



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, April 29, 2025

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2024-25 School Year, No. 19

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! Referendum Voting Begins Thursday and Continues Through May 15

Voting begins Thursday, May 1, for the 2025 OHSAA referendum issues. Member school principals have until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, to vote on the 13 OHSAA items, two of which are Constitution proposals and 11 that are Bylaws. Voting will take place in *myOHSAA*. Principals are encouraged to confer with their superintendents/heads of school and athletic administrators about the proposals before casting their votes. To review the 2025 OHSAA referendum items, go to:

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

As a reminder, voting is required via Constitution Article 8-1-9, although principals have the option to abstain on any issues while completing their ballot.

NEW! District Athletic Board Voting Also Begins Thursday and Continues Through May 15

Voting also begins Thursday, May 1, for OHSAA District Athletic Board positions. Member school principals have until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, to vote for expiring or interim positions that are open on their respective District Athletic Boards. Principals will vote for candidates running for positions in their classification within their district only and/or any at-large positions within their district. Nominating petitions for these positions must be completed through *myOHSAA* by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30. Terms officially begin on August 1, 2025, and run through the specified date.

Expiring terms are: **Central District**, Class AAA representative (Mark Shively, incumbent) and female representative (Pam Bosser, incumbent); **East District**, Class AAA representative (John Harris, incumbent) and ethnic-minority representative (Angelita Forte, incumbent); **Northeast District**, Class AA representative (Randy Tevepaugh, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Jim Penk, incumbent); **Northwest District**, Class AA representative (Jay Selgo, incumbent) and female representative (Brenda Frankart, incumbent); **Southeast District**, Class A representative (Tony Deem, incumbent) and ethnic-minority representative (Joe Turner, incumbent), and **Southwest District**, Class A representative (Andy Bixler, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Paul Stone, incumbent). The three unexpired terms are: **Central District**, Class A representative (Lindsey Smith, 2024-25 interim), term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026; **Northeast District**, Class AA representative (Dan May, 2024-25 interim), term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, and **Southwest District**, Class AA representative (Tom Nerl, 2024-25 interim), 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>.

NEW! If Hosting an OHSAA Spring Tournament Contest, the NFHS Network Has Exclusivity

The NFHS Network has exclusive live video streaming rights to OHSAA postseason tournament events this spring. A contest covered by the NFHS Network can have no other live video productions, including live TV and live video streaming. Delayed video is permitted of the same contest if the facility can accommodate the request. In some cases, OHSAA tournament contests that are not streamed by the NFHS Network could be available for live video coverage (TV and streaming) at the discretion of the OHSAA, which would require payment of a rights fee. If your school is hosting an OHSAA tournament contest and you have a request by someone besides the NFHS Network to televise or video stream the contest live, please contact OHSAA Director of Media Relations Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org; 614-267-2502, ext. 124) to see if the request can be granted.

NEW! 2025-26 and 2026-27 Basketball Calendar Set

At its regularly scheduled meeting last Thursday, April 24, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved modified basketball dates for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years. As part of the change, the state girls and boys basketball tournaments will return to a format that will include the semifinals and finals all being held within a three- or four-day period, with all finals remaining at the University of Dayton and all semifinals at the University of Dayton or other sites in the Dayton area. The starting date for regular season contests will remain the same as previously published for the 2025-26 season, so eliminating an extra week for the state semifinals means

schools will have an extra week to schedule regular season games prior to the start of OHSAA tournaments. In 2026-27, the start of the regular season will be a week later, so that extra week in the regular season will no longer be available. Tournament draw dates have also been modified. Here are the dates for the next two years:

| <u>Girls Basketball</u> | <u>2025-26</u> | <u>2026-27</u> | <u>Boys Basketball</u> | <u>2025-26</u> | <u>2026-27</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Coaching | 10/24 | 10/30 | Coaching | 10/31 | 11/6 |
| Season Starts | 11/21 | 11/25 (Wed.) | Season Starts | 11/26 (Wed.) | 12/4 |
| Draws | 2/8 (III-VII) 2/15 (I-II) | 2/7 (III-VII) 2/14 (I-II) | Draws | 2/15 (III-VII) 2/22 (I-II) | 2/14 (III-VII) 2/21 (I-II) |
| Sectional (III-VII) | 2/16-2/21 | 2/15-2/20 | Sectional (III-IV) | 2/23-2/28 | 2/22-2/27 |
| District | 2/23-2/28 | 2/22-2/27 | District | 3/2-3/7 | 3/1-3/6 |
| Regional | 3/2-3/8 | 3/1-3/7 | Regional | 3/9-3/15 | 3/8-3/14 |
| State Tournament | 3/12-3/14 | 3/11-3/13 | State Tournament | 3/19-3/21 or 22 | 3/18-3/20 or 21 |

NEW! OHSAA Board Approves Fall Tournament Representation, Division Assignments and Preliminary Information for Winter Tournaments

At its April 24 regularly scheduled meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved 2025 tournament divisional assignments for the Competitive Balance sport of football; 2025 tournament representation and divisional assignments for the Competitive Balance sports of girls volleyball, boys soccer and girls soccer, and 2025 tournament representation and divisional assignments for boys cross country, girls cross country and girls tennis. Cross country was updated for the second year of the two-year cycle since a fourth tournament division has been added. And even though this is the second year of a two-year cycle for girls tennis, representation was recalculated since one school opted up to Division I in 2024, but that same school chose to remain in Division II in 2025.

The Board also approved the 2026 preliminary tournament representation and divisional assignments for the Competitive Balance sports of girls basketball and boys basketball along with 2026 tournament representation and divisional assignments for boys bowling; girls bowling; boys swimming & diving; girls swimming and diving, and boys wrestling. Even though this is the second year of a two-year cycle for the latter five sports, the Board could still approve some modifications to the representation and divisional assignments once the deadline is met for schools to request to move to a higher division in those individual sports should the referendum item on that issue pass during the May 1-15 voting period. Additionally, changes could also occur in girls basketball or boys basketball should a school(s) decide to move to Division I.

Tournament divisions and representation are based on the schools that competed in the tournament the previous year, and the data includes their OHSAA Board of Directors-approved tournament enrollment from the most recent cycle of the EMIS count (October 2023). While the EMIS counts are used for a two-year period, tournament representation and divisional assignments are also approved for a two-year period other than the eight Competitive Balance sports, where tournament representation and divisional assignments are revised annually. **Note:** All the approved information will be posted on the OHSAA website in the near future.

REMINDERS

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, 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>.

OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Application Deadline for School Counselors is TODAY

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 **by the end of today**. 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

Start Date for May Activities has Changed

In February, 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.

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.

OHSAA Board Resolution for Membership Cards

The OHSAA Constitution requires the board of education or similar governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing its schools that were members during the 2024-25 school year to continue membership for the 2025-26 school year. The OHSAA Board Resolution Card, which requires a signature from the governing body's president and superintendent/head of school, were recently mailed. Please read the instructions that accompany the card, complete the required items and return the card to the OHSAA office using the pre-stamped envelope provided **no later than June 30, 2025**. For questions, please contact Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org).

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