



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 9

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 Football State Championship Details

Nov. 30, Dec. 1-2 State Championships in Canton at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium

Division II — Massillon Washington (15-0) vs. Akron Archbishop Hoban (13-1), Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Division VI — Kirtland (14-1) vs. Versailles (13-2), Friday, 10:30 a.m.

Division III — Toledo Central Catholic (15-0) vs. Columbus Bishop Watterson (14-1), Friday, 3:00 p.m.

Division I — Springfield (10-5) vs. Lakewood St. Edward (13-1), Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Division VII — Maria Stein Marion Local (15-0) vs. Dalton (13-1), Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Division V — Perry (15-0) vs. Liberty Center (15-0), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

Division IV — Cleveland Glenville (12-2) vs. Kettering Archbishop Alter (12-3), Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the state championships games are only available online at www.ohsaa.org/tickets. Information regarding state championship game ticket packages, including indoor Stadium Club tickets, is available at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/tickets-now-on-sale-for-ohsaa-football-state-championships>.

Sporting Behavior Message Sent to Athletic Administrators and Basketball Coaches

OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute sent the following message to athletic administrators and basketball coaches last week regarding the need to place an emphasis on sporting behavior to ensure we have positive environments during our contests:

“As we begin the 2023-24 basketball season this week and next, I would like to remind administrators and coaches that we all need to work together to ensure everyone is displaying proper and appropriate sporting behavior at all times during contests. Winning is everyone’s goal, but it is not our purpose in interscholastic athletics. Our programs are designed to provide lessons that are as important as those taught in the classroom. They not only afford our student-athletes the lifelong memories of playing with their friends, but they also help prepare them for the next level of life.

As an administrator or coach, you contribute greatly to the quality of experience of our young people. That means you are expected to provide a sound example and represent your school and community with pride and dignity. Further, that means displaying and promoting sporting behavior at all times toward and with contest officials; your team and community, and your opponents.

If you need assistance on improving the environment at your contests and/or working with your student sections, parents and fans, visit the *Tools to Assist Administrators* section of the OHSAA website at:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game/Tools-to-Assist-Administrators>.

Sporting Behavior Scripts Available for One or Two Students to Read Live Prior to Home Basketball Games

Based on feedback received by students, the OHSAA Office has developed two public address scripts for either one or two students to read live to those in attendance prior to basketball games to promote positive sporting behavior. While reading general sporting behavior messages is never frowned upon, hearing messages directly from a student(s) – with an emphasis on the games being played FOR THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING, **not** the parents or fans – should be more impactful. We hope your school will consider using these scripts for a student or two to read:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/PregameStudentScript.pdf>

Resources Available for Future NCAA Student-Athletes on Initial Eligibility

Information regarding student-athlete initial eligibility for those who will play at NCAA institutions has been updated. Available material is as follows:

Updated High School Counselor Guide:

This is the NCAA’s recently released 2023-24 version of the **[Guide for High School Counselors](#)**.

Sports Wagering Module:

The NCAA has released a [new education module](#) to help students understand the impact and possible repercussions of sports wagering.

Midyear Graduates: Request Final Amateurism:

For student-athletes graduating from high school in December and enrolling at an NCAA school during the spring/winter term 2024, please remind them to request their final amateurism certification. It only takes few minutes to log in to their account and submit this request. The Eligibility Center cannot process their amateurism review without this request! [Click here](#) for a quick step-by-step guide you can share to encourage students to complete this critical step.

Online NCAA Initial-Eligibility Course:

Finally, the National Federation of High School State Associations (NFHS) partnered with the NCAA Eligibility Center to develop and produce an [online initial-eligibility course](#) designed to assist coaches and the high school community on helping their student-athletes and families with the NCAA registration and certification process, as well as the academic standards needed to study and participate at an NCAA Division I or II college. Our goal is to increase awareness with those that assist students and families in their dream of studying and competing in college sports.

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	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)
Bowling	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	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	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	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	Meeting now available	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.			

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminder

Administrators are reminded to make sure all winter sports athletes are scheduled for at least five (5) credits at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7th-8th grade level during the second grading period. If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the second grading period, then he/she will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the third grading period. 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) of our compliance staff.

Plan to Recognize Winter Sports Contest Officials January 7-13

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. The week of Jan. 7-13, 2024, is OHSAA Winter 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 that week as well as use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to a great week of celebrating our officials. The OHSAA Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be Apr. 14-20, 2024.

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!