



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 13

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.

You Are Invited → Administrators Invited to Meet with OHSAA Personnel to Discuss Potential Expansion of Tournament Divisions

OHSAA member schools' superintendents, principals and athletic administrators are invited to participate in in-person OHSAA statewide meetings to discuss the potential expansion of divisions in seven OHSAA tournaments. **No pre-registration is necessary.** The schedule for the two remaining meetings is as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 7	10:00-noon	Cambridge: Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, 7033 Glenn Highway
Friday, Feb. 9	10:00-noon	Logan: Logan High School Theatre, 14470 State Route 328

During the meetings, OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute, staff members and members of the OHSAA Board of Directors will be available to answer any questions you have regarding potentially expanding tournament divisions.

On December 13, 2023, school administrators were sent a memo explaining that the OHSAA is studying expansion of tournament divisions in the seven sports. That memo can be accessed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/Trnt.ExpansionMemo12-13-2023.pdf>.

A recording of the January 16, 2024, virtual meeting can be accessed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sovy3Kp7AHc>.

The PowerPoint presentation being shown at the statewide meetings can be accessed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/DivisionalAlignmentPPT.pdf>.

Please note that the OHSAA will conduct its normal in-person Athletic Discussion Meetings on six dates around the state in April in which the main focus will be to review the 2024 OHSAA Referendum Issues. These meetings are unrelated to discussion on tournament division expansion.

Important → Athletic Administrators: Remind Boys Basketball 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, it's imperative that athletic administrators remind their boys basketball coaches to report scores in their MaxPreps account within 24 hours after each contest (the girls deadline has passed and the tournament draw was held this past Sunday). The **WINNING TEAM** is responsible for reporting scores into MaxPreps. If playing at a neutral site or playing out-of-state, be sure to input your score. It is highly recommended that each school check the results to ensure accuracy. **The final day for score submissions prior to the OHSAA Boys Basketball Tournament Draw meetings is Friday, February 9, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.**

The RPI rankings may be accessed on the OHSAA website and are updated daily.

The boys rankings are available here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/MaxPreps-RPI/Gender/Boys/Sport/Basketball>

The 2024 girls tournaments brackets are available here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Basketball-Girls/Girls-Basketball-2023-24/2024-Statewide-Tournament-Brackets>

OHSAA Finance Team To Present Review of Fall Tournaments

On Wednesday, February 14, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team led by Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's fall tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate. [Click here to join the meeting](#). For questions, please contact Laura Vermilya at (lvermilya@ohsaa.org).

OHSAA Scholarship Program Information Has Been Emailed to Athletic Administrators

Athletic administrators were emailed information recently 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 includes 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. **Superintendents and principals with questions should see your school's athletic administrator.**

School Enrollment (EMIS) Data Available for Review/Appeal

The Executive Director's Office has notified schools via individualized emails of their proposed enrollment data to be used for placement within tournament divisions for both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years (and for determining school classification for governance purposes). **Schools have until Friday, February 16, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. to review and appeal their numbers** if they believe an error has been made. Once the deadline has passed, no additional appeals will be accepted. **Therefore, it is extremely important you work with your school's EMIS/EAS coordinator to ensure the accuracy of the proposed numbers prior to the appeal deadline.** The proposed numbers and appeal form are located at the following links:

PROPOSED NUMBERS: <https://www.ohsaa.org/school-resources/school-enrollment> *(scroll down the page past a few sections)*

APPEAL FORM: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/AppealsForm2024.pdf>

State Basketball Tournaments Ticketing Information

Athletic administrators were sent information recently about the digital ticketing purchase process for the state girls and boys basketball tournaments. The window for schools to order tickets opened last week. That process has replaced the paper forms schools were sent in the past and is being handled by our digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing.

Each OHSAA member school has access to purchase up to eight (8) all-session tickets for the girls tournament AND eight (8) all-session tickets for the boys tournament before tickets are available to the public. Those eight tickets can be located together. Each school has been provided with ONE presale code that works for both boys and girls tournament tickets. Purchasers have the opportunity to click on and select their seats from a seat map of the University of Dayton Arena. All-session ticket sales will be valid through Friday, March 1, or until your school's presale code has been used to purchase your eight (8) all-session tickets. All-session tickets sales for the public began yesterday, February 5.

Both 2024 state basketball tournaments will again be held at the University of Dayton Arena, with the girls tournament Thursday through Saturday, March 14-16, and the boys tournament Friday through Sunday, March 22-24. For more questions, including the steps to claim tickets, contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager, Claudia Markoff, at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org.

LAST CALL: Time to Update Your Swimming & Diving Emergency Contact Form

This is a reminder that athletic 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>.

First NFL High School Football Officials' 'Crew of the Year' Selected from Ohio

As part of the partnership between the National Football League (NFL) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to help increase recognition and participation of high school football officials, the Cleveland Browns' nominated officiating crew was selected as the first ever NFL High School Football Officials "Crew of the Year." The six-man Ohio crew is made up of referee Mark Smith (Toledo); umpire William "Jake" Smith (Centerburg); head linesman Nate Filkins (New Albany); line judge John Clay (Gahanna); back judge Trevor Lotz (Columbus), and center judge Kurt Schooley (Hilliard).

This first-ever partnership highlighted crews for their demonstration of objectivity, fairness in rules implementation and commitment as high school officials. An NFL selected panel reviewed the nominations and chose the Browns' nominated officiating crew as the "Crew of the Year" for the commitment to high school football they displayed throughout the season. As part of their recognition, the crew was invited to attend the NFL Pro Bowl Games and participate in the Pro Bowl Skills Challenge on February 4 in Orlando, Florida. In continuing the efforts to increase participation and recognition of high school football officials, the Browns have also launched the "Officials Pathway Program" which supports, recognizes and promotes officials at all levels of the game. Through the Browns High School Game of the Week (HSGOTW) program, each official was recognized through the Browns Officials Pathway Program and received branded items.

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.

- **FREE Regional Mental Health Trainings:** 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! Here is a link for more information and to register for the Central Ohio training dates hosted at Hilliard Davidson and Thomas Worthington on March 3 and 4: <https://lifespports.osu.edu/get-involved/lifespports-events/coach-beyond-central-ohio-regional-trainings>. Stay tuned for future dates in other Ohio regions.
- **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!

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 opened yesterday (Monday, February 5). Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within FinalForms. 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, 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, has been mailed. 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 for Spring Sports

Please remind your spring 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 spring 2024 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Baseball	Wed., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 24	Mon., Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Lacrosse (B)	Wed., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 16	Mon., Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Lacrosse (G)	Wed., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 16	Mon., Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Softball	Wed., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 24	Mon., Apr. 15, 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Tennis (B)	Fri., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m.	Fri., Mar. 22	Mon., Apr. 15, 11:59 p.m.	TBD
Track & Field	Fri., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 23	Mon., Apr. 15, 11:59 p.m.	TBD
Volleyball (B)	Wed., Feb. 7, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 16	Mon., Apr. 15, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			

Dick's Sporting Goods Coupon Available

On behalf of the OHSAA, we are proud to present school administrators a 20 percent OFF at all Dick's Sporting Goods locations, which is good from February 9-11. The in-store coupon can be accessed here: [OHSAA Spring Coupon](#). Please read the exclusions on the attachment.

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