



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, August 20, 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.

Guidance for COVID-19

Here are updates and/or recommendations the OHSAA is asking our member schools to please consider as they relate to COVID-19. School districts and local health departments may set their own requirements, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that masks are required while using public transportation (e.g. school buses). Please remember that protocols set by a school district or local health department may be different for your participants and spectators at an away/neutral site than those in place at your home facilities.

- **There currently are NO state mandates regarding vaccinations, masks and social distancing. Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, however, the CDC and Ohio Department of Health recommend that:**
 - * **Masks be worn at indoor events regardless of vaccination status and that social distancing of three feet be maintained when there are crowded situations.**
 - * **For outdoor events, those who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks and remain socially distanced of at least three feet where there are crowded situations.**
 - * **Regardless of vaccination status, wear masks while in any enclosed structure at outdoor facilities such as restrooms, concession stands, ticket offices and press boxes.**
- **Anyone demonstrating signs of any infectious illness should go home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.**
- **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 quarantines and 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 from the medical professional 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.**

Resources for COVID-19

In addition to the information above, other specific Ohio Department of Health guidance pieces and resources follows. Please have school administrators and coaches read and familiarize themselves with the documents in these links.

- **Guidance for K-12 Schools (includes some items related to athletics and activities):**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>

- **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>

OHSAA Administrator Workshops Aug. 23 (In-Person) and 31 (Virtual)

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office is again offering trainings to start the school year for administrators to cover some common topics and relevant issues. There will be one more in-person training, 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:

Monday, August 23 – New Athletic Administrator Workshops (In-Person, OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus 43214)

- 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

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

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

10:00-10:30: General Welcome	12:00-12:45: Lunch (provided)
10:30-11:15: Breakout Session 1 (Sport Administration/Covid Advice)	12:45-1:30: Breakout Session 3 (Compliance/Student Eligibility Issues)
11:15-12:00: Breakout Session 2 (<i>myOHSAA</i> management/ tournament deadlines, etc.)	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.

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 7th-8th 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) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff.

OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference October 5

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation will present a virtual Student Leadership Conference on **Tuesday, October 5**. The virtual conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 12:45 p.m. This year's theme is "Back to the Future," and the focus is on civility, 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 the week of September 13.** The virtual platform will feature nationally renowned motivational speaker and organizer of the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference **Harvey Alston**; **Javier Sanchez**, whose passion is to move audiences from inspiration to action through stand-up comedy, poetry and powerful story telling; **Jenny Oaks-Baker**, who will share her real life story while also displaying her Grammy-nominated talents as an accomplished violinist; **Brian Wagner**, a speaker and author whose brain surgery changed his life and he now inspires others to improve their leadership vision, and **Jason Michaels**, who overcame Tourette's Syndrome to become an award-winning sleight-of-hand artist and professional speaker. School administrators are asked to mark your calendars now and think of the best ways to include student leaders of your interscholastic athletics programs in this important opportunity.

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*. For questions, contact OHSAA staff members Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Kim Kiehl (kkiehl@ohsaa.org).

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.

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>.

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

Per action by the OHSAA Board of Directors, the 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 last 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.

In the sport of football, note that the number of schools sponsoring football may change from one year to the next. Therefore, the region assignments and/or division assignments may change. Also, on September 10 as new schools are added or as schools combine districts, they are added to regions and enrollment adjustments for schools within a multiple high school district are made when school closings and/or openings occur within that district.

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:

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

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

Preseason Sport Manuals and Fall Tournament Regulations

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), to access the manuals. On August 26, the OHSAA Board of Directors is expected to approve the tournament regulations for the OHSAA fall sports (football has already been approved). Once approved, those regulations will also be posted on the OHSAA website.

Thank you for your attention to this information. We hope you are off to a great start to your fall seasons!