



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 6

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.

Help Wanted → Athletic Administrators Asked to Please Complete OHSAA Survey

As a follow up to the Athletic Enrichment Fund distribution your school received in August (\$1,250 check from the OHSAA), we ask athletic administrators to please complete a two-question survey to let us know how that money was utilized. The survey is available here: <https://forms.gle/zLoE4RPgyB68G3Pk9>. Please respond by Oct. 31, 2023. Thank you!

OHSAA State Tournament Dates and Locations

Girls Tennis – Thursday and Friday, Oct. 19-20: The College of Wooster
Golf (Division I Boys) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21: The Ohio State University Golf Club Scarlet Course, Columbus
Golf (Division I Girls) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 20-21: The Ohio State University Golf Club Gray Course, Columbus
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

OHSAA Football Playoffs Details

The 2023 OHSAA football playoffs will feature many of the same elements as last year's tournament except that all rounds prior to the state finals will be held on Fridays. Each region will qualify 16 teams to the playoffs (448 total teams; 64 teams per division); regional first-round and regional quarterfinal games will be hosted by the higher seeds, and regional semifinals, regional finals and state semifinals contests will be held at neutral sites. The state finals will return to Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and 2. Here are football dates to remember for 2023:

Oct. 21 Regular Season Ends
Oct. 22 Final Computer Points and Playoff Qualifiers Announced (top 16 schools in each region)
Oct. 27 First-Round Playoff Games – Higher Seeded Team Hosts
Nov. 3 Regional Quarterfinals – Higher Seeded Team Hosts
Nov. 10 Regional Semifinals – at Neutral Sites
Nov. 17 Regional Finals – at Neutral Sites
Nov. 24 State Semifinals – at Neutral Sites
Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2 State Championships in Canton at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium (Thursday, Nov. 30, Div. I, II, III or V – 7:00*;
Friday, Dec. 1, Div. I, II, III or V – 10:30, 3:00, 7:30**; Saturday, Dec. 2, Div. IV, VI and VIII – 10:30, 3:00, 7:30**)
*Exact division TBA; **Division assignments to times TBA

Reminder: State Law Requires All Coaches to Have PAP and to be Board-Approved

With OHSAA fall tournaments either under way or soon to begin, administrators are reminded that state law REQUIRES individuals who direct, supervise or coach in your athletics program to have a valid **coaching or pupil activity permit**. That requirement is codified in OHSAA Bylaw 6-1-2 and applies to all coaches, whether paid or volunteer. In addition, OHSAA Bylaw 6-1-3 requires that all coaches be approved by the Board of Education or similar governing board in non-public schools. For more information, visit the Ohio Department of Education website at: <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>.

Need Assistance with Sporting Behavior at Your School? Help Available on OHSAA Website

The OHSAA has created tools for school administrators to assist in your sporting behavior 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 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**

OHSAA Tournament Tickets for School Administrators

Complimentary tickets for school administrators to attend OHSAA tournament events will work the same in 2023-24 as last year. All member school athletic administrators received an email earlier this fall with their 'school comp code' and instructions. This comp code allows schools to redeem tickets through HomeTown Ticketing, the OHSAA's official digital ticketing partner, when their teams are competing (three for individual sports; eight for team sports). Again, this will be the ability for school administrators (superintendents, principals and athletic administrators) to REQUEST complimentary tickets to OHSAA tournament events not involving your school at the sectional and district levels of OHSAA tournaments. This request needs to include the date, time and sport and should come from your official school email address. The request needs to be emailed to claired@ohsaa.org a minimum of 24 hours before the event. For questions, please contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager Claire Duesdieker Keohane at claired@ohsaa.org or 614-549-6973.

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>.

Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your winter sports coaches that all OHSAA sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted or will be posted in *myOHSAA*, and details are sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for winter 2024 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Basketball	Meeting now available	Fri., Nov. 17	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)
Bowling	Wed., Oct. 18 at 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Nov. 18	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Gymnastics	Meeting now available	Tues., Dec. 5	Mon., Jan. 29 at 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Ice Hockey	Wed., Oct. 18 at 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Nov. 18	Fri., Feb. 2 at 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Swim/Dive	Meeting now available	Tues., Nov. 28	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Wrestling	Wed., Oct. 18 at 9:00 a.m.	Fri., Dec. 1	Mon., Feb. 5 at 11:59 pm	Dustin Ware (dware@ohsaa.org)
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			
End Date	The "End Date" is the same as the tournament entry/withdraw deadline date.			

It's Not Too Late to Register for OHSAA Basketball Foundation Games

Member school administrators are reminded that an approved OHSAA Foundation Game is permitted in the sport of basketball. Foundation Games may be played anytime from the team's last pre-season scrimmage until the first sectional tournament game. Member schools may elect to participate by substituting a Foundation Game for one of the five allotted scrimmages. This game can be played as an "exhibition" game, utilizing all normal playing rules, but the win/loss does not count toward the team's record. Another option is to dedicate a regular season contest as a Foundation Game (which WOULD count as one of your school's 22-allotted contests), and the win/loss does count toward the team's record. To apply for a Foundation Game and view more details, including the cost per team, go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/OHSAAFoundation/FoundationGameApplication.pdf>

OHSAA September 29 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available

Here is a link to the minutes from September 29, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2023-24/20230929BoardMinutes.pdf>.

Helpful Websites/Apps Available for Students Struggling with Mental Health

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has provided a list of several websites that are available for students who are struggling with mental health issues. The websites are:

- **Mental Health is Health** (www.mentalhealthishealth.us)

This interactive website is based on the concept of caring for mental health just like physical health. The initiative aims to normalize mental health conversation, connect individuals with resources and inspire action on mental health advocacy.

- **Youth.gov** (<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/youth-mental-health>)

This site offers comprehensive advice, data, resources, examples and model programs on creating and investing in school-based mental health services.

- **TeenHelp** (www.teenhelp.com)

This site was developed for parents of teens and offers fact sheets, statistics and information on topics such as self-esteem, suicide, depression, sexual abuse/trauma and substance abuse.

- **Crisis Text Line** (www.crisistextline.org)

This 24-hour support for individuals in crisis allows individuals to text 741741 from anywhere in the United States and receive an automated text asking what the crisis is. Within minutes, a crisis counselor will respond, and the exchange is free, confidential and does not appear on a phone statement.

As noted in a previous edition of the OHSAA *Administrator Update*, 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.

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 7th-8th 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 7th-8th grade boys basketball is Friday, Dec. 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 7th-8th grade level know of this date. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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