



Administrator **UPDATE**

**2025-26
School Year
No. 2**

Tuesday, August 19, 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

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

In-person OHSAA Regional Update Meetings continue this month and next, with five more opportunities for administrators to hear updates and reminders on key issues from OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute and his staff and ask questions. The meetings are for school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators, and attendance is highly recommended. To register, go to: <https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>. The remaining dates, locations and times are:

- **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)

In addition, the OHSAA will be hosting two more 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. One 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>. Both meetings will begin at 10:00.

The dates and locations are:

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

• **OHSAA Student Leadership Conference October 7 in Akron**

The annual OHSAA Student Leadership conference will take place on Tuesday, October 7, at Firestone High School's Kersker Auditorium in Akron. Student-athletes, coaches, administrators and staff from the northeast district are invited to attend this event. Check-in will begin at 9:15, the conference will run from 9:30 to 1:30 and lunch will be provided. Hosted by the Akron Public Schools, this free conference will offer valuable leadership insights and networking opportunities. Attendance is limited. Schools interested in attending should email Joe Vassalotti, coordinator of athletics and secondary education for the Akron Public Schools at: jvassalo@apslearns.org.

Featured speakers include **R.J.Nemer**, president of the University of Akron; **Kemp Boyd**, executive director of Love Akron and head football coach at Akron Garfield High School; **Julie Jones**, a mental health and performance coach who founded SSB Performance, LLC, and is a former collegiate softball coach; **Shawn Harper**, a national motivational speaker and former NFL offensive lineman, and **Sue Ramsey**, also a motivational speaker who led Ashland University to the 2013 NCAA Division II women's basketball national championship.

Joe Vassalotti, OHSAA Executive Director **Doug Ute** and **Tamea Caver, Ph.D.**, assistant superintendent of teaching and learning with the Warrensville Heights City Schools, will also speak. Special thanks to **Harvey Alston** for organizing and planning the event.

• Let's Make Sporting Behavior A Priority

With the fall sports seasons upon us, administrators are reminded that making sporting behavior a priority during our contests and events must be a priority. Please remind your coaches, participants, student groups and parents that they represent the entire school community, and any unsporting actions are a poor reflection on everyone and defeat the purpose of interscholastic athletics, which are educational in nature. As a reminder, OHSAA Bylaw 3-2-1, School's Responsibility When Hosting A Contest, says the following:

"The host school has the responsibility to ensure that a contest or event is administered in a manner which emphasizes the educational values inherent in interscholastic athletics. It is the host school's responsibility to remove any individual(s) who disrupts the educational goals of the contest or event."

"Likewise, the host school is ultimately responsible for the safety of all participants (players, coaches, officials, spectators, etc.) in the interscholastic contest immediately before, during and immediately after each contest or event. Therefore, the host school shall appoint a site director/manager or administrator-in-charge for every contest or event. The host school shall ensure that the site director/manager or administrator-in-charge is aware of the school's emergency action plan and how to adjust it to meet the needs of the particular contest or event."

"Included in the emergency action plan shall be procedures to deal with emergencies, crowd management and health and safety protections. The plan shall also include procedures to ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field; to provide safety and security for the visiting team(s), their spectators and the contest officials, and to provide safety and security for parking areas related to the contest or event. Penalties for violation of this bylaw shall be imposed by the Executive Director's Office as specified in Bylaw 11."

Administrators needing assistance in best practices for sporting behavior will find **plenty of resources available on the OHSAA website** at OHSAA.org/Respect-The-Game. Included are:

- Ideas to assist you in creating a positive school environment
- Ideas to assist you in setting expectations for parents
- Ideas to assist you in engaging with student fans
- Ideas to assist you in protecting officials
- Ideas to assist you in supporting coaches and student-athletes
- Printable sporting behavior posters and banners
- Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to home games
- Sporting behavior scripts for public address announcers
- Guidelines for public address announcers

• Finance Team to Present Review of 2025 OHSAA Spring Tournaments

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, 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 spring tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. Use the following link on Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m. to access the live presentation: <http://bit.ly/4mc8wK5>.

• NFHS Learning Center Continues to 'Protect the Purpose' of High School Sports

Last week the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) launched its **Protect the Purpose** campaign. The goal is to help high school students learn valuable lessons through participation in high school athletics and activities that prepare them for successful lives and careers. This special emphasis will help state associations, coaches, administrators and others to keep sports competitively balanced, minimize the risk of injury for students and keep programs focused on education.

While the **Protect the Purpose** campaign is new, the focus on education has been the heart and soul of the NFHS throughout its history – particularly the NFHS Learning Center, which is now in its 18th year of providing online education courses. The year-by-year increase in the number of people taking courses is confirmation that coaches, administrators, officials, performing arts educators, students and parents realize the importance of making education the top priority. To access the NFHS Learning Center, go to www.NFHSLearn.com.

REMINDERS

• 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	Already Begun	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Girls Volleyball	Already Started	Already Begun	Mon., Sept. 22, 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Soccer	Already Started	Already Begun	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	Already Begun	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

If the OHSAA sport administrator is unavailable to answer questions regarding credit, contact Michael Cornathan in the OHSAA Office at mcornathan@ohsaa.org.

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

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

• **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.

• **OHSAA 2025-26 Handbooks on the Way**

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office will be mailing 2025-26 OHSAA handbooks and wall calendars 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.

• **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.

OHSAA Mission Statement

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