



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2024-25 School Year, No. 16

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! Current List of 2025 Referendum Issues Available

The OHSAA Board of Directors has currently approved recommendations from the Executive Director's Office to place nine items (one Constitution, eight Bylaws) up for referendum vote of the membership for 2025. Member school principals will vote upon these issues between May 1 and 15. A few additional referendum items to place before the membership may be approved by the Board later this week. Details on the current approved referendum issues are posted here:

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

IMPORTANT! 2025 Athletic Discussion Meeting Sites and Dates Set

The 2025 OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings dates and locations for the six meetings are listed below. OHSAA Director of Compliance Kristin Ronai will review the 2025 referendum issues and Executive Director Doug Ute will discuss a few topics of current interest to administrators involved with or interested in the school's interscholastic athletics program. Meetings will last approximately two hours, and there is no cost to attend. The meetings are intended for superintendents, high school principals, high school athletic administrators, 7th-8th grade principals and city supervisors. Attendance by at least one school administrator is highly encouraged. Here is the link to register: <https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>. An email will be returned to inform you that your registration has been received. Here are the sites and dates for the 2025 OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings:

- **Northeast** — **Tuesday, April 8 – 10:00 a.m.**, Streetsboro High School Auditorium
- **Southwest** — **Thursday, April 10 - 10:00 a.m.**, Clayton Northmont Community Auditorium
- **Southeast** — **Tuesday, April 22 – 10:00 a.m.**, Logan High School Auditorium
- **East** — **Thursday, April 24 – 1:30 p.m.**, Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, Cambridge
- **Central** — **Monday, April 28– 10:00 a.m.**, Quest Conference Center, Westerville
- **Northwest** — **Wednesday, April 30 – 9:00 a.m.**, Camden Falls Reception & Conference Center, Tiffin

NEW! Tickets Remain on Sale for OHSAA Boys State Basketball Championship Games

Tickets remain on sale for the upcoming OHSAA Boy State Basketball Finals, which will be held Friday and Saturday (March 21-22) at the University of Dayton Arena. Tickets must be purchased online through the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing, by going to <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets>. For questions, contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager Claudia Markoff at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org. Pairings, dates and times for the tournament are available here:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Basketball-Boys/Boys-Basketball-2024-25/2025-Boys-Basketball-State-Tournament-Coverage>.

NEW! Don't Believe Everything You Read: Basketball Non-Interscholastic Team Participation Numbers Have NOT Changed

Contrary to messages that have been posted on social media recently, OHSAA General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, the number of students permitted to participate on non-interscholastic teams prior to and after the school team's season, has not changed and remains at **three (3)** in the sport of basketball. That means only **three (3)** students who were enrolled at the same school and/or participated in basketball at that same school in the preceding season may participate with a non-interscholastic program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices. Students on the non-interscholastic team who participated in that sport at another school in the preceding season and transferred or matriculated to the same school must be included in that number. Rotating players from the same team is not permitted. **More reminders on basketball out-of-season regulations appear later in this newsletter.**

REMINDERS

OHSAA Board Approves Recommendation to Change Start Date for May Activities

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2025, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office that slightly modifies some May dates surrounding activities in team sports. Coaching and/or instruction by the school's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball for any number of students from their teams in excess of the limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3 for a maximum of 13 days has been permissible from May 15 through July 31 (General Sports Regulation 7.5.1, 13-Day Rule). **The Board-approved modification moves the start date for the 13-day coaching period to begin on the Monday of that mid-May week, which in 2025 is May 12.**

Additionally, modifying the start date in General Sports Regulation 7.5.1, 13-Day Rule, would also mean other OHSAA General Sports Regulations would need modified as follows:

- 1.) 7.3.1, Note a.) — The team limit would not be in effect for the sports of basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball from **May 12 (2025) to July 31** when a non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are participating.
- 2.) 7.10.1, Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction — From **August 1 through May 11 (2025)** in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no-contact periods from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3.
- 3.) 7.10.2, Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction — From **May 12 (2025) through July 31** in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3.

OHSAA Board Approves Recommendation to Change 2025-26 Start Dates in Golf and Wrestling

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 20, 2025, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office to modify the start dates for coaching and contests in golf and wrestling for the 2025-26 school year as follows:

- Golf coaching and tryouts and the start of the season for competition will be the last Monday in July for the foreseeable future, which will be July 28 in 2025.
- With Christmas Day and New Year's Day on Thursdays in 2025, wrestling coaching and tryouts will be Friday, November 14, 2025, and the start of the season for competition will be Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Basketball Out-of-Season Reminders

School coaches are permitted to coach non-school teams (AAU, AYBT, GYB, etc.) outside the season with players from your school teams on it. Before they coach and have voluntary practice outside the season, read these regulations that must be followed:

- 1.) The No-Contact Period must be followed. It still exists and means that your school coach will NOT be permitted to coach starting with the first day after the school's last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later. This means that no coach, paid or volunteer and approved by the Board of Education, shall coach or provide skill instruction to team members in the sport of basketball during this no-contact period. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition. A second No-Contact Period for basketball exists each year from August 1-31.
- 2.) General Sports Regulation 7-3-1 indicates the number of team members that can participate together on a non-interscholastic team. In place since August 1, 2022, a non-interscholastic team may now have three (3) players that played for the same school team. Whether a school coach or a non-school coach is coaching a non-school team, only three players from the same school team are permitted.
- 3.) There can be no rotating players from your school teams from one non-school game to another. In other words, a team that consists of three players from your school does NOT mean that non-school team can use three different players in each game in which it plays or cannot move players in and out of that same non-school team from one weekend to the next. This is true whether or not the school coach is coaching the non-school team.

For more details, please review OHSAA General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, which can be accessed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>.

Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period 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 is currently open. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within FinalForms. The deadline to submit basketball roster data is **Friday, April 4, 2025**. **ALL** schools that compete in varsity basketball contests must submit

their roster data by that date. All other winter sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. 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 in FinalForms, and details are sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for spring 2025 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Baseball	Currently Available	Sat., Mar. 29, 12:00 a.m.	Mon., Apr. 28, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Lacrosse (B)	Currently Available	Sat., Mar. 22, 12:00 a.m.	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Lacrosse (G)	Currently Available	Sat., Mar. 22, 12:00 a.m.	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Softball	Currently Available	Sun., Mar. 23, 12:00 a.m.	Tue., Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Tennis (B)	Currently Available	Sat., Mar. 29, 12:00 a.m.	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)
Track & Field	Currently Available	Sun., Mar. 30, 12:00 a.m.	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	BJ Duckworth (bjduckworth@ohsaa.org)
Volleyball (B)	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition			

2025 Spring Sports Schedules

Spring practices have started. Here is a calendar of important dates for the OHSAA's spring sports season:

Baseball

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, Feb. 24
 Scrimmages and/or Previews with Other Schools – 4 after practice begins
 First Contest – Friday, March 28
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, April 7

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, Feb. 17
 Scrimmages with Other Schools – 3 after practice begins
 First Contest – Friday, March 21
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, March 31

Softball

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, Feb. 17
 Scrimmages with Other Schools – 4 after practice begins (or 3
 scrimmages and 1 preview)
 First Contest – Saturday, March 22
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Saturday, March 22

Boys Tennis

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, March 10
 Scrimmages with Other Schools – 1 after practice begins but
 before first contest
 First Contest – Friday, March 28
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, April 14

Track & Field

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, Feb. 24
 Scrimmages with Other Schools – none permitted
 First Contest – Saturday, March 29
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, May 5

Boys Volleyball

Coaching, tryouts and Instruction – Began Monday, Feb. 24
 Scrimmages and/or Previews with Other Schools – 6 after practice begins
 First Contest – Began Friday, March 14
 Non-Interscholastic Deadline Date – Monday, March 31

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!

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/>.

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