



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

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## **ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

2023-24 School Year, No. 5

**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**

As mentioned in previous editions of the *Administrator Update*, the OHSAA has created additional tools for school administrators to assist in your efforts to create better environments at your schools when hosting contests or events. Go to the OHSAA website at <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game> for tools, recommendations and reminders. Administrators are highly encouraged to utilize these tools and develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within your entire school community. Included categories and links at this location on the OHSAA website are:

- [Tools to Assist Administrators](#)
- [Preseason Parent Meetings](#)
- [Sportsmanship Responsibilities](#)
- [Recent Positive Sporting Behavior Reports](#)
- [2023-24 OHSAA Officials Appreciation Week](#)
- [Public Address Scripts](#)
- [Public Address Announcer Guidelines](#)
- [Audio Public Service Announcements](#)
- [Video Public Service Announcements](#)
- [Program Ads](#)
- [Posters and Banners](#)
- [Contest & Event Management Guidelines](#)



### **Help Wanted → Nominate Innovative Athletic Administrators:**

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. 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](mailto: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. This week - October 1-7, 2023 – is 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 this 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.

## **Register Now to Attend OHSAA Conference Addressing Key Issue in High School Sports Oct. 11**

OHSAA will be hosting a free conference on “*Addressing Key Issues in High School Sports*” on Oct. 11, 2023, at the Quest Conference Center, 9200 Worthington Road, Westerville. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., the conference begins at 9:00 and it will end at 3:00. The conference will open with a panel addressing issues in fan behavior, followed by sessions on recruiting more women and minorities into high school sports positions and officiating and a session with media members talking about working with the media as it relates to sporting behavior issues in high school sports. These sessions will repeat in the afternoon to allow all attendees to hear both sessions. In addition, attendees will hear about The Ohio State University LiFEsports program, an OHSAA partner program that assists coaches in several areas including recognizing mental health issues with their student-athletes. Lunch will be provided between the sessions. To register for this free conference, please go to:

[https://ohsaameetings.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/127?access\\_code=d0e63bda7fe80eb47e7dc5d022746093bb2dee1f](https://ohsaameetings.hometownticketing.com/embed/event/127?access_code=d0e63bda7fe80eb47e7dc5d022746093bb2dee1f).

Registration is limited to the first 100 people who sign up, so please register today. For questions, please contact Kim Kiehl, OHSAA Chief Operation Officer, at [kkiehl@ohsaa.org](mailto:kkiehl@ohsaa.org) or 614-549-6955.

## **OHSAA Tournament Ticket Sales at School Venues**

This is a reminder to administrators that OHSAA tournament tickets sales will be available online for all contests. For OHSAA tournament events held at school venues, cash will be accepted upon fan request on-site at the gate. Gate prices will be \$10 for sectional and district contests, \$15 for regional contests and \$20 for state events. Online tickets will be discounted 20 percent from gate ticket prices. Schools will utilize the HomeTown Ticketing (HTT) Gate App for selling and recording gate sales. Athletic administrators and school treasurers will reconcile cash collected to the audit report available in the HTT gate application. Virtual training on cash procedures for schools hosting OHSAA events was held on Thursday, Sept. 28. To view the recording of this training, go to: <https://youtu.be/-ESE0F26dcl>.

## **Predetermined Sites Being Utilized for 2023 Soccer Regional Contests**

For the regional semifinal and final rounds of the 2023 OHSAA Soccer Tournament, predetermined sites have been selected based on this year’s regional tournament draw conducted by the OHSAA Executive Director’s Office. State semifinal sites have been predetermined based on location, with the primary concern of travel midweek for schools and the nature of the tournament bracket, bridging different regions in the state. These will not be made public until closer to the event. Many factors went into the consideration of sites including but not limited to location, ability to host, facility and venue size, officials’ availability and field surface. Various constituents, including OHSAA District Athletic Board members and the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association, were consulted in the recommendations and assignments of sites. Per the 2022 OHSAA Soccer Tournament Regulations, the OHSAA has the authority to change the date, time and site at any time for any reason. Changes will be considered in the event the change does not cause conflict for the stakeholders involved. Additionally, if a host previously indicated that they would not like to host due to their team advancing to regionals and beyond, back-up sites have already been predetermined. Statewide tournament brackets will be able to be accessed here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/soccer>.

## **Start Date for Contests in 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball is December 1**

Just as it is at the high school level, administrators should note that the start date for contests in 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys basketball is Friday, December 1. Two different start dates listed in the OHSAA Handbook and posted on the OHSAA website are incorrect. Please let your administrators and coaches at the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level know of this date. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## **National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association Provides Recommendations on Helmet Reconditioning/Recertification for Football, Lacrosse, Baseball and Softball**

The National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA), National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) and helmet manufacturers have provided the OHSAA with reconditioning and recertification recommendations for football, lacrosse, baseball and softball helmets, and those are being shared with the membership. NAERA recommends that during every football, lacrosse, baseball and softball season or practice period, every helmet in those sports be cleaned and inspected regularly by a school staff member with knowledge of manufacturer recommendations. It is further recommended that every helmet be reconditioned and recertified annually unless stated otherwise by the manufacturer. ONLY a company licensed by NOCSAE can perform the recertification of helmets in those four sports. For a list of NAERA members that are licensed by NOCSAE, go to: [www.naera.net](http://www.naera.net). More information regarding NOCSAE and their standards can be found at [www.nocsae.org](http://www.nocsae.org).

To view specific information and recommendations, please go to these two links:

[https://www.naera.net/files/ugd/8f05ee\\_8e4788181b6145879295b7df54284535.pdf?index=true](https://www.naera.net/files/ugd/8f05ee_8e4788181b6145879295b7df54284535.pdf?index=true)

[https://www.naera.net/files/ugd/8f05ee\\_2ba3fe1c4cfa444e8c92bd1d6e30aa5c.pdf?index=true](https://www.naera.net/files/ugd/8f05ee_2ba3fe1c4cfa444e8c92bd1d6e30aa5c.pdf?index=true)

## **Mark The Date: OHSAA Spirit State Championships Slated for December 10**

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 now Sunday, December 10 (the date was previously announced for a day earlier but has been moved due to a conflict at Wittenberg). Registration and additional details will be shared with the membership later this fall.

## **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>.

## **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\\_5FPGmcoxjTI4G5MTjEVgipkG9gF4/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XP_1k7SpYVILIS_5FPGmcoxjTI4G5MTjEVgipkG9gF4/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](mailto: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

## **Positive Coaching Alliance Accepting Coach-of-the-Year Nominations**

The Positive Coaching Alliance is accepting nominations from administrators through Nov. 15 for 2024 coaches-of-the-year. Nominees should teach life skills through sports; encourage athletes to focus on their effort and not be afraid of making mistakes; support athletes by focusing on positive reinforcement; promote behaving respectfully; create an environment of belonging with focus on equity and inclusion; work to advocate for access for all kids to play by helping to remove barriers such as cost and equipment, and display empathy and compassion in their approach to coaching. Winners could win awarded a \$5,000 grant for their school. For all the details, go to

<https://positivecoach.org/awards-programs/pca-coach-of-the-year/>.

## **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 (Finals) – 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!