



Administrator **UPDATE**

**2025-26
School Year
No. 1**

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

NEED HELP?

✓ **Fall Sports & Tournaments**

Cross Country: BJ Duckworth (bjduckworth@ohsaa.org)

Field Hockey: Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

Football: Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)

Golf: Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)

Soccer: Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)

Tennis (Girls): John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)

Volleyball (Girls): Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Eligibility**

Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

Lizzy Wilson (lwilson@ohsaa.org)

Membership Services

Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Officiating**

Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)

Charles Anderson (canderson@ohsaa.org)

Amanda Harding (aharding@ohsaa.org)

Keaton Jones (kjones@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Finance**

Laura Vermilya (lvermilya@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Technology (Final Forms/DragonFly)**

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org)

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

✓ **Administrator Workshops**

Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Regional Update Meetings**

Bob Goldring (bgoldring@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Job Postings/Open Dates**

Tim Stried (tstried@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Sports Medicine**

Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Tournament Tickets**

Claudia Markoff (cmarkoff@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Competitive Balance**

Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

✓ **General Questions**

Michelle Kern (mkern@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Executive Director**

Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)

NEW ITEMS

• **Financial Contribution Mailed Last Month**

At the end of July, the OHSAA mailed each eligible school an athletic enrichment fund donation check for \$1,250. This was the third year in which a donation check was returned to each member school after the OHSAA Board of Directors previously approved the establishment of an athletic enrichment fund for the purpose of providing a financial contribution, on an equitable basis, to each member high school's athletic department to assist with costs of equipment, uniforms, game transportation, officials and improving student sportsmanship and adult fan behavior. On an annual basis, the Board will review the OHSAA financial performance and determine the contribution amount to be provided to each school. To qualify, member schools must have returned their membership card by June 30 and have no outstanding membership dues invoices for the year just ended.

• **Registration Open for OHSAA Regional Update Meetings and Administrators' Workshops**

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will again be conducting in-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings later this month and September for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators in each of the six OHSAA athletic districts. The meetings are designed to provide updates and reminders on key issues, and attendance is highly recommended. To register, go to:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>.

The dates, locations and times are:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 19, Westerville** (Quest Conference Center, 9:30-12:00*)
- **Tuesday, Aug. 26, Waverly** (Waverly High School Auditorium, 10:00-12:00)
- **Tuesday, Sept. 2, Streetsboro** (Streetsboro H.S. Auditorium, 10:00-12:00)
- **Tuesday, Sept. 9, Findlay** (Findlay High School Auditorium, 10:00-12:00)
- **Thursday, Sept. 11, Cincinnati** (Princeton H.S. Matthews Aud., 10:00-12:00)
- **Monday, Sept. 15, Cambridge** (Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, 10:00-12:00)

*This meeting is combined with the Central District Athletic Board and lunch will follow at approximately 11:30

In addition, the OHSAA will be hosting three Administrator Workshops that are intended for new school administrators and those interested in brushing up on key OHSAA bylaws and regulations along with hearing various updates and reminders. Two of the workshops will be in-person at the OHSAA Office in Columbus and one will be virtual. To register, go to: <https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>. All meetings will begin at 10:00.

The dates and locations are:

- **Thursday, Aug. 7, OHSAA Office**
- **Wednesday, Aug. 20, OHSAA Office**
- **Monday, Aug. 25, virtual**

• **OHSAA June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available**

Here is the link to the minutes from the June 12, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Regular Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2024-25/20250612BoardMinutes.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.

• Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your coaches that all 10 OHSAA fall sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted in FinalForms, and details will be sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for fall 2025 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Football	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 23	Mon., Sept. 29, 11:59 PM	Beau Rugg (brugg@ohsaa.org)
Field Hockey	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 16	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Girls Volleyball	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 16	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 16	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Golf	Already Started	Already Begun	Mon., Sept. 1, 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Girls Tennis	Already Started	Sat., Aug. 9	Mon., Sept. 8, 11:59 PM	John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)
Cross Country	Already Started	Tue., Aug. 19	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	BJ Duckworth (bjduckworth@ohsaa.org)

NOTE: The late fee begins the day after the first date of competition

For details on how to view the meetings in FinalForms, go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/FinalForms-CoachesRulesMeetingsInstructions.pdf>.

• OHSAA Sanctions Championship Event for Girls Flag Football

The Ohio High School Athletic Association announced last month that it will sanction a state championship event in girls flag football beginning in the spring of 2026. The announcement was made at a press conference in Canton alongside representatives from the National Football League, the Cleveland Browns, the Cincinnati Bengals and the Pro Football Hall of Fame during the NFL FLAG Championships presented by Toyota. The OHSAA Board of Directors previously approved the recommendation from the Executive Director's Office to sanction the event at its June meeting. Questions and answers on girls flag football will be posted on the OHSAA website in the near future, and dates for competition and the 2026 state tournament are to be determined.

• OHSAA 2025-26 Athletic Administrators' Welcome Packet and Handbooks on the Way

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will soon be sending electronically a beginning-of-the-year Athletic Administrator Welcome Packet to the membership. The packet includes plenty of reminders and updates as we begin the 2025-26 school year and an OHSAA directory of member school telephone numbers. In addition, 2025-26 OHSAA handbooks and wall calendars are being printed and will be mailed to member school superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and guidance counselors soon. The 2025-26 OHSAA Handbook can be accessed online at: www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources.

• Preseason Sport Manuals

The OHSAA Sport Management team is again producing preseason sport manuals in cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, girls tennis and girls volleyball. These manuals contain all sorts of reminders and updates that all coaches and athletic administrators should review prior to the official start date of the season. The preseason manuals will be posted soon on each sports' page on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

• Ohio State Coach Beyond Program

Coach Beyond and USCAH Provide Pupil Activity Permit (PAP) Option

LiFEsports and the U.S. Council for Athletes' Health (USCAH) have partnered to develop a coach training package that meets the Pupil Activity Permit requirements in Ohio. The package includes state-approved Coach Beyond content, such as our Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health and Coaching Essentials (Fundamentals of Coaching) courses. All trainings were created in collaboration with and alongside coaches and athletic administrators as well as experts in sports medicine, strength and conditioning, mental health, youth development and sport psychology. Click here to learn more about the individual package or bulk pricing for your school:

<https://uscah.com/ohio-pupil-activity-coaching-permit-coursework/>

<https://uscah.com/cdn/USCAH-Ohio-Requirements-for-Schools-5.22.2025.pdf>

Coach Beyond's Pre-Season Pep Talk for Parents/Caregivers

Coaches and student-athletes spend time getting ready for the season, but what about sport parents and caregivers? Supporting an athlete is a tough job. That's why Coach Beyond created a short video with practical tips to help parents show up as their athlete's biggest fan, role model and interpreter. Share this resource with your team parents to help set the tone for a positive, supportive season ahead! Check out The Parenting Playbook here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72fLdstNeyo>

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 four 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 our training of coaches to go beyond the X's and O's has exceeded that goal! Congratulations to everyone on the state team, LiFEsports and the OHSAA.

REMINDERS

• Student Participation and Physical Examination Forms

Administrators are reminded that Bylaw 3-5-1 requires athletic participation forms for participants in grades 7-12 to be signed by a medical examiner (Physician [M.D., D.O., or D.C.], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant), the participant and by a parent or guardian. These forms must be on file with the principal or designee before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice, and the medical examiner must certify the individual's physical fitness no less than once every 13 months. OHSAA preseason physical exam forms are available here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/2025-26PPE.pdf>.

• Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminders

Administrators are reminded to make sure that ALL fall and winter student-athletes are scheduled for at least five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7th-8th grade level. If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the first grading period this fall, they will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the second grading period. For schools on quarters, this likely will fall toward the end of your fall season, rendering these athletes ineligible for the rest of the season. Check your student-athlete schedules and work with your guidance counselor to ensure this does not happen! For questions, contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) from our eligibility staff.

• Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention

Please review Heat Acclimatization and Exertional Heat Illness Prevention section in the 2025-26 OHSAA Handbook (following the Concussion Regulations and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Regulations) with your coaching and sports medicine staffs. The sport of football has a five-day required acclimatization period during the first five days of practice. All athletes joining the team at any point of the season also must participate in a five-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. In cross country, each competitor must practice a minimum of 10 days under the supervision of the coach/individual authorized by the Board of Education before competing in a contest. The regulations are available here:

<http://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports-Medicine/SportsMedicineRegulations.pdf>.

• Fall Dates for First Contest

Sport	First Contest Date	Sport	First Contest Date
Golf	Monday, July 28	Girls Volleyball	Friday, Aug. 15
Girls Tennis	Friday, Aug. 8	Cross Country	Monday, Aug. 18
Field Hockey	Friday, Aug. 15	Football	Monday, Aug. 18
Soccer	Friday, Aug. 15		

• No Contact Period in August

The mandatory no-contact period for coaches in the sports of baseball, lacrosse and softball began August 1, 2025, and lasts through August 31, 2025. The mandatory no-contact period in the sports of basketball and ice hockey began August 1, 2025, and lasts through August 24, 2025. Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach in those sports is prohibited from providing coaching or instruction during this time. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.

• Pupil Activity Permit for Coaches

Ohio law requires coaching or pupil activity permits for individuals (paid or unpaid) who will direct, supervise or coach a student activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity or activities with health and safety considerations. School districts determine which staff members need to have a permit. Details are available through the State Board of Education website at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>.

• Preseason Meetings with Student-Athletes and Parents

Mandatory preseason fall sports meeting must be held with student-athletes and parents no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Please read Bylaw 3-1-4 for more details. Additional reminders regarding the meetings will also be forthcoming from our Membership Services team. The OHSAA Office has again developed sample meeting agendas and a preseason meeting PowerPoint presentation that schools are welcome (but not required) to be used for your meetings. For more information, see the School Resources area of the OHSAA website at: www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources.

OHSAA Mission Statement

To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.