



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 4

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.

OHSAA Enhances Efforts to Create Better Contest Environments

Let's continue to work together to create better contest environments for our student-athletes, officials, coaches and fans. As was mentioned in the last few editions of the *Administrator Update*, the OHSAA is working hard to develop tools that will assist the membership in creating better contest environments. These tools will include videos, resources and recommendations to assist administrators on various areas of concern:

- **Setting Expectations for Parents**
- **Protecting Officials**
- **Engaging Student Fans**
- **Supporting Coaches and Student-Athletes**
- **Creating a Positive School Environment**

Crowd Engagement Tip: Check out this video from Keith Myers, the athletic administrator at Logan High School, explaining how to teach positive and appropriate fan cheers to students before game days: [Coach Beyond: Promoting Positive Fan Engagement](#). See the Coach Beyond YouTube channel for more fan behavior videos and webinars.

Help Wanted → Nominate Innovative Athletic Administrators:

We want to hear from you! What have you seen implemented that has been positive in creating a better environment for contests and events? During the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) Conference in Columbus Nov. 12-14, we will be looking to record videos of other innovative athletic administrators from around the state. Nominate any AD that you think we should talk to (including yourself) by emailing bgoldring@ohsaa.org.

Take Part in Officials Appreciation Week → Plan to Recognize Fall Sports Contest Officials October 1-7

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. Mark your calendars the week of October 1-7, 2023, for OHSAA Fall Sports Officials Appreciation Week. With the intense scrutiny of our officials contributing to a nationwide shortage of officials, we believe it is important to show our appreciation and respect for these men and women who give their time to our student-athletes so they can play the games they love and contribute so much to the overall experience our student-athletes receive while participating in educational athletics. We ask that athletic administrators read an OHSAA-provided script (available here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/OfficialsAppreciationWeekScript.pdf>) before ALL games during the week as well as use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. Please tag @OHSAASports on Twitter and show us what your school is doing to show our officials love. Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to a great week of celebrating our officials. Additional OHSAA Officials Appreciation Weeks will be January 7-13, 2024, and April 14-20, 2024.

Governor DeWine Announces Resources Available for School Athletic Coaches to Better Support Athletes

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine last week announced the availability of state training resources aimed at giving Ohio school athletics coaches the tools they need to help student-athletes struggling with their mental health. The recently passed biennial budget ([House Bill 33](#)) includes a provision that requires all coaches to complete the training before they can apply for or renew their pupil activity program permits. "Coaches know how to motivate young people and lead them to success on the field, but they may not be aware of how to help student-athletes with the challenges they may be facing off the field," Governor DeWine said. "The goal is to give coaches the tools they need to help identify student-athletes who may be struggling and connect them with the help they need."

The new law requires the Ohio Department of Education to work with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide options of approved trainings that help coaches satisfy requirements needed to obtain pupil activity permits, which are required for licensed educators and non-licensed school employees who direct, supervise or coach a student activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity, or activities with health and safety considerations. An individual must complete the training each time the individual applies for or renews a pupil activity program permit and present evidence of each successful completion to the State Board of Education.

Here is a link to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' listing of training available for coaches: <https://mha.ohio.gov/supporting-providers/training-and-resources/mental-health-training-for-odes-coaching-permits>. For further questions, see contact information in the aforementioned link.

Clarification on Schools Being Required to Accept Cash at School Affiliated Events

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office has been receiving a lot of questions about schools being required to accept cash at "school affiliated events" as an alternative to electronic ticketing. This requirement is NOT an OHSAA regulation but is a law that was passed by the Ohio legislature as part of the latest budget bill. This law officially goes into effect on October 4, but some schools have opted to adopt it at the start of the season while others have chosen to wait until the October date. The OHSAA does not regulate regular season contests except to: a.) place limits on the beginning and ending to each sport season; b.) place limits on the number of regular season and pre-season contests in which a team/individual may participate, and c.) adopt contest/playing rules for the sports. The OHSAA also does regulate interscholastic conferences or leagues.

As you are aware, the OHSAA and many schools have gone to electronic ticketing over the past few years for a number of reasons, including better accountability for auditors, less risk with collecting and depositing large amounts of cash and customer convenience. For this reason, many schools and the OHSAA are choosing to provide a discounted ticket price to those customers who elect to purchase online since there is nothing in the law that prevents organizations from incentivizing electronic ticketing over cash tickets. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

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			

OHSAA Regional Update Meeting PowerPoint Presentation Available

The Executive Director's Office would like to thank all administrators who attended the fall OHSAA Regional Update Meetings. The sixth and final meeting is being conducted today (Tuesday, Sept. 19). For those who were unable to attend or those who would like to see the presentation again, here is a link to the PowerPoint presentation that was shown during the meetings: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/2023RegionalUpdateMtg-Posting.pdf>.

OHSAA August 31 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available

Here is the link to the minutes from the August 31, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2023-24/20230831BoardMinutes.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.

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.

Schools Asked to Report Student Catastrophic Situations to OHSAA and NCCSIR

The OHSAA reminds school administrators of their reporting obligations when an unforeseen catastrophic situation occurs with a student-athlete at your school. First, please report the incident to OHSAA Senior Sport Administrator Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org), who oversees sports medicine/healthy lifestyles issues within the office. She will help ensure the proper OHSAA staff members involve the Association's catastrophic insurance carrier and will inform the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). School administrators are also asked to report their catastrophic situation with the National Center for

Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) at www.sportinjuryreport.org. The NCCSIR, a research center that has tracked fatalities and catastrophic high school sports injuries in the United States since 1982, is directed by Kristen Kucera, Ph.D., at the University of North Carolina. Catastrophic athletic injuries, illnesses and medical conditions are defined as: 1.) Fatalities; 2.) Permanent disability injuries; 3.) Serious injuries (fractured spine/neck or serious head injury), even though the athlete has fully recovered; 4.) Temporary or transient paralysis (athlete has no movement for a short time but has a complete recovery); 5.) Heat stroke or exertional sickling due to exercise, and 6.) Sudden cardiac arrest or death in an athlete (even if not directly related to athletics).

For more information, including the NCCSIR's most recent reports, go to:
<https://nccsir.unc.edu/reports/>

Fall Sports Tournament Dates

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

Golf

Draw/Seed Meeting – completed
Sectional Trnts. (B II & III, G II) – Sept. 25-30
Sectional Trnts. (B I & G I) – Oct. 2-7
District Trnts. (B II & III, G II) – Oct. 2-7
District Trnts. (B I & G I) – Oct. 9-14
State Trnts. (B II & III, G II) – Oct. 13-14
State Trnts. (B I & G I) – Oct. 20-21

Girls Tennis

Draw/Seed Meeting – Sept. 24
Sectional Trnts. – Oct. 2-7
District Trnts. – Oct. 9-14
State Trnt. – Oct. 19-20

Cross Country

Draw-Seed Meeting – Oct. 8
District Trnt. – Oct. 21
7th-8th Grade Invitational – Oct. 22
Regional Trnt. – Oct. 28
State Trnt. – Nov. 4

Field Hockey

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 8
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 16-28
State Semifinals – Nov. 2
State Final – Nov. 4

Soccer

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 8
Sectional Trnts. – Oct. 17-21
District Trnts. – Oct. 24-28
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 31-Nov. 4
State Semifinals – Nov. 7-8
State Finals – Nov. 10-11

Volleyball

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 8
Sectionals Trnts. – Oct. 16-21
District Trnts. – Oct. 23-28
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 30-Nov. 4
State Trnt. – Nov. 9-11

Football

Trnt. Pairings Announced – Oct. 22
Regional First Round – Oct. 27
Regional Quarterfinals – Nov. 3
Regional Semifinals – Nov. 10
Regional Finals – Nov. 17
State Semifinals – Nov. 24
State Finals – Nov. 30-Dec. 2

OHSAA State Tournament Dates and Locations

Golf (Division II Boys) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14: NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury
Golf (Division III Boys) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14: The Ohio State Golf Club Scarlet Course, Columbus
Golf (Division II Girls) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13-14: The Ohio State Golf Club Gray Course, Columbus
Golf (Division I Boys) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21: The Ohio State Golf Club Scarlet Course, Columbus
Golf (Division I Girls) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21: The Ohio State Golf Club Gray Course, Columbus
Girls Tennis – Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19-20: The College of Wooster
Cross Country – Saturday, Nov. 4: Fortress Obetz, Obetz
Field Hockey (Finals) – Saturday, Nov. 4: Thomas Worthington High School
Soccer (Finals) – Friday, Nov. 10 (girls), and Saturday, Nov. 11 (boys): Lower.com Field, Columbus **OR** Historic Crew Stadium, Columbus
Volleyball – Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 9-11: Nutter Center, Wright State University, Dayton
Football – Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 30-Dec. 2: Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, Canton

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