



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2024-25 School Year, No. 3

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.

NEW! Three More OHSAA Regional Update Meetings Remain

The OHSAA has three more in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings scheduled this month for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. The three remaining dates and locations are: Wednesday, Sept. 4, **Westerville** (Quest Conference Center, 9:30-12:00*); Tuesday, Sept. 10, **Findlay** (Findlay High School Auditorium, 10:00-12:00), and Thursday, Sept. 12, **Cincinnati** (Princeton High School Matthews Auditorium, 10:00 to 12:00). The meetings are designed to provide updates and reminders on key issues, and attendance is highly recommended. **To register, go to:**

<https://ohsaameetings.hometownticketing.com/embed/all?schools=2>.

NEW! Finance Team to Present Review of 2024 OHSAA Spring Tournaments

On Tuesday, Sept. 17, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team, led by Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya and joined by Executive Director Doug Ute, will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's 2024 spring tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. Use the following link on Sept. 17 at 8:30 a.m. to access the live presentation: <https://bit.ly/Spring24FinRecap>. The meeting will be recorded for those who cannot participate Sept. 17. If you have any questions on connectivity, please contact OHSAA Manager of Membership Services and Compliance Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org).

NEW! OHSAA Board Approves Spring Tournament Division Assignments; Deadline Soon for Schools to Apply to Move to Division I

At its Aug. 29, 2024, regularly scheduled meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved 2025 and 2026 tournament division assignments for the spring sports of boys tennis, boys track & field, girls track and field and boys volleyball, and the 2025 tournament division assignments for the competitive balance sports of baseball and softball. 2025 boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse tournament division assignments were approved in June. Those assignments are available on each sport page on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

For schools requesting to move up to Division I in those sports (newly approved modification to Bylaw 2-1-1), the deadline to apply for that move is quickly approaching and is **Friday, Sept. 13, 2024**. To access the application form, go here:

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

NEW! Southwest District Schools Invited to Attend OHSAA Student Leadership Conference

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Student Leadership Conference will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 22, at Cincinnati Princeton High School's Matthews Auditorium, and administrators from Southwest 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. To register, follow these instructions:

- 1.) Go to www.VikeNation.org/tickets
- 2.) Click on the big red box
- 3.) Then select the "Have a passcode?" option and enter the code "SLC2024"

Note: This code is designed to give you access to the ticket level and is to be entered PRIOR to selecting your ticket

The conference is limited to 1,000 attendees, with a current school limit of 15. For further questions, contact Joe Roberts, athletic administrator at Princeton High School, at joroberts@vikingmail.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 **Doug Ute**, OHSAA Executive Director; **Tom Burton**, an educational consultant; **Hoan Do**, an international speaker, author and ninja; **Shawn Harper**, a former NFL player who is now a business and national speaker; **Rick Metzger**, a former world champion power lifter and current longtime professional speaker **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 conferences and a “high octane” public speaker since 1989 who is CEO of Best, Inc.

NEW! Some Dates in Basketball Calendars in OHSAA Handbook Need Modified

Here are basketball dates that need changed in that sport’s calendar section in the 2024-25 Handbook:

Girls Basketball – 2025-26

Regional should be 2/23-3/1 (NOT 2/23-2/28)

Boys Basketball 2024-25

State Final should be 3/21-3/22 (NOT 3/21-3/23)

Boys Basketball 2025-26

Sectional (Divisions III-VII) should be 2/16-2/21 (NOT 2/26-3/1)

Regional should be 3/2-3/8 (NOT 3/4-3/8)

NEW! Kelly Kovach Schoenly Hired as New OHSAA Sport Administrator

OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute has announced the hiring of Kelly Kovach Schoenly as a new staff sport administrator. She replaces Kate Barnett, who recently resigned. Ms. Schoenly completed her 12th season this past spring as the head softball coach at The Ohio State University. She previously was the head coach at Miami University and an assistant at Michigan, her alma mater, and Penn State. A native of Pittsburgh, Schoenly will administrate the sports of soccer, gymnastics, swimming & diving and a spring sport to be determined.

NEW! Schools Encouraged to Enhance Efforts to Create Better Contest Environments

With the fall season upon us, let’s continue to work together to ensure everyone is displaying proper and appropriate sporting behavior at all times to create better environments for our contests and events. As was mentioned in the last edition of the *Administrator Update*, the OHSAA has developed LOTS of tools that will assist the membership in creating better contest environments. Those tools are available here <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game> and include:

- Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to home games
- Ideas to assist administrators in creating a positive school environment
- Ideas to assist administrators in setting expectations for parents
- Ideas to assist administrators in engaging with student fans
- Ideas to assist administrators in protecting officials
- Ideas to assist administrators in supporting coaches and student-athletes
- Printable sporting behavior posters and banners
- Sporting behavior scripts for public address announcers
- Guidelines for public address announcers
- And more!!!

In addition . . .

- **Public address announcers a play key role in promoting sporting behavior**
 - NFHS Learning Center provides a free course on public address announcing available at: nfhslearn.com/courses/p-a-announcing
- **Plan to take part in Officials and Coaches Appreciation Weeks** (more information to come) The dates are:
 - Fall: October 6-12, 2024
 - Winter: January 12-18, 2025
 - Spring: April 6-12, 2025
 - OHSAA to provide P.A. scripts on website

REMINDERS

Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your coaches that all 10 OHSAA fall sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted in *myOHSAA*, and details will be sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for fall 2024 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Football	Currently Available	Already Started	Tues., Oct. 1, 11:59 PM	Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)
Field Hockey	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 23, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Girls Volleyball	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 23, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 23, 11:59 PM	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Golf	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 9, 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 9, 11:59 PM	John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)
Cross Country	Currently Available	Already Started	Mon., Sept. 23, 11:59 PM	BJ Duckworth (bjduckworth@ohsaa.org)
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			

Athletic Administrators Encouraged to Update Items in FinalForms and myOHSAA; OHSAA Technology Information Update Available

Member school athletic administrators are highly encouraged to login to your FinalForms *and* myOHSAA accounts to ensure all items are appropriately up to date. When updating your information, please utilize these checklists:

High Schools: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/2024-25OHSAAFallChecklist-HS.pdf>

7th-8th Grade Schools: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/2024-25OHSAAFallChecklist-MS.pdf>

In addition, the first quarterly OHSAA Technology Update newsletter for the 2024-25 school year is available by going here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/memos/24-25TechnologyNewsletter-Vol1.pdf>

For questions, contact OHSAA Manager of Membership Services Alexis Holderman at aholderman@ohsaa.org. For general OHSAA technology questions, contact Senior Manager of Eligibility & Technology Ronald Sayers at rsayers@ohsaa.org.

Ohio State Coach Beyond Program Offers Student-Athlete Mental Health Trainings

The Ohio State University's Coach Beyond program has a **FREE** one-hour training session on Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health that is approved for the new PAP requirements in Ohio. Access and instructions for completing the **online training** requirement can be found here through the USCAH platform: <https://uscah.com/cdn/FREE-Coach-Beyond-USCAH-MH-Training-QR-2.pdf>. Want an **in-person training** from Coach Beyond at your district? Reach out to coach_beyond@osu.edu to start scheduling! For upcoming Coach Beyond events around the state, go here: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/get-involved/lifesports-events/>.

About Coach Beyond: In 2021, the OHSAA and LiFEsports at The Ohio State University started collaborative work to change the landscape of coach training and education in Ohio. Ultimately, this partnership grew into a statewide initiative known as Coach Beyond. Over the last three years, a team of coaches, athletic administrators, OHSAA administrators and LiFEsports leaders set out to audit coaching education, conduct a statewide needs assessment, design and pilot trainings and ultimately train 15,000 coaches by June 2024. This goal has been reached, with 19,000 coaches receiving this training. To learn more about Coach Beyond, please visit this website: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/>.

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminders

Administrators are reminded to make sure that **ALL** fall and winter student-athletes are scheduled for at least five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7th-8th grade level. If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the first grading period this fall, they will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the second grading period. For schools on quarters, this likely will fall toward the end of your fall season, rendering these athletes ineligible for the rest of the season. **Check your student-athlete schedules and work with your guidance counselor to ensure this does not happen!** For questions, contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) from our eligibility staff.

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