



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 11

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.

Create Better Environments at Your Contests and Events

With the winter seasons upon us, administrators are reminded that making sporting behavior a priority during our contests and events must be a priority. This especially holds true in the sport of basketball, where high fan interest and large crowds are the norm at many schools. Please remind your coaches, participants, student groups and parents that they represent the entire school community, and any unsporting actions are a poor reflection on everyone and defeat the purpose of interscholastic athletics, which are educational in nature.

Here is some items to assist in creating positive environments for your contests or events:

→ Winter Sports Contest Officials Appreciation Week is This Week (January 7-13)

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. This week (January 7-13) 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 this 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.

→ 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>

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.

OHSAA Scholarship Program Information Coming Soon

Athletic administrators will be receiving information this month (and principals will be copied) on the process to begin nominating qualified senior student-athletes for an OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship. Each school may submit only one male, one female, one male ethnic minority and one female ethnic minority candidate for scholarship consideration. Recipients of any athletic scholarships (full or partial) in NCAA Division I or II institutions or appointees to military academies are not eligible. The on-line application process will include information being entered by a school administrator (principal or athletic administrator), the student and a school guidance counselor. To ensure that emails do not get trapped by firewalls/sent to a spam folder, **new to the process this year will be the school administrator emailing student candidates directly with the application information.**

Athletic Administrators: Time to Update Your Swimming & Diving Emergency Contact Form

This is a reminder that athletics administrators are required to update their school's Emergency Contact Form within the school *myOHSAA* account. These forms are the only way for site managers to determine which coaches have been authorized to accompany student-athletes to the OHSAA tournament series and possess the appropriate credentials to coach in Ohio. **Coaches who are not listed on this form shall be denied deck access to your event.** The directions for updating this can be found here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/Swimming-Diving/2022-23/SchoolEmergencyContactForm.pdf>.

Athletic Administrators: Remind Coaches to Update Scores in MaxPreps App

With the MaxPreps Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) being used for seeding for all girls and boys basketball tournaments beginning with this year's tournaments, athletic administrators are asked to remind their basketball coaches to report scores in their MaxPreps account within 24 hours after each contest. As reminders: 1.) Make sure your school's varsity schedules are updated and accurate. If you have any missing games, please add them. 2.) After your game, open the app and update your score in your account. 3.) The **WINNING TEAM** is responsible for reporting scores into MaxPreps. Only one team needs to report the score. If playing at a neutral site or playing out-of-state, which will happen frequently during Martin Luther King Jr. and President's Day weekends, be sure to input your score. It is highly recommended that each school check the results to ensure accuracy.

The RPI rankings may only be accessed on the OHSAA website. The first composite rankings will be posted later this week, and a separate memo will be emailed to athletic administrators and basketball coaches. Once the rankings are live, they will be updated daily. The final day for score submissions will be prior to the OHSAA Basketball Tournament Draw meetings, with the exact date and time to be announced. For questions pertaining to your account, how to input scores, adding an additional coach to the school account, etc., contact MaxPreps rep Eric Frantz at efrantz@maxpreps.com or view the MaxPreps Support link [HERE](#).

LiFEsport Program at Ohio State Offers Upcoming Trainings and Other Resources

Administrators looking for more opportunities for your coaches to learn are encouraged to check out the OHSAA's partnership with [Coach Beyond](#) and the LiFEsports Initiative at The Ohio State University.

- **Upcoming Coach Beyond Trainings:** Jan. 24 at Worthington Christian High School and Feb. 2 at Lancaster High School.
- **Regional Mental Health Trainings Coming:** Coach Beyond has a one-hour training session on *Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health* that is approved for the new PAP requirements in Ohio, and we are bringing it to you! Be on the lookout for dates on large training sessions in your region of the state this spring. More info to come soon.
- **Online Mental Health Training:** In addition to an in-person training, Coach Beyond has an online one-hour training module that has been approved for the new PAP requirements. Check out the [Online Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health](#) module on our website!
- **In Case You Missed It:** Coach Beyond held a webinar with Ohio State Head Women's Basketball Coach Kevin McGuff on how he prepares his athletes for game day. See the video and [learn from Coach McGuff](#) here!

November and December OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Available

Here is a link to the minutes from November 30, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2023-24/20231130BoardMinutesSpecial.pdf>

Here is a link to the minutes from December 20, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2023-24/20231220BoardMinutesSpecial-Virtual.pdf>

Please feel free to share this link with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in the board minutes.

Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period Opens for Winter Sports

Administrators are reminded that the window to enter Competitive Balance roster data for the winter sports of boys basketball and girls basketball opens on **February 5, 2024**. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within the ArbiterGame system (under the 'Eligibility' tab). The deadline to submit basketball roster data is **Friday, April 5, 2024**. **ALL** schools that compete in a varsity contest in those sports must submit their roster data by that date. All other winter sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. Note that the deadline for submitting Competitive Balance roster data for the fall sports of football, soccer and volleyball has passed. For questions, please contact either Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff.

OHSAA Board Resolution for Membership Cards

The OHSAA Constitution requires the board of education or similar governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing its schools that were members during the 2023-24 school year to continue membership for the 2024-25 school year. The OHSAA Board Resolution Card, which requires a signature from the governing body's president and superintendent/head of school, will be mailed later this month. Please read the instructions that accompany the card, complete the required items and return the card to the OHSAA office using the pre-stamped envelope provided **no later than June 30, 2024**. For questions, please contact either Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org).

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	Late fee has begun	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	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Wrestling	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	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.			

Reminders: Winter Sports Tournament Entry and Update Administrators in myOHSAA

Athletic administrators are encouraged to check the accuracy of their school's tournament entry in *myOHSAA* for ALL sports, but especially winter sports. The deadline to enter and withdrawal from winter tournaments is January 15, 2024 (swimming & diving); January 22, 2024 (gymnastics, bowling, girls basketball, ice hockey), and January 29, 2024 (wrestling, boy basketball). In addition, please login to your *myOHSAA* account to provide updates in **Staff Management** (are all your coaches listed?; are your principal and superintendent listed and are their emails correct?).

Students Who Earn OHSAA Officiating License Can Now Earn Graduation Credit

An OHSAA sports officiating license has achieved a significant milestone by being recognized as an "Industry Recognized Credential" by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). This recognition reflects the value and significance of the OHSAA's sports officiating program, providing high school students with a unique opportunity to enhance their education and career prospects. High school students who successfully earn their officiating license through the OHSAA can now count this licensure as a valuable credential within the Health career field, contributing four of the 12 required points for high school graduation.

This achievement is the result of a collaborative partnership between the OHSAA, ODE, and RefReps, a leading sports officiating education technology company based in Indiana. The partnership has already brought state-of-the-art sports officiating curriculum to nearly 60 schools across Ohio, shaping the future of aspiring sports officials statewide.

To read more details, go here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/ohsaa-officiating-license-recognized-as-an-industry-credential-by-ohio-department-of-education>

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