



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 3

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.

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. As was mentioned in the last edition of the *Administrator Update*, the OHSAA is working hard to develop tools that will assist the membership in creating better contest environments. One of those tools is to provide a list of ideas that work along with recommendations to assist administrators on various areas of concern:

- Working with parents
- Protecting officials
- Working with student fans
- Assisting student-athletes and coaches
- Creating a positive school environment in general

We want to hear from you on what's working at your school. What have you implemented that has been positive in creating a better environment for contests and events at your school?

- 1.) Send those ideas to us.
- 2.) If attending the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) Conference in Columbus Nov. 12-14, are you willing to share your ideas on camera to create short video vignettes? Here are two examples of such videos we would like to record:
 - <https://youtu.be/HyP7Pi--CCQ>
 - <https://youtu.be/WVCUa69FKR4>

Please send your ideas that work and/or willingness to participate in video vignettes during the OIAAA Conference to: bgoldring@ohsaa.org

Four More OHSAA Regional Update Meetings Remain

The OHSAA has four more in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings scheduled this month for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. The four remaining dates and locations are: 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). 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.

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).

Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention

With high temperatures and humidity back 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.

OHSAA and Ohio State LiFEsports Program Offers Free “Coaching Through Crisis” Webinar

Administrators and coaches are invited to participate in a free webinar on Monday, Sept. 25, when the OHSAA teams up with The Ohio State University LiFEsports program to present a program on coaching through crisis. The one-hour seminar that begins at 6:30 p.m. will focus on navigating grief and loss and supporting student-athletes who are experiencing mental health concerns. Featured speakers will be **Sharon Hoover, Ph.D.** (National Center for School Mental Health; professor, University of Maryland), **Tony Dixon** (head boys basketball coach, Dayton Dunbar High School) and **John Ackerman, Ph.D.** (suicide prevention clinical manager, Nationwide Children’s Hospital). To register, go to: go.osu.edu/coachthroughcrisis.

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>.

Additional DragonFly Updates

Over this past week, the ability to schedule and assign future years was implemented as was the ability to print schedules and the utilization of hold dates. To date, nearly 40 “Ohio-izations” have been implemented. DragonFly continues to work on highly-prioritized enhancements for schools, assigners and officials. Expect deployments of new features every two-to-three weeks.

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	Already Started	Sun., Oct. 1, 11:59 PM	Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)
Field Hockey	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Volleyball	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Golf	Already Started	Already Started	Thur., Aug. 31, 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Cross Country	Already Started	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 25, 11:59 PM	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			

Southeast District Schools Invited to Attend OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation Student Leadership Conference will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at Athens High School, and administrators from Southeast District schools are encouraged to attend along with their student-athletes, coaches and other staff members. Check-in for the free event begins at 8:30 a.m., the conference will run from 9:00 until 1:30 and lunch will

be provided. Please register via this Google docs:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XP_1k7SpYVILIS_5FPGmoxjTI4G5MTjEVgipkG9gF4/edit#gid=0. The conference is limited to 385 attendees, with a current school limit of five (information will be shared if more spots become open). To help with parking, administrators are asked to include their email addresses if you plan to attend via a school bus. It is no problem to replace the name(s) of students on the initial listing. For further questions, please contact Eric Sholtis, athletic administrator for Athens City Schools, at esholtis@athenscsd.org.

The conference is designed to provide students with the tools to create a transformational culture, one that builds strong character and leadership traits. Featured speakers will be **Dan Leffingwell**, a former coach, teacher, principal and superintendent who is currently Dean of Engineering and Business at Washington State Community College in Marietta; **Jimmy Burrow**, a former college football coach whose son is Joe Burrow, quarterback of the Cincinnati Bengals; **Jim Clemons**, a former basketball standout who won OHSAA and NBA championships and was an assistant coach for nine Bulls and Lakers NBA championships teams; **Otis Winston**, a former OHSAA state high jump champion who played basketball at Ohio State and is now a professional actor, writer and producer, and **Harvey Alston**, coordinator of the OHSAA student leadership conferences and a “high octane” public speaker since 1989 who encourages his audiences to strive only for the best.

Plenty of Online Resources Available to Provide Assistance to Athletic Administrators

The OHSAA would like to remind athletic administrators that plenty of online resources are available to assist you in your jobs. Here are just a few to assist:

- The **Coaches' Tool Chest** provides athletic administrators with an efficient, simple method to ensure all of your coaches are compliant with their Pupil Activity Permit requirements. More than just meeting the legally mandated minimum requirements, the Coaches' Tool Chest adds a professional development piece as well and focuses on one certificate, once per year. For more information, go to: <https://coachestoolchest.com> or email info@coachestoolchest.com.
- The National Federation of State High School Associations' **NFHS Learning Center** (www.nfhslearn.org): The leader in online education for the interscholastic community, NFHSlearn.org offers in-depth timely and pertinent virtual courses for administrators, coaches, contest officials, students and parents and has offerings in sports and the performing arts. Of the nearly 90 courses offered, many are free.
- **Athletic Director Insider** (https://twitter.com/ad_insider) focuses on providing new and helpful content to athletic administrators looking to learn and excel with new videos and articles posted weekly. The AD Insider is also available on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/ADInsider/>; Instagram at: https://www.instagram.com/ad_insider/?hl=en, and via podcasts through such services as Amazon, Apple and Spotify.
- The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (**NIAAA**) and Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (**OIAAA**) websites has a host of tools and resources available at: <https://members.niaaa.org/page/resources> and <https://www.ohioiaaa.org>.

Girls State Tennis Tournament Moves to The College of Wooster

The OHSAA Girls State Tennis Tournament this fall will move to The College of Wooster and will be held on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19-20. The facility has 12 courts with good seating and parking. Should there be inclement weather, the tournament will also be held in Wooster at the Aspen Racquet Club, which features six indoor courts.

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 later this fall.

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