



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 1

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

The following are updates and reminders for member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Registration Open for OHSAA Regional Update Meetings and Administrators' Workshops

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will be conducting in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings later this month and September for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators in each of the six OHSAA athletic districts. The meetings are designed to provide updates and reminders on key issues, and attendance is highly recommended. **To register, go to:** https://ohsaameetings.hometownticketing.com/embed/all?tile_item=7. All meetings will run from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The dates and locations are: Thursday, Aug. 24, **Cambridge** (Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center); Tuesday, Aug. 29, **Athens** (Ohio University Inn & Conference Center); Wednesday, Sept. 6, **Streetsboro** (Streetsboro High School Auditorium); Monday, Sept. 11, **Westerville** (Quest Conference Center); Thursday Sept. 14, **Findlay** (Findlay High School Auditorium), and Tuesday, Sept. 19, **Cincinnati** (Princeton High School Matthews Auditorium).

In addition, the OHSAA will be hosting Administrator Workshops that will provide an overview of important issues in the areas of compliance and sport management. Designed specifically for new administrators but also for those who desire to "brush-up" in these areas as they relate to the OHSAA and your school, in-person Administrator Workshop options at the OHSAA Office in Columbus will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 tomorrow (Wednesday, Aug. 9), and Tuesday, Aug. 22, with a virtual Administrator Workshop option available between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28. **To register, go to:** <https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>.

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminders

Administrators are reminded to make sure that **ALL** fall and winter student-athletes are scheduled for at least five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent 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!** For questions, please contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) from our compliance staff.

Local Trainers Available to Train on DragonFly

Several athletic administrators and assigners have completed the "Train-the-Trainer" program to train on the DragonFly Athletics system, the OHSAA's exclusive system for member school game scheduling and officiating assignments. Local Trainers are available to train athletic staff, assigners and officials either in-person or virtually. If you are interested in DragonFly training with a local trainer, either individually or in a group, please reach out directly to one of the available trainers posted here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Train-the-Trainer.xlsx>

Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention

Please review this revised section in the 2023-24 *OHSAA Handbook* (following the Concussion Regulations and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Regulations) with your coaching and sports medicine staffs. The sport of **football** has a five-day required acclimatization period during the first five days of practice. All athletes joining the team at any point of the season also must participate in a five-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. In **cross country**, each competitor must practice a minimum of 10 days under the supervision of the coach/individual authorized by the Board of Education before competing in a contest. To view that section of the Handbook, go to: <http://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/SportsMedicineRegulations.pdf>.

Fall Dates for First Contest

<u>Sport</u>	<u>First Contest Date</u>	<u>OHSAA Sport Administrator</u>
Cross Country	Monday, Aug. 21	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Field Hockey	Friday, Aug. 18	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

Football	Monday, Aug. 14	Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)
Golf	Monday, July 31	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Friday, Aug. 11	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Friday, Aug. 4	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Girls Volleyball	Friday, Aug. 18	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your coaches that all 10 OHSAA fall sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted in *myOHSAA*, and details will be sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for fall 2023 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Football	Already Started	Thur., Aug. 24	Sun., Oct. 1, 11:59 PM	Beau Rugg
Field Hockey	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 19	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason
Volleyball	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 19	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason
Soccer	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 12	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett
Golf	Already Started	Mon., Aug. 7	Thur., Aug. 31, 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton
Girls Tennis	Already Started	Tues., Aug. 22	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Dustin Ware
Cross Country	Already Started	Tues., Aug. 22	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Dustin Ware
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			

Soccer Experimenting with MaxPreps RPI During 2023 Season

Athletic administrators and soccer coaches were sent information last week regarding the OHSAA's use of MaxPreps and its Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) in the sport of soccer. Based on responses from an OHSAA spring survey and after consultation with the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association leadership, the MaxPreps RPI system will be used on an **experimental basis only** during the 2023 soccer season to explore if it is a more accurate way to seed teams for the OHSAA Tournament and should be considered as a potential seeding tool in the sport in future years. This is not mandatory for the 2023 season, but soccer coaches are highly encouraged to update scores to provide accurate data for possible implementation in future years.

At this time the OHSAA has NOT committed to using the MaxPreps RPI system for seeding purposes or on an experimental basis for any other sports in 2023-24. However, the decision for each sport is fluid, and we will be in contact with coaches and administrators should a sport choose to utilize the MaxPreps RPI system.

OHSAA July 18 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available

Here is the link to the minutes from the July 18, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2023-24/20230718BoardMinutesSpecial.pdf>. Please feel free to share these meeting minutes links with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in them.

Mark The Date: OHSAA Spirit State Championships Slated for December 9

For the third straight year, the Ohio High School Athletic Association will be hosting the OHSAA Spirit State Championships at Wittenberg University in Springfield. The date for the 2023-24 championships is Saturday, December 9. Registration and additional details will be shared with the membership in the fall.

Esports Ohio Ready to Assist Your School's Esports Program

As technology continues to reshape various aspects of our lives, esports has emerged as a powerful force in the realm of sports and entertainment. Not just limited to entertainment, esports has proven to offer numerous benefits for students, including skill development, teamwork, problem-solving and even potential career pathways. **Esports Ohio**, an OHSAA partner for the second consecutive year and administrators of a series of tournaments, is committed to supporting schools in establishing and running a successful esports program. We provide the necessary resources, guidelines and training to help your school seamlessly integrate esports into your extracurricular activities. By adding esports to your school's offerings, you can provide your students with a unique platform to showcase their talents, while simultaneously fostering an inclusive and thriving gaming community within your institution. To learn more about the league or schedule time to talk with an Esports Ohio board member, go to: <https://www.esportsohio.org/getting-started> or email contactus@esportsohio.org.

Brooks Running Grants Available for Cross Country Teams via NFHS Program

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recently announced a new partnership with Brooks Running to help promote their team grants program which funds underserved high school cross country and track & field programs with performance running gear and financial assistance. This school year, as part of its new NFHS partnership, Brooks Running will be

donating over \$1 million in gear to NFHS member schools around the country. Grant recipients receive shoes and apparel for up to 50 runners per team up to \$17,000 MSRP. Each team also receives \$1,000 to help with expenses, including pay-to-play fees, meet entries, transportation costs, etc. To learn more about this program and to apply, please visit the following link: [Brooks Future Run Team Grants | Run Community | Brooks Running](#). Applications must be entered by August 21 for the cross country grants. Applications for track & field will be available again in January.

OHSAA 2023-24 Athletic Administrators' Welcome Packet and Handbooks on the Way

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office has mailed a beginning-of-the-year Athletic Administrator Welcome Packet to the membership. The packet includes a booklet containing plenty of reminders and updates as we begin the 2023-24 school year, 2023-24 OHSAA wall calendars and an OHSAA directory of member school telephone numbers. In addition, the 2023-24 *OHSAA Handbook* is being printed and will be mailed to member school superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and guidance counselors soon. The 2023-24 Handbook can be accessed on the OHSAA website at:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.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 girls 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. The preseason manuals will be posted soon on each sports' page on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

Athletic Administrators Encouraged to Update Items in myOHSAA

Member school athletic administrators are highly encouraged to login to your *myOHSAA* and *FinalForms* accounts to ensure all items are appropriately up to date. Please utilize the checklist found [here](#) when updating your information. For questions, contact OHSAA Membership & Compliance Administrative Assistant Alexis Holderman at aholderman@ohsaa.org.

Pupil Activity Permit for Coaches

Ohio law requires coaching or pupil activity permits for individuals (paid or unpaid) who will direct, supervise or coach a student activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity or activities with health and safety considerations. School districts determine which staff members need to have a permit. Details are available through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) at: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>. As noted on the ODE website, the **Coaches' Tool Chest** is an online option to receive coaches training. For more information on this OHSAA-recommended option, go to: <https://coachestoolchest.com>; email: info@coachestoolchest.com, or call 513-486-6463.

Preseason Meetings with Student-Athletes and Parents

This is a reminder that a mandatory preseason fall sports meeting must be held with student-athletes and parents no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Please read Bylaw 3-1-4 for more details. Additional reminders regarding the meetings will also be forthcoming from our Membership Services team. The OHSAA Office has again developed sample meeting agendas and a preseason meeting PowerPoint presentation that are welcome (but not required) to be used for your meetings. For more information, see the School Resources area of the OHSAA website at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>.

Ohio State to Host Adaptive Sports Symposium August 18

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, in conjunction with Nationwide Children's Hospital, will be hosting an Adaptive Sports Symposium on Friday, Aug., 18, at the OSU Fawcett Center on Olentangy River Road in Columbus. The symposium, which will run from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will feature a full day of adaptive sports topics for clinicians treating diverse patient populations from limb loss to neurodegenerative conditions with sports specific applications from running and cycling to personal fitness. Attendees will receive 6.0 CEU for Ohio OT, PT, Rec Therapy and Athletic Training. The cost is \$150 for professionals and \$50 for students and includes a continental breakfast and boxed lunches. To register, go to: <https://cvent.me/D003Ar>. For questions, contact Theresa Berner at Theresa.berner@osumc.edu. **Please forward this information to your athletic trainers.**

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please contact us if we can be of service!