



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Thursday, June 24, 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.

### **Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminders**

- All student-athletes are eligible, with respect to their OHSAA scholarship eligibility, for the first grading period of the 2021-22 school year (unless your school chose to enforce your own scholarship standard or unless the student-athlete failed to meet your self-established minimum GPA standard).
- Fall and winter athletes need to be certain they are scheduled for at least five (5) credits at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level.
- **If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the first grading period this coming fall, then he/she will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the second grading period.** For schools on quarters, this likely will fall toward the end of your fall season, rendering these athletes ineligible for the rest of the season. **Check your student-athlete schedules and work with your guidance counselor to ensure this does not happen!**

For questions, please contact Kristin Ronai ([kronai@ohsaa.org](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)) or Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)) of our compliance staff.

### **OHSAA General Sports Regulation Changes for 2021-22 School Year**

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 8, 2021, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved the following changes to the OHSAA General Sports Regulations as recommended by the Executive Director's Office. Other than Item #1 below, these become effective August 1, 2021:

- 1.) In the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, coaches may coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams between June 1 and July 31, 2021, without restriction (this was previously known as the 10-day rule). Note that: a.) Participation cannot be mandatory; b.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted; c.) 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 d.) 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 has not been determined if this regulation will become permanent.
- 2.) 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.
- 3.) For the 2021-22 school year, schools ARE PERMITTED to charge admission for interscholastic scrimmages. It has not been determined if this regulation will become permanent.
- 4.) In the sports of baseball, lacrosse and softball, the 50 percent limitation for students participating on non-school (non-interscholastic) teams outside of the school team's season is not in effect **as soon as a team member has completed his/her season.** This regulation ends each year on July 31.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Athletic Administrators Encouraged to Update Items in myOHSAA**

Member school athletic administrators are highly encouraged to login to your *myOHSAA* account this summer to provide updates in **Staff Management** (are all your coaches listed?; is your principal listed and is his/her email correct?) and **Pre-Season Parent Meetings** (have you entered all sport meetings that have already been held?). For more information on how to add staff to your school's *myOHSAA* account, please use the video icons on the 'Staff Management' page in *myOHSAA*.

Long-time OHSAA staff member and Manager of Membership Services Brenda Murray is retiring from the OHSAA effective today (June 24). While her emails will be automatically forwarded to OHSAA Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl, we ask for your patience in answering questions on *myOHSAA* until a replacement for Brenda is hired. Thank you!

### **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.

### **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:

<b><u>Name, Title</u></b>	<b><u>Email Address</u></b>	<b><u>Sport(s) Assigned</u></b>
Beau Rugg, Director of Officiating & Sport Management	<a href="mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org">brugg@ohsaa.org</a>	football
Emily Gates, Senior Sports Administrator	<a href="mailto:egates@ohsaa.org">egates@ohsaa.org</a>	field hockey, volleyball, bowling, baseball
Tyler Brooks, Sr. Mgr. of Officiating & Sports Administration	<a href="mailto:tbrooks@ohsaa.org">tbrooks@ohsaa.org</a>	golf, wrestling, lacrosse
Kate Barnett, Sports Administrator	<a href="mailto:kbarnett@ohsaa.org">kbarnett@ohsaa.org</a>	soccer, gymnastics, swimming & diving, softball
John Kuzio, Sports Administrator	<a href="mailto:jkuzio@ohsaa.org">jkuzio@ohsaa.org</a>	cross country, tennis, basketball, track & field
Ronald Sayers, Compliance & Eligibility Specialist	<a href="mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org">rsayers@ohsaa.org</a>	ice hockey

### **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>

### **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. Best wishes for a restful and enjoyable summer!