



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

## **ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE**

2024-25 School Year, No. 18

**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! Athletic Discussion Meetings Continue**

Four more OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings will be held this month, with the dates and sites listed below. OHSAA Associate Executive Director 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. The sites and dates for the remaining meetings are:

- **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

Details on the 2025 referendum issues are posted here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/referendum-voting>.

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

Here is a link to the minutes from March 21, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2024-25/20250321BoardMinutes-Special.pdf>.

Please feel free to share this link with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in the board minutes.

### **NEW! Mark the Date: OHSAA Winter Tournaments Financial Review is May 1**

On Thursday, May 1, 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 2025 winter tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. Here is a link to access the live presentation: <https://bit.ly/4i4W8sx>.

### **NEW! April is Sports Eye Safety Month—Gear Up and Be More Super!**

Every year, over 22,000 youth under 18 go to the emergency room for eye injuries, and many of those happen while playing sports. **This is preventable.** You can reduce the risk of hurting your eyes by at least 90 percent by wearing protective gear. And kids play their best – and with more confidence – when their eyes are safe and they're not afraid of getting hit by the ball.

Superspecs is an Ohio-based program that offers free, protective eye equipment to kids across the state. **Applications open on July 1 for the 2025-26 school year.** This gear is GOOD and it goes FAST, so mark your calendars so you don't miss out. Learn more at

[www.superspecs.org](http://www.superspecs.org).

### **NEW! Courses Available to Help Coaches with Student-Athlete Mental Health**

In an effort to help student-athletes who are dealing with stress, depression and anxiety concerns, two on-line courses are available for coaches to assist their student-athletes. The Coach Beyond program, which is part of The Ohio State University LiFEsports program and an OHSAA partner, offers a one-hour course designed to increase awareness of student-athletes' wellness needs and common signs and symptoms of mental health concerns. Participants attending this training will learn practical strategies to integrate into their daily practices and resources to link and refer student-athletes to mental health supports in their schools and communities. To learn more, go to: <https://osucosw.catalog.instructure.com/courses/coach-beyond-supporting-student-athlete-mental-health-nonceu>.

In addition, the National Federation of State high School Associations (NFHS) has launched a new course titled “Coaching Mental Wellness.” This free course is available on the NFHS Learning Center at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/coaching-mental-wellness> and was created to help coaches support students with issues they are facing on and off the fields and courts. The course highlights various strategies to deal with mental health issues in a positive manner.

**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. We are excited to share that [LiFEsports at The Ohio State University](https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/), in partnership with the OHSAA, has reached this goal, training 15,000 coaches to go beyond the X's and O's! Congratulations to everyone on the state team, LiFEsports and the OHSAA. To learn more about Coach Beyond, please go to: <https://lifesports.osu.edu/coach-beyond/about-coach-beyond/>.

## REMINDERS

### OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Application Deadlines Approaching

The OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Program application process is well underway, and the application timeline is below. The submission deadline for student candidates has passed, and the deadline for school counselors to complete their part of the application is quickly approaching. The OHSAA and its six District Athletic Boards annually award \$200,000 in college scholarships to 200 high school graduates after selections are made by each of the OHSAA’s six District Athletic Boards. Each of the 200 recipients will receive a one-time, non-renewable \$1,000 award. Here is the scholarship application timeline:

- **Tuesday, April 29, 2025** – Deadline for school counselors to submit their portion of the applications
- **Thursday, May 1, 2025** – Spring sport addendum entry/update opens
- **Monday, June 16, 2025** – Deadline for spring sport addendums to be submitted

### 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, and deadlines for completing rules meetings are quickly approaching. Rules meetings have been posted in Final Forms, 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	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 28, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason ( <a href="mailto:emason@ohsaa.org">emason@ohsaa.org</a> )
Lacrosse (B)	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton ( <a href="mailto:mbritton@ohsaa.org">mbritton@ohsaa.org</a> )
Lacrosse (G)	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Monroe Britton ( <a href="mailto:mbritton@ohsaa.org">mbritton@ohsaa.org</a> )
Softball	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Tue., Apr. 22, 11:59 p.m.	Kelly Schoenly ( <a href="mailto:kschoenly@ohsaa.org">kschoenly@ohsaa.org</a> )
Tennis (B)	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	John Kronour ( <a href="mailto:jkronour@ohsaa.org">jkronour@ohsaa.org</a> )
Track & Field	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	BJ Duckworth ( <a href="mailto:bjduckworth@ohsaa.org">bjduckworth@ohsaa.org</a> )
Volleyball (B)	Currently Available	Has Already Begun	Mon., Apr. 21, 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason ( <a href="mailto:emason@ohsaa.org">emason@ohsaa.org</a> )
<b>Late Fee Begins</b>	Day after first date of competition			

### OHSAA District Athletic Board Election Process

Administrators have recently received a separate email that explains the process to submit nominations for expired or unexpired OHSAA District Athletic Board positions and also shows the specific positions available for their particular school. Nominating petitions for these positions must be completed through *myOHSAA* by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30. Voting for these positions will take place between May 1 and 15, with terms officially beginning on August 1, 2025, and running through the specified date.

Expiring terms are: **Central District**, Class AAA representative and female representative; **East District**, Class AAA representative and ethnic-minority representative; **Northeast District**, Class AA representative and 7th-8th grade representative; **Northwest District**, Class AA representative and female representative; **Southeast District**, Class A representative and ethnic-minority representative, and **Southwest District**, Class A representative and 7th-8th grade representative. The three unexpired terms are: **Central District**, Class A representative, term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026; **Northeast District**, Class AA representative, term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, and **Southwest District**, Class AA representative, term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2027.

For more information on the election process, **prospective candidates should read articles 7-2-1 through 7-9-1 of the OHSAA Constitution** (pages 28-29 of the 2024-25 *OHSAA Handbook*), which can be accessed here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf>.

## **2025-26 Pre-Participation Physical Exam (PPE) Forms Available**

The Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2025-26 school year is available on the OHSAA website. The latest version is accessible here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/physicalexamform>.

The PPE form is authorized by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine (JACSM), which reviews potential changes to the form each winter. The form was originally developed for youth student-athletes by the American Academy of Pediatrics. A Spanish version of the history portion of the form will also be included on the OHSAA website. The medical clearance must be completed once every 13 months and kept on file at the school indefinitely. **Although use of the OHSAA-adopted PPE is not required (for example, a school via its Board policy could accept another type of physical exam), signing all four consent forms is required before a student may commence any athletic participation in a member school.** In Ohio, a physician (MD, DO), a doctor of chiropractic (DC), a physician's assistant (PA) and an advanced practice nurse (APN) are eligible to complete the exam and sign the form.

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