



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**  
2024-25 School Year, No. 10



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.

## **Let's Make Sporting Behavior A Priority!**

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 are some tools to assist in creating positive environments for your contests or events:

- **A 6:30 NFHS video called *The Parent Seat*, an excellent resource to show at parent meetings that explains their role of during game day and provides suggestions on how they can cope with the roller coaster of emotions that they will feel –**  
<https://nfhslearn.com/library/videos/the-parent-seat>
- **Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to home basketball games –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/PregameStudentScript.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in creating a positive school environment –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SchoolEnvironment.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in setting expectations for parents –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/ParentExpectations.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in engaging with student fans –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/EngagingStudentFans.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in protecting officials –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/ProtectingOfficials.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in supporting coaches and student-athletes –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SupportingCoachesStudentAthletes.pdf>
- **Printable sporting behavior posters and banners –**  
<https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game/Posters-and-Banners>
- **Sporting behavior scripts for public address announcers –**  
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SportsmanshipPublicAddressScripts.pdf>
- **Guidelines for public address announcers –**  
<https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game/Public-Address-Announcer-Guidelines>

## **Plan to Recognize Winter Sports Contest Officials January 12-18**

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. The week of Jan. 12-18, 2025, is OHSAA Winter Sports Officials Appreciation Week. We ask that athletic administrators show your appreciation and respect for our officials, who give their time to contribute to the experience our student-athletes receive in education-based athletics, by reading the OHSAA-provided script before ALL games that week as well as use your social media accounts. The scripts are available here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/OfficialsAppreciationWeekScript.pdf> 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. 6-12, 2025.

### **NEW! OHSAA Scholarship Program Information Coming Soon**

Athletic administrators will be receiving information next 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, this year's process will again include the school administrator emailing student candidates directly with the application information.

### **NEW! OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Change to Football All-Star Game Participation Regulation**

At a special meeting held December 5 while together for the OHSAA state football finals in Canton, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a modification to Football Regulation 6.2 that now permits underclass students to participate in all-star games one time per year. The regulation now reads as follows: "In the sport of football, athletes may participate in one 'All-Star' contact football competition after the conclusion of the season, subject to reporting to the Executive Director's Office. Graduating seniors are exempt from the one game limit for All-Star contests, though discretion is advised for contests played in excess of one All-Star game." **The modification is effective immediately.** The previous regulation only permitted graduating seniors or a student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current semester to participate in 'All-Star' Games.

### **NEW! Have a Team Traveling Out-of-State? Don't Forget . . .**

Administrators are reminded that schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in contests and/or practices in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval of the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. If such approval is given, it is the sole discretion of the school as to whether the team/individual is permitted to miss school time. Schools must complete the form from the following link when they are participating in a non-contiguous state: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>.

The penalty for traveling to a non-bordering location to compete in contests on more than one occasion shall be ineligibility for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved. Further, the offending school could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. A school which travels to a non-bordering location without approval from the Executive Director's Office shall be subject to a fine and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

**Please review Bylaw 9 for complete information on out-of-state travel.**

### **NEW! Mark the Date: OHSAA Fall Tournaments Financial Review is January 28**

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, 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 fall tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. Look for a link in the next *OHSAA Administrator Update* to access the live presentation.

### **NEW! OHSAA December Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Available**

Here is the link to the minutes from the December 5, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2024-25/20241205BoardMinutesSpecial.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.

### **NEW! 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](mailto:coach_beyond@osu.edu) to start scheduling!

**Coach Beyond Webinar: Fostering a Positive Environment for Female Athletes:** On November 20, LiFEsports, the OHSAA and Dayton Public Schools partnered to host a webinar on creating a positive environment for female athletes. Dr. Dawn Anderson-Butcher and Victoria Jones sat down with **Head Coach Tamika Williams-Jeter** (University of Dayton Women's Basketball) to talk about creating a positive team environment to allow female athletes to thrive.

**Watch it here:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnKoQzo\\_WIQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnKoQzo_WIQ)

**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 23,500-plus coaches receiving this training. To learn more about Coach Beyond, please visit this website: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/>.

## REMINDERS

### **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 in FinalForms, and details are sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Below is a schedule for winter 2025 sports. **Please pay close attention to the end date of each meeting. Any school that has not completed the required state rules meeting by the applicable date will be removed from the OHSAA tournament for that sport:**

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
<b>Basketball</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:59 p.m.	Doug Ute ( <a href="mailto:dute@ohsaa.org">dute@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Bowling</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason ( <a href="mailto:emason@ohsaa.org">emason@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:59 p.m.	Kelly Schoenly ( <a href="mailto:kschoenly@ohsaa.org">kschoenly@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:59 p.m.	John Kronour ( <a href="mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org">jkronour@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Swim/Dive</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 20 at 11:59 p.m.	Kelly Schoenly ( <a href="mailto:kschoenly@ohsaa.org">kschoenly@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Wrestling</b>	Now Available	Late Fee Has Begun	Mon., Jan. 27 at 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton ( <a href="mailto:mbritton@ohsaa.org">mbritton@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Late Fee Begins</b>	Day after first date of competition			

### **State Principals Association (OASSA) Accepting 2025 Principal-of-the-Year and Assistant Principal-of-the-Year Nominees in Each Zone**

The Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) is accepting nominations for 2025 principal-of-the-year and assistant principal-of-the-year for Ohio middle and secondary schools. The awards program has been expanded this year to represent all 10 OASSA zones in Ohio, which will result in a more robust and diverse group of nominees. To nominate a principal, go here: <https://forms.gle/7fdSA9mEfhFpt4HZ7>. Nominations will be accepted by other administrators, school board members, state associations, teachers, staff members, community members or students and are due by Dec. 31, 2024. For questions, go to [www.oassa.org](http://www.oassa.org).

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