



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, September 10, 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.

### **Emergency Referendum Vote Ongoing Through September 15, 2021**

At its August 26 meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation by the Executive Director's Office to conduct an emergency referendum vote of member school principals between September 1-15, 2021, in accordance with Constitution Article 8-1-1. The referendum item, if approved, would restore the bylaws/exceptions that were previously removed due to legislative action in August 2019 and are currently shown as "strike-throughs" in the current *OHSAA Handbook* under the Transfer Bylaws. The reason these rules are now allowed to be restored is due to additional legislative intervention reversing the 2019 Ohio Revised Code language. Though all these bylaws were previously voted upon and approved by the OHSAA member schools, the Executive Director's Office does not have the authority to restore them without a membership vote, which is why an emergency referendum is being proposed. The complete text of the referendum item is here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/EmergencyReferendum-FINAL.pdf>.

Member school administrators were recently emailed instructions on voting by principals on this issue, which is taking place in *myOHSAA* through September 15 at 4:00 p.m. To ensure principals have proper access to the ballot, their *myOHSAA* account set-up must be complete and they should contact their athletic administrator if they need assistance. If problems still exist, please contact OHSAA membership services ([membershipservices@ohsaa.org](mailto:membershipservices@ohsaa.org)).

### **You Are Invited → 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. **Look for online registration information NEXT WEEK!** 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.

### **You Are Invited → Finance Team To Present Review of OHSAA Spring Tournaments**

On Tuesday, September 14, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team led by Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl and Controller Laura Vermilya will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's spring tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, so please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for that meeting and receive your link. If you have any questions on connectivity, please contact OHSAA Manager of Membership Services and Compliance Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)).

### **Athletic 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, although local executive orders in some cities may be in place. 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>

- **K-12 Quarantine in Ohio (updated 8-31-21):**

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/k-12-quarantine-in-ohio.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>

## **COVID-19 Testing Available for Schools at No Cost**

Battelle, the global science and technology research and development company headquartered in Columbus, is teaming up with Midwest Coordination Center (MCC) to provide COVID-19 testing in 16 Midwestern states, including Ohio, at no cost. With funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the program is designed to help K-12 schools safely reopen and remain open by implementing a free COVID-19 testing program. The goal is to make testing easy (requiring minimal time and becoming part of the weekly routine); effective (accurate and tailored to your school's needs) and accessible (simple to access for every region in the state). To do this, MCC connects schools with testing services at trusted labs to screen K-12 students. The testing program helps schools and communities reduce the spread of the virus, limit the need for other public health steps like widespread quarantine and control outbreaks. For more information, visit the MCC website at [www.testedandprotected.org](http://www.testedandprotected.org) and click on the Resources tab, or click the following link to learn more about the testing process: <https://testedandprotected.org/#/about/testing>.

## **Video Available of Aug. 31 OHSAA Virtual Administrator Workshop**

A video is available to view for member school administrators who were unable to participate in the August 31 OHSAA Virtual Administrator Workshop. To view the video, go to:

<https://youtu.be/Fuj0-gPTkrQ>

Created specifically for first- and second-year athletic administrators and/or returning administrators who would like a general refresher on important topics, the August 31 workshop included a welcome from Executive Director Doug Ute; a brief update on membership dues procedures; an update on compliance/student eligibility Issues; training on *myOHSAA* management/tournament deadlines, etc., and a refresher on common sport regulations.

## **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 August 26 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Here is a link to the minutes from August 26, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2021-22/20210826BoardMinutes.pdf>

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

### **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](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)) or Kim Kiehl ([kkiehl@ohsaa.org](mailto: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.

### **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

### **Preseason Sport Manuals and Fall Tournament Regulations**

The OHSAA Sport Management team has produced 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. Visit the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), to access the manuals. On August 26, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved the tournament regulations for the OHSAA fall sports (football has already been approved), and those regulations are also be posted on the OHSAA website.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the work you are doing with our student-athletes. Please contact us if we can be of service!