

Member school athletic administrators are reminded that the NFHS Student Participation Survey is now live on each school's *myOHSAA* account, and we ask that you complete the survey as soon as possible. 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.

Spring State Tournament Information

All ticketing for OHSAA state tournaments is being handled by the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing. Tickets are available and open to the public by going to <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>. There is no admission charge this spring for children age 5 and under. Here are the dates and additional information:

Baseball

State: June 10-12, Akron Canal Park

Statewide Brackets: <http://bit.ly/BBBrackets>

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

State Finals: June 5, Ohio Wesleyan University

Boys Statewide Brackets: <http://bit.ly/BLABrackets>

Girls Statewide Brackets: <http://bit.ly/GLABrackets>

Softball

State: June 4-6, Akron Firestone Stadium **note date changes**

Statewide Brackets: <http://bit.ly/SBBrackets>

Track & Field

State: June 4-5 (Division I: Hilliard Darby; Division II: Pickerington North; Division III: Westerville North)

Results: <https://www.baumspage.com/track/index.php>

OHSAA Sports Administrators Contacts

With several changes within the OHSAA Executive Director's Office this past year, here is a list of staff members and the sports in which they are assigned to administer:

Name, Title

Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating & Sport Management

Emily Gates, Senior Sports Administrator

Tyler Brooks, Senior Sports Administrator

Kate Barnett, Sports Administrator

John Kuzio, Sports Administrator

Ronald Sayers, Compliance & Eligibility Specialist

Email Address

brugg@ohsaa.org

egates@ohsaa.org

tbrooks@ohsaa.org

kbarnett@ohsaa.org

jkuzio@ohsaa.org

rsayers@ohsaa.org

Sport(s) Assigned

football

field hockey, volleyball, bowling, baseball

golf, wrestling, lacrosse

soccer, gymnastics, swimming & diving, softball

cross country, tennis, basketball, track & field

ice hockey

OHSAA Fall and Winter Tournaments Financial Information

The OHSAA finance team of Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl, Controller Laura Vermilya and Senior Accountant Laura Lemanski recently hosted a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's fall and winter tournaments. If you missed the presentation, you can view it by going to this link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFid40HixWrRFzLauvU_0EjQpTeg2dV_I

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.

Summer Coaching in Team Sports (10-Day Rule Removed from June 1 through July 31)

The OHSAA 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). 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 in June and July. 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; and 4.) 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.

It should also be noted that, while the 10-day rule has been eliminated in team sports for this summer, the **mandatory no-contact period for coaches in the sports of baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse and softball returns August 1, 2021, and lasts through August 31**. Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach in those sports is prohibited from providing coaching, providing instruction or supervising conditioning and physical fitness programs or open gyms to members of a school team in their sport in August. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Waived Through 2020-21 School Year Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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) or Ronald Sayers (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.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the service you have provided our student-athletes during this difficult year. Best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer!