



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, September 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.

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. No tickets, pre-registration or passwords are needed. Just click this link <https://mjvirtualevents.com/ohsaa2021> to view the conference.

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.

Modifications Made to Transfer Bylaws Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive the strict compliance with the transfer bylaws in three specific situations. The first change is the same that was modified in 2020-21 and specifically provides sub-varsity transfers the opportunity to compete in 50 percent of their respective schedule, as opposed to using the varsity schedule (Bylaw 4-7-2). The second change modifies the definition of "transfer" to exclude students who transfer to certain classifications of schools and who are allowed to continue playing sports for their former school. The last change modifies the definition of "transfer" to exclude students who transfer to certain classifications of schools then comes back to their original school without playing sports at any other school. More details on these changes were sent to administrators in a separate email, and that memo can be accessed here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/6-1-9Modifications.pdf>.

Administrators Asked to Work with EMIS Coordinators on Ensure Data Accuracy

With October 2021 being the month that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) obtains a snapshot of enrollment data (EMIS) from OHSAA member schools for use to determine school placement within tournament divisions for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years*, the OHSAA is asking school administrators to work closely with their EMIS coordinators to ensure data reported to ODE is both accurate and complete. The accuracy and completeness of the data you submit will not only assist in the precision of state dollars that are returned to your school but also will save you time this winter during the review/appeal process when the EMIS numbers are sent to you for verification for OHSAA tournament use.

As a reminder, counts of students provided by ODE do not represent *eligible* students but rather enrollment at a school district using one of the EMIS status codes that are identified in the OHSAA Enrollment Business Rules that are found here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/EnrollmentBusinessRules.pdf>. There is no correlation between the data of enrollment and those students eligible to participate in athletic competition at a member school. Administrators are also reminded that the information presented by ODE to the OHSAA is for this limited purpose. ODE is not required by law to provide this data, but rather does so as a courtesy.

*Denotes that the data is also used in determining school classification for governance purposes.

Member Schools' Tournament Responsibilities/Regulations During COVID

With OHSAA fall tournaments about to begin, the Executive Director's Office recently sent a memo to school administrators to provide reminders as they relate to Bylaw 3-1-1 (Bylaw 3-1-1, Administrative Responsibility, and Tournament Participation Agreement); positive COVID cases and quarantines, and the OHSAA tournament postponement and cancellation policy. Please take time to read this memo prior to your teams starting tournament play. The memo can be accessed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2021OHSAAFallTournamentUpdate.pdf>.

Fall Sports Schedules

With tournament season just around the corner for fall sports, here are some key upcoming dates:

Golf

Draw/Seed Meeting – completed
Sectional Trnt. Begins (B II & II, G II) – Sept. 27
Sectional Trnt. Begins (B I & G I) – Oct. 4
State Trnt. Begins (B II & III, G II) – Oct. 15
State Trnt. Begins (B I & G I) – Oct. 22

Girls Tennis

Draw/Seed Meeting – Sept. 26
Sectional Trnt. Begins – Oct. 4
State Trnt. Begins – Oct. 22

Cross Country

Draw-Seed Meeting – Oct. 10
District Trnt. – Oct. 23
7th-8th Grade Invitational – Oct. 24
State Trnt. – Nov. 6

Field Hockey

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 10
Regional Trnt. Begins – Oct. 18
State Final – Nov. 6

Soccer

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 10
Sectional Trnt. Begins – Oct. 18
State Finals Begin – Nov. 13

Volleyball

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 10
Sectionals Trnt. Begin – Oct. 18
State Trnt. Begins – Nov. 11

Football

Trnt. Pairings Announced – Oct. 24
Regional Trnt. First Round Begins – Oct. 29
State Finals Begin – Dec. 2

Fall Tournament Ticketing Information

Ticketing information for OHSAA fall tournaments has recently been distributed to member schools' athletic administrators. Here are some highlights:

- **All tournaments will be using digital ticketing (HomeTown Ticketing) for entry. There will be NO cash accepted at the gate.**
 - We recommend that you promote the events in which your school is participating and/or hosting to assist in communicating with fans to purchase early!
 - For schools that have concerns regarding students being able to purchase without a credit card, we encourage you to have a sign-up sheet, collect their cash payments and then make a bulk purchase of tickets electronically to have ready for pick up from you on game day.
- There will be a presale (discounted) ticket available for the sectional through regional levels.
 - Presale tickets will go on sale five (5) days prior to the event taking place (when opponents are known; it may be a smaller window if opponents are not yet identified). *Please ask your fans to be patient and only reach out to inquire about events showing on the site if you are not seeing it posted within 48 hours of the start time.*
- There will also be a game-day ticket (\$2.00 more than a presale ticket) for the sectional through regional levels available three hours prior to the start of the event and until capacity has been reached or until the event has reached its halfway point. With this, tickets CAN be purchased at the gate, but they would simply have to purchase digitally on their smart device.
- A reduced price ticket will be available for students ages 6 to 18 for state tournaments.
- All ticketing will be available for purchase at www.ohsaa.org/tickets.
- Fans can now purchase, manage and store their tickets all in one place on the HomeTown Fan App.
- Tickets can be shared with others (kids, parents, grandparents) via text and email.
- The HomeTown Fan App can be downloaded for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

For questions or to discuss other ideas to help assist your school's needs, contact OHSAA Director of External Affairs Jacki Windon at jwindon@ohsaa.org. For more ticketing details, go to: <https://www.ohsaa.org/fanguide/tickets>.

Winter Sports State Online Rules Meetings Go Live Soon

This is a reminder that 2021-22 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling) will go live soon. Completion of these online meetings is required for tournament participation. Schools are encouraged to have either the head coach, an assistant coach or the athletic administrator complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date for each sport. The final meeting date coincides with the tournament entry/withdraw without penalty date. All state rules meetings are available through *myOHSAA* and can be accessed through the 'Rules Meeting' icon. Here are the dates the rules meetings will have live and additional information:

Sport	Meeting Live Dates	Late Fee Begins	End Date to View Meeting	OHSAA Sport Coordinator
Basketball	Thu., Oct. 14 at 9:00 a.m.	Thursday, Nov. 25	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	John Kuzio jkuzio@ohsaa.org
Wrestling	Wed., Oct. 13 at 9:00 a.m.	Friday, Dec. 3	Mon., Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Swimming & Diving	Wed., Oct. 13 at 9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, Nov. 30	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Ice Hockey	Wed., Oct. 13 at 9:00 a.m.	Saturday, Nov. 20	Fri., Feb. 4 at 11:59 p.m.	Ronald Sayers rsayers@ohsaa.org
Gymnastics	Wed., Oct. 13 at 9:00 a.m.	Tuesday, Dec. 7	Mon., Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Bowling	Wed., Oct. 13 at 9:00 a.m.	Saturday, Nov. 20	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason emason@ohsaa.org

Emergency Referendum Issue Passes

An emergency referendum vote of member school principals to restore previous bylaws on transfers was held between September 1-15, 2021, and the item passed 484 to 66 with 26 abstaining. Passage of the issue has restored 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 did not have the authority to restore them without a membership vote. To access the results, go to: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/referendum-voting>.

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.

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 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.

Coaches' Tool Chest Assistance Available

In early August, member schools' athletic administrators received information from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office that the OHSAA has approved Coaches' Tool Chest (www.coachestoolchest.com) as our preferred educational option for coaches to use when it comes time to renew their Pupil Activity Programming Permits (PAPP) as required by the Ohio Department of Education. With athletic administrators and coaches preparing for the upcoming winter season, the Coaches' Tool Chest will be offering informational sessions on their product via Google Meet, where a demonstration of the platform will be provided and questions will be answered. The dates and times are:

Thursday, October 7, 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 12, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m.

Click on this link (<https://forms.gle/CukoRqkmS43DEZAJ7>) to sign up for any one of the three sessions. Once you sign up, you will receive a Google Meet link for the session you select.

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!