



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

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ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2024-25 School Year, No. 4

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.

IMPORTANT! Let's Work Together 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 has been mentioned in previous editions 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!!!

Crowd Engagement Tip: Check out this video from Keith Myers, the athletic administrator at Logan High School, explaining how to teach positive and appropriate fan cheers to students before game days: [Coach Beyond: Promoting Positive Fan Engagement](#).

Help Wanted → Innovative Sporting Behavior Programs

We want to hear from you! What have you implemented that has been positive in creating a better environment for contests and events? What new and/or innovative idea has your league or conference implemented that has resulted in better contest environments? What about something you have seen at another school that has made a difference? Please share ideas and information with the OHSAA by emailing Bob Goldring at bgoldring@ohsaa.org.

Take Part in Officials Appreciation Week → Plan to Recognize Fall Sports Contest Officials October 6-12

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. Mark your calendars the week of October 6-12, 2024, for OHSAA Fall 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 during the week as well as use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. Please tag @OHSAASports on Twitter and show us what your school is doing to show our officials love. Thank you for your participation! Additional OHSAA Officials Appreciation Weeks will be January 12-18, 2025, and April 6-12, 2025.

More Help Available → NFHS #BenchBadBehavior Toolkits

Get free National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) resources to proactively address bad behavior at your athletic events! The NFHS #BenchBad Behavior toolkit includes a player-parent contract, printable flyer, program ads, social media templates, videos and more! The toolkits are available here: <https://benchbadbehavior.com>.



Let's Make It a Priority!

NEW! HomeTown Ticketing Guidance: Preventing Adults from Using Student Tickets

With the new state law effective October 24 that requires schools to offer a student ticket that is less than the adult price, here is guidance for schools using HomeTown Ticketing to prevent adults from using student tickets:

- 1.) When creating ticket levels, schools have the option to include color borders on the tickets. Having a different color for adults and students will help identify who is entering with what specific ticket. The color you select for each level will be seen around the QR code.
- 2.) When creating ticket levels, be sure to label the student ticket "STUDENT" and the adult ticket "ADULT." This will also help your gate workers who are scanning tickets clearly identify whether the user is a student or adult.
- 3.) For larger events, consider creating separate lines for students and adults. This will necessitate the use of signage outside your gates, and you may also consider purchasing tensabarriers with stanchions.

NEW! Schools Asked to Report Student Catastrophic Situations to OHSAA and NCCSIR

The OHSAA reminds school administrators of their reporting obligations when an unforeseen catastrophic situation occurs with a student-athlete at your school. First, please report the incident to OHSAA Senior Sport Administrator Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org), who oversees sports medicine/healthy lifestyles issues within the office. She will help ensure the proper OHSAA staff members involve the Association's catastrophic insurance carrier and will inform the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). School administrators are also asked to report their catastrophic situation with the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR) at www.sportinjuryreport.org. The NCCSIR, a research center that has tracked fatalities and catastrophic high school sports injuries in the United States since 1982, is directed by Kristen Kucera, Ph.D., at the University of North Carolina. Catastrophic athletic injuries, illnesses and medical conditions are defined as: 1.) Fatalities; 2.) Permanent disability injuries; 3.) Serious injuries (fractured spine/neck or serious head injury), even though the athlete has fully recovered; 4.) Temporary or transient paralysis (athlete has no movement for a short time but has a complete recovery); 5.) Heat stroke or exertional sickling due to exercise, and 6.) Sudden cardiac arrest or death in an athlete (even if not directly related to athletics).

For more information, including the NCCSIR's most recent reports, go to:

<https://nccsir.unc.edu/reports/>

NEW! OHSAA Regional Update Meeting PowerPoint Presentation Available Soon

The Executive Director's Office would like to thank all administrators who attended the fall OHSAA Regional Update Meetings. For those who were unable to attend or those who would like to see the presentation again, the PowerPoint presentation that was shown during the meetings will be posted soon on the OHSAA website. Scroll down to **Regional Meeting Updates** after you go to:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>.

NEW! Fall Sports Tournament Dates

With tournament season just around the corner for fall sports, here are some key upcoming dates:

Golf

Draw/Seed Meeting – completed
Sectional Trnts. – Sept. 18-28
District Trnts. (Div. III) – Sept. 30-Oct. 5
District Trnts. (Div. II) – Sept. 30-Oct. 7
District Trnts. (Div. I) – Sept. 30-Oct. 8
State Trnt. (Div. III) – Oct. 11-12
State Trnt. (Div. II) – Oct. 13-14
State Trnt. (Div. I) – Oct. 14-15

Girls Tennis

Draw/Seed Meeting – Sept. 22
Sectional Trnts. – Sept. 30-Oct. 5
District Trnts. – Oct. 7-12
State Trnts. – Oct. 17-18

Cross Country

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 6
District Trnt. – Oct. 19
7th-8th Grade Invitational – Oct. 20
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 26
State Trnts. – Nov. 2

Field Hockey

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 6
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 14-26
State Semifinals – Oct. 31
State Final – Nov. 2

Soccer

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 6
Sectional Trnts. – Oct. 15-19
District Trnts. – Oct. 22-26
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 29-Nov. 2
State Semifinals – Nov. 5-6
State Finals – Nov. 8-11

Girls Volleyball

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 6
Sectionals Trnts. – Oct. 14-19
District Trnts. – Oct. 21-26
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 28-Nov. 2
State Semifinals – Nov. 7-8
State Finals – Nov. 8-9

Football

Trnt. Pairings Announced – Oct. 27
Regional First Round – Nov. 1
Regional Quarterfinals – Nov. 8
Regional Semifinals – Nov. 15
Regional Finals – Nov. 22
State Semifinals – Nov. 29
State Finals – Dec. 5-7

NEW! OHSAA State Tournament Dates and Locations

Golf (Division III) – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11-12: NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury
Golf (Division II) – Sunday and Monday, Oct. 13-14: Firestone Country Club, Akron
Golf (Division I) – Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 14-15: NCR Country Club, Kettering
Girls Tennis – Thursday and Friday, Oct. 17-18: The College of Wooster
Cross Country – Saturday, Nov. 2: Fortress Obetz, Obetz
Field Hockey – Thursday, Oct. 31 (Semifinals) and Saturday, Nov. 2 (Finals): Thomas Worthington High School
Soccer – Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 5-6 (girls Tuesday, boys Wednesday) and Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9 (girls), and Sunday and Monday, Nov. 10-11 (boys): Semifinals at Statewide Neutral Sites, Finals at Historic Crew Stadium, Columbus
Girls Volleyball – Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 7-9: Semifinals Nov. 7 and 8 and either Nutter Center, Wright State University, Dayton, or Vandalia Butler, Kettering Fairmont or Clayton Northmont High Schools; Finals Nov. 8-9 at Nutter Center
Football – Friday, Nov. 29 (Semifinals) and Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 5-7: Semifinals at Statewide Neutral Sites; Finals at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, Canton

NEW! OHSAA August Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available

Here is the link to the minutes from the August 29, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Regular Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2024-25/20240829BoardMinutes.pdf>

Please feel free to share these meeting minutes links with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in them.

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	Date Has Passed	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Currently Available	Already Started	Date Has Passed	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			

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 jroberts@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.

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 20,000+ coaches receiving this training. To learn more about Coach Beyond, please visit this website: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/>.

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