



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2024-25 School Year, No. 20

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! Mark The Date: OHSAA Student Leadership Conference is October 7 in Akron

The annual OHSAA Student Leadership conference will take place on Tuesday, October 7, at Firestone Community Learning Center in Akron. Student-athletes, coaches, administrators and staff from the northeast district are invited to attend this event. Registration will be available at a later date.

Hosted by the Akron Public Schools, this free conference will offer valuable leadership insights and networking opportunities. Attendance is limited to 1,000 participants, with a maximum of 15 attendees from each school. Here are additional details:

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025

Site: Auditorium, Firestone Community Learning Center, 470 Castle Blvd., Akron, OH 44313

Check-in: 9:30 a.m.

Conference: 9:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch: Provided at no cost

Contact: Joe Vassalotti, Coordinator of Secondary Education and Athletic Administrator, Akron Public Schools (jvassalo@apslearn.org)

NEW! Referendum and District Athletic Board Voting Continue Through Thursday (May 15)

Voting on the 2025 OHSAA referendum issues ends Thursday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. Member school principals are voting in *myOHSAA* on the 13 OHSAA items, two of which are Constitution proposals and 11 that are Bylaws. 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.

Voting also ends Thursday at 4:00 p.m. for OHSAA District Athletic Board positions. Member school principals are voting for candidates in positions in their classification within their district only and/or any at-large positions within their district. 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.

Referendum and DAB positions voting results will both be posted on the OHSAA website Friday, May 16.

NEW! Spring Sports Dates

Baseball

Sectionals: May 19-24; **Districts:** May 26-31; **Regionals:** June 4-5; **State:** June 12-15 at Canal Park, Akron, and Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium, Canton

Statewide Brackets: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Baseball/2025-Baseball/2025-Statewide-Tournament-Brackets>

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse

Regional Qualifying: May 15-24; **Regional Semifinals and Finals:** May 26-31; **State Semifinal:** June 3-4; **State Finals:** Girls - June 7 and Boys June 8 at Historic Crew Stadium, Columbus

Boys Statewide Brackets: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Lacrosse-Boys/2025-Boys-Lacrosse/2025-Boys-Lacrosse-Tournament-Coverage>

Girls Statewide Brackets: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Lacrosse-Girls/2025-Girls-Lacrosse/2025-Girls-Lacrosse-Tournament-Coverage>

Softball

Sectionals: May 10-17; **Districts:** May 19-24; **Regionals:** May 28-31; **State:** June 4-8, Firestone Stadium, Akron

Statewide Brackets: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Softball/2025-Softball/2025-Statewide-Tournament-Brackets>

Boys Tennis*

Sectionals: May 12-17; **Districts:** May 19-24; **State:** May 29-30, The College of Wooster

Track & Field*

7th-8th Grade Championship: May 17, Hilliard Darby High School; **Districts:** May 19-24; **Regionals:** May 28-31; **State:** 6-7, Jesse Owens Stadium, The Ohio State University, Columbus

*Visit the respective OHSAA District Athletic Board websites for links to school tournament assignments and results:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/about/districtboards>

Boys Volleyball

Regional Qualifying: May 10-17; **Regional Semifinals and Finals:** May 19-24; **State:** May 30-31, Wittenberg University, Springfield

Statewide Brackets: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Sports-Tournaments/Volleyball-Boys/2025-Boys-Volleyball/2025-Boys-Volleyball-State-Tournament-Coverage>

NEW! Memorial Tournament Complimentary Grounds Tickets Available for May 28 Practice Round/Pro-Am

The PGA's Memorial Tournament, presented by Workday, is excited to welcome high school girls and boys golf teams on Wednesday, May 28, to Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio. This special day is open to OHSAA sanctioned golf teams, coaches and families. High School athletic administrators and golf coaches can request complimentary grounds tickets for their respective teams by visiting www.thememorialtournament.com/ohsaa. Wednesday's full schedule of events include:

- Practice Round
- Salute to Service Day – Honoring Military Members, Veterans and First Responders
- Workday Golden Bear Pro-Am – Official Pro-Am
- Memorial Honoree Ceremony featuring Tournament Honoree Barbara Nicklaus

Registration will close at midnight on Saturday, May 24. Tickets will be delivered to the registrant's email address no later than Sunday, May 25. Please allow five-to-seven business days to load tickets onto your account. The Memorial Tournament Ticket Office will send further instructions of how to manage tickets and other relevant information on Wednesday's Pro-Am.

For questions, email ticketoffice@thememorialtournament.com.

NEW! Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period Opens for Baseball and Softball

Administrators are reminded that the window to enter Competitive Balance roster data for the spring sports of baseball and softball opened on **April 28, 2025**. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within FinalForms. The deadline to submit baseball and softball roster data is **Friday, June 6, 2025**. **ALL** schools that compete in a varsity contest in those sports must submit their roster data by that date. All other spring sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. For questions, please contact either Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org) of our eligibility staff.

NEW! OHSAA Board of Directors April Meeting Minutes Available

Here is a link to the minutes from April 24, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2024-25/20250424BoardMinutes.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! New Coach Beyond Resources Available Plus Free In-Person Trainings Through 2025

Coach Beyond, a partnership between LiFEsports at The Ohio State University and the OHSAA, has released several online resources to support coaches in promoting mental health, athlete engagement and high-quality practices. Even better, thanks to support from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Susan Crown Exchange, all in-person trainings remain FREE for youth sport, school and out-of-school-time organizations through December 2025.

Explore and share the latest tools with your coaching staff:

- Mental Strategies: go.osu.edu/cbmentalstrategies
- Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health (\$10): go.osu.edu/MHonline
- Perfecting Practice, Quality Balanced Coaching: go.osu.edu/youthcoach
- Promoting Positive Behavior in Sport (PBIS): go.osu.edu/pbiscoach

Contact coach_beyond@osu.edu to schedule a session that meets your school's needs.

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, 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 visit this [website](#).

NEW! NFHS Toolkit Helps Schools Deal with Catastrophic Events in Athletics

While serious injuries and tragic incidents at high school athletic events are thankfully rare, recent catastrophic and near catastrophic events around the country underscore the importance of having accessible resources to manage the physical, emotional and logistical challenges that can arise. To help schools support their communities after such critical incidents, a comprehensive Post-Event Toolkit is available on the NFHS website. To access the toolkit, go to:

<https://www.nfhs.org/media/4030011/post-event-toolkit-nfhs-smac-final-august-2020.pdf>.

This resource offers guidance for administrators, coaches, parents and staff on how to handle the aftermath of a traumatic event compassionately and effectively. Although many schools already have protocols in place, the toolkit is designed as a supplement, providing specific resources to help navigate the unique challenges that arise in athletic settings. The Toolkit Covers Three Main Areas: administrative tasks, technical response and emotional support. Administratively, it guides school officials on best practices for communicating with families, students and the public, ensuring transparency and sensitivity in response to the incident. On the technical side, the toolkit reinforces the importance of activating and following the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) effectively, outlining steps to respond immediately when every second matters. For emotional support, it provides valuable insights into helping students, coaches and staff understand and process the trauma that can follow a critical incident, equipping them with strategies to address shock, sadness and stress.

REMINDERS

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.

OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarships Spring Sports Addendums

Deadlines for the OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Program application process have passed, with the exception of students participating in spring sports submitting their spring sports addendums. 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. The scholarship application timeline for spring sports addendums is:

- **Thursday, May 1, 2025** – Spring sport addendum entry/update opened
- **Monday, June 16, 2025** – Deadline for spring sport addendums to be submitted

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>.

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