



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 2

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.

Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention

With high temperatures and humidity in Ohio this week, please review the revised Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention section in the 2023-24 *OHSAA Handbook* (following the Concussion Regulations and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Regulations) with your coaching and sports medicine staffs. To view that section of the Handbook, go to:

<http://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/SportsMedicineRegulations.pdf>.

In addition to the OHSAA Sport Medicine Regulations, please feel free to use the following resources:

- The National Weather Service WBGT Forecaster is great for predicting and planning out practices and contests. Please know that this is not a replacement for reading an on-site wet bulb temperature (reading of the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement). Here is the direct link: [National Weather Service - Graphical Forecast \(noaa.gov\)](https://www.noaa.gov/graphical-forecast)
- While using a physical WBGT measuring device is strongly recommended, the Zelus app can be a good resource for coaches or site managers who do not have a WBGT measuring device with them. Again, it is not recommended that this replace a WBGT reading, as the most accurate reading is with a WBGT thermometer. The Zelus app can be downloaded on both Apple and Google Play.

Schools Encouraged to Enhance Efforts to Create Better Contest Environments

With the fall season upon us, let's continue to work together to ensure everyone is displaying proper and appropriate sporting behavior at all times to create better environments for our contests and events. Winning is everyone's goal, but it is not our purpose in interscholastic athletics. Research says that the No. 1 goal of our students participating in our programs is to have fun and be around their friends and teammates. Let's remember this and understand that our programs not only afford our student-athletes the lifelong memories of playing together, but they also provide lessons they can use throughout their adult lives.

As an administrator, please ask yourself the following: "What is my school doing to create a positive game day experience/positive environment at our contests and events?" Then follow up with . . .

- *What sporting behavior expectations and consequences does my school have in place for our student body?*
- *What is my school doing to ensure contest officials are safe and secure before, during and after our contests?*
- *What process does my school have in place for teaching and promoting sporting behavior with our parents and adult fans (preseason parent meetings)?*
- *What procedure does our school follow to remind our coaches and student-athletes of their sporting behavior expectations?*
- *What process does our school have in place to ensure only authorized personnel are on the sidelines, in bench/team areas or in team and officials' lockerrooms?*
- *What process does our school have in place to remove individuals who disrupt a contest due to unsporting behavior?*

The OHSAA is working hard to develop tools that will assist the membership in creating better contest environments. Details will be shared as these plans unfold. Like you, we understand that interscholastic athletic programs provide lessons that are as important as those taught in the classroom. So whether our teams win or lose, let's make sure everyone's focus is to recognize and celebrate the commitment, dedication and determination of the young people competing. As a group of students reminded us when we met this past May to talk about creating better contest environments . . . 'this is OUR game!' Let's make sure everyone remembers this.

Public Address Announcers Play Key Role in Promoting Educational Athletics, Sporting Behavior

With the purpose of interscholastic athletics to prepare our students for the next phases of their lives, administrators are reminded that public address announcers play a key role in not only supporting this message but also promoting sporting behavior at our various athletic contests. Administrators are reminded that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center has a free course on public address announcing that is designed to provide the best practices of announcing at high school events by explaining the expectations of school administration, appropriate behavior before and during a competition and the specific times during an event where announcers should be active. Multiple audio examples of P.A. announcers are provided to help illustrate what to do and what not to do while announcing. To take the course for yourself or to share with your public address announcer, go to: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/p-a-announcing>.

OHSAA Regional Update Meetings Begin Thursday

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will be conducting in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings 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).

OHSAA Administrators' Workshop

The OHSAA will be hosting its third and final Administrator Workshop 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, this virtual workshop will be held between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 28. **To register, go to:** <https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>.

Finance Team to Present Review of 2022-23 OHSAA Spring Tournaments

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team led by Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl and Controller Laura Vermilya, joined by Executive Director Doug Ute, will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's 2022-23 spring tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, so please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register. **The link to access the meeting will be located in the "Additional Information" section of your confirmation email.** If you have any questions on connectivity, please contact OHSAA Manager of Membership Services and Compliance Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org).

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.

DragonFly Update

DragonFly continues to work on "Ohio-izing" the DragonFly system. Over this past weekend, the ability to schedule and assign the 2024-2025 school year was implemented. Future years will open soon. This week updates will be deployed for officials to see the game fee prior to accepting a contest, and they also will be able to print their scheduled assignments. DragonFly continues to work on highly-prioritized enhancements for schools, assigners and officials. Expect deployments of new features every two-to-three weeks.

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>.

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>

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	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason
Volleyball	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason
Soccer	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett
Golf	Already Started	Already Started	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			

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.

Latest NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Athlete Now Available

The 2023-24 edition electronic version of the NCAA's Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete is now available! This in-depth document provides information and guidance on the NCAA certification process for all students considering competing in their sport at a Division I, II or III school. Our most comprehensive document, the Guide is designed to assist student-athletes and their families with understanding the differences between divisions and what each division requires to be able to practice, compete and receive athletics aid (as applicable per division). For your convenience, here's the link: <https://on.ncaa.com/CBSA>. Please be sure to share this important resource with your athletes!

NFHS Learning Center Releases Two New Courses on Student Leadership

A two-course series focused on student leadership are among the newest additions to the National Federation of State High School Associations' (NFHS) online education platform, the NFHS Learning Center. The two new courses on student leadership are available to users at no cost. The first course in the student leadership series is titled "Becoming a Leader." Using real student testimonials, the course is focused on defining what a student leader is and does, as well as providing a foundation for students to build on their own leadership capabilities. A large portion of both courses is self-reflective and encourages students to think about how the presented materials apply to the unique dynamics on their teams and in their schools and communities. Once they have completed the "Becoming a Leader" curriculum, students are invited to take the "Leading Others" course, which delves further into specific leadership roles and how students can choose the role that best suits them. The goal of the course is not to make every student an expert in every leadership role, but to make them aware of each role and give them the tools necessary to improve at each role if they so choose. More information on the "Becoming a Leader" and "Leading Others" courses can be found at: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/student-leadership-becoming-a-leader> and <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/student-leadership-leading-others>, respectively.

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