



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, August 6, 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.

### **Ohio Department of Health Guidance for K-12 Schools**

As was shared previously, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recently released revised COVID-19 health and prevention guidance for K-12 schools, and some items in the information pertains to interscholastic and extracurricular activities. Although Ohio lifted most statewide pandemic-related health orders in June, the risk is still there for illness from COVID-19, especially with the rising number of cases due to the Delta variant. The OHSAA and ODH urge the membership to continue to follow safe protocols to protect everyone, especially those individuals who are not fully vaccinated, and **administrators should be aware of any new mandates from their local health departments**. As a reminder, protocols set by a local health department or school district may be different for your participants and spectators at an away/neutral site than those in place at your home facilities. Here is a link to the ODH's current K-12 guidance: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>.

Key takeaways from the new guidance:

- **There currently are NO state mandates regarding vaccinations and social distancing.**
- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) mandate remains in place that masks shall be worn while using public transportation (e.g. school buses). There are NO other state mandates regarding masks. However, on July 27 the CDC updated mask guidance for those who are fully vaccinated as follows: "To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission."**
- **It is highly recommended that coaches and student-athletes who are eligible for vaccinations to be vaccinated.**
- **It is highly recommended that those who are unvaccinated wear masks in indoor facilities and in outdoor facilities where there are crowded situations.**
- **It is highly recommended that those who are unvaccinated maintain three-to-six feet of social distancing indoors and at outdoor facilities where there are crowded situations.**

### **Guidance/Resources for COVID-19**

In addition to the guidance provided above, other specific ODH guidance pieces and resources have been available as follows:

- **Social Distancing, Masking and Congregating:**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/main-guidance-21.pdf>
- **Youth, Collegiate, Amateur, Club and Professional Sports:**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>
- **Sports Venues:**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Sports-Venues.pdf>
- **Posters and Signs:**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs>

Here are additional recommendations the OHSAA is asking our member schools to please consider:

- **Have school administrators and coaches read and familiarize themselves with the documents in the links above.**
- **Continue to work with your local health department when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified and to facilitate appropriate contact tracing.**
- **Continue to encourage student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19 to gain medical clearance before they are permitted to return to practices or contests, with an approval form to be kept on file at the school.**
- **Continue to practice proper sanitation of student-athlete equipment and personal belongings and of all facilities and venues.**
- **Continue to utilize signage and public address announcements at your facilities that encourage spectators to practice good hygiene and know the symptoms and that encourage spectators not fully vaccinated to wear masks and stay socially distanced.**

### **OHSAA Hosts Administrator Workshops Beginning Next Week**

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will again offering trainings to start the school year for administrators to cover some common topics and relevant issues. There will be two in-person trainings, created specifically for first- and second-year athletic

administrators, at the OHSAA Office, and one virtual meeting for any administrator who would like a general refresher on important topics. The dates/details of these trainings are as follows:

#### **Tuesday, August 10, *OR* Monday, August 23 – New Athletic Administrator Workshops (In-Person, OHSAA Office)**

- 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- In-person; lots of interactive dialogue
- Created for first- and second-year athletic administrators
- Registration required (capped at 45 attendees): [www.ohsaa.org/meetings](http://www.ohsaa.org/meetings)

#### **Tuesday, August 31 – Administrator Workshop (Virtual, Microsoft Teams)**

- 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Unlimited attendees
- Virtual setting via Microsoft Teams
- Registration required: [www.ohsaa.org/meetings](http://www.ohsaa.org/meetings)

The format of the in-person trainings will be as follows:

**10:00-10:30:** General Welcome

**10:30-11:15:** Breakout Session 1 (Sport Administration/Covid Advice)

**11:15-12:00:** Breakout Session 2 (*myOHSAA* management/  
tournament deadlines, etc.)

**12:00-12:45:** Lunch (provided)

**12:45-1:30:** Breakout Session 3 (Compliance/Student  
Eligibility Issues)

**1:30-2:15:** Breakout Session 4 (Best Practices by OIAAA)

The virtual Administrator Workshop will be covering the same topics as the in-person trainings but will be addressed in less detail and in a shorter timeframe. For questions, please contact Kristin Ronai at [kronai@ohsaa.org](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org).

#### **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!**
- An OHSAA memo has been created a member for your student-athletes to remind them to get scheduled for enough credits/classes during the first grading period of the 2021-22 school year. You are encouraged to post this memo to your school website and/or print copies and provide them to your athletes. The memo can be obtained at: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/ExecDirectorScholarshipReminder.pdf>.
- 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 June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Here are links to the minutes from June 8, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2020-21/20210608BoardMinutes.pdf>

Please feel free to share this email with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in the board minutes.

#### **NFHS Virtual National Student Leadership Summit August 8-10**

The National Federation of State High School Association will present the second year of its virtual National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS) this coming Sunday, August 8, and lasting three days. There is no cost for students to participate, although registration is required. The virtual conference will begin Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 12:45 p.m., with presentations between 1:00 and 3:00. The NSLS will focus on relevant and contemporary issues facing students participating in interscholastic athletics. For more information, go to: [www.nfhs.org/resources/conferences-meetings/national-student-leadership-summit/](http://www.nfhs.org/resources/conferences-meetings/national-student-leadership-summit/).

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

The OHSAA Board of Directors has approved these changes to the OHSAA General Sports Regulations as recommended by the Executive Director's Office, effective August 1, 2021:

- 1.) The **mandatory no-contact period for coaches in the sports of baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse and softball began August 1, 2021, and lasts through August 31 (Note: If you recall, this was NOT in effect in 2020).** 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 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.
- 2.) For the 2021-22 school year, schools ARE PERMITTED to charge admission for interscholastic scrimmages.

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

Member school athletic administrators are highly encouraged to login to your *myOHSAA* account 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 has retired from the OHSAA. 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.

## **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 Mason, Senior Sports Administrator	<a href="mailto:emason@ohsaa.org">emason@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

\*NOTE: Emily Mason previously went by her maiden name of Emily Gates

## **Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements**

General Sports Regulation 2 requires high schools to complete the OHSAA State Rules Interpretation Meeting in each respective sport in order to be eligible to participate in the OHSAA tournament. The online meeting must be completed by either the head coach, assistant coach or athletic administrator prior to the final deadline of the meeting. A late fee of \$50 will be charged to each school that does not complete the meeting prior to the first day a contest is allowed in that sport. All state rules interpretation meetings are available through *myOHSAA*. Make sure your coaches' *myOHSAA* accounts are linked to the school's account through the Staff Management link.

## **Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention**

Please review the heat acclimatization and exertional heat illness prevention section in the OHSAA Handbook with your coaching and sports medicine staffs prior to any interscholastic practices. The section is on pages 81 and 82 and can be found at <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf>. The sport of football has a five-day required acclimatization period and cross country has a 10-day required acclimatization period. All athletes joining the team at any point of the season also must participate in the sport-specific acclimatization period prior to any contact drills (football) or competition (cross country). Visit the sports medicine section of the OHSAA website for additional resources at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/medicine>.

## **Preseason Meetings with Student-Athletes and Parents**

Bylaw 3-1-4 requires member schools to conduct a mandatory preseason meeting with all student-athletes who desire to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officer(s) no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. The OHSAA has developed sample agendas, PowerPoints, cover letters, etc. which can be used to assist you with developing your meeting. These samples are located under the OHSAA Preseason Meeting Information section at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>. After you have completed your school's preseason meeting, each school is required to enter the completion date into your school's *myOHSAA* account so you are not subject to a \$500 penalty as outlined in General Sports Regulation 5. Instructions on how and where to enter your preseason meeting date are located here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/PreSeasonMeetings/PreseasonParentMeetingInstructions.pdf>.

## **Preseason Sport Manuals**

The OHSAA Sport Management team is again producing preseason sport manuals in cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, girls tennis and volleyball. These manuals contain all sorts of reminders and updates that all coaches and athletic administrators should review prior to the official start date of fall practices and contests. Visit the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), where some manuals are already posted, and others will be soon.

Thank you for your attention to this information. Best wishes as we begin a new school year!