



Administrator **UPDATE**

**2025-26
School Year
No. 5**

Tuesday, September 30, 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

✓ **Job Postings/Open Dates**

Tim Tried (tstried@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Sports Medicine**

Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Tournament Tickets**

Claudia Markoff (cmarkoff@ohsaa.org)

✓ **General Questions**

Michelle Kern (mkern@ohsaa.org)

✓ **Executive Director**

Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)

OHSAA Mission Statement

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

NEW ITEMS

• **Plan to Recognize Fall Sports Contest Officials October 6-12**

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. Mark the week of October 6-12, 2025, for OHSAA Fall Sports Officials Appreciation Week. With the intense scrutiny of our officials contributing to a nationwide shortage of officials, we believe it is important to show our appreciation and respect for these men and women who give their time to our student-athletes so they can play the games they love and contribute so much to the overall experience our student-athletes receive while participating in educational athletics. We ask that athletic administrators read an OHSAA-provided script before ALL games during the week as well as use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. Please tag @OHSAASports on X and show us what your school is doing to show our officials love. The script for pregame messages is available here: (available here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/OfficialsAppreciationWeekScript.pdf>).

Additional OHSAA Officials Appreciation Weeks will be January 12-18, 2025, and April 6-12, 2025.

• **OHSAA Tournament Tickets for School Administrators**

Complimentary tickets for school administrators to attend OHSAA tournament events will work the same in 2025-26 as last year. All member school athletic administrators received an email in mid-September with their school comp code and instructions. This comp code allows schools to redeem tickets through Hometown, the OHSAA's official digital ticketing partner, when your teams are competing in OHSAA tournaments (three for individual sports; eight for team sports). The code you received is different from last year's code, but this code can be used throughout the 2025-26 school year.

Superintendents and principals who desire to attend a sectional or district tournament contest that does NOT involve your school can request a maximum of two complimentary tickets. This request needs to include the date, time and sport and should come from your official school email address. The request needs to be emailed to Claudia Markoff, OHSAA Customer Experience Manager (cmarkoff@ohsaa.org), a minimum of 24 hours before the event. For questions, please email Claudia or call her at 614-267-2502, ext. 109.

• **School Dues Invoices to be Sent Soon**

Invoices will be sent to OHSAA member schools soon regarding your dues for the 2025-26 school year. No changes were made in the amount for this school year, with the approved fee continuing to be \$50 per OHSAA recognized sport. Schools that fail to pay these dues will not be eligible receive their annual athletic enrichment fund donation check next year. That amount for the 2024-25 school year was \$1,250 per school.

• October is National High School Activities Month

Besides Officials Appreciation Week that begins October 5, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has launched the 45th annual celebration of National High School Activities Month this week, and the need for leaders throughout the nation to understand the importance and value of high school sports and activities has never been stronger.

In fact, the NFHS has embarked on a special campaign this year designed to “Protect the Purpose” of these programs and the almost 20,000 high schools and 51 member state associations that provide participation opportunities for millions of high school students. The goal is to protect the last bastion of amateur sports in our country. The landscape is changing around us, so the benefits and values of education-based activity programs must be proclaimed louder than ever.

In a recent online article published on a Rhode Island website, Mike Lunney, executive director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL), addressed the situation as follows: “We’re sandwiched,” he said. “Everything below us is kind of geared toward winning and specialization. Everything above us is about money, even at the college level. We’re kind of that last group trying to provide opportunities for kids to be connected to the school. That’s our main goal.”

Ohio schools are highly encouraged to take place in National High School Activities Month and share to everyone in your school community why high school sports are so essential in our nation’s schools. The special weeks are as follows:

- **September 28-October 4: National High School Colors Week.** Our school colors, mascot and song are things we proudly carry with us throughout our lives, and this week is a special time to celebrate those once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Specifically, Friday, October 3, is National High School Colors Day, a perfect time to wear those school colors and end the week by packing the bleachers at the Friday night football game.
- **October 5-11: NFHS #OfficialsAppreciationWeek** – A special week to celebrate the hundreds of thousands of individuals who give time to serve as high school contest officials.
- **October 12-18: NFHS #MadePossibleWeek** – This week is designed for schools and state associations to celebrate coaches, athletic administrators, sponsors and others who devote their lives to students through activity programs.
- **October 19-25: NFHS #BeyondTheBellWeek** – This special week promotes those individuals involved in performing arts and middle school activity programs, and the importance of community service programs.
- **October 26-31: NFHS #NextStepPrepWeek** – This week is designed to offer tips on preparing for life after high school, including involvement from the NFHS National Student Advisory Committee.

To read the entire NFHS article on National High School Activities Week, go here:

<https://nfhs.org/stories/national-high-school-activities-month-celebrates-value-of-programs-in-nation-s-schools>.

• Ohio Department of Health Modifies AED Model Emergency Action Plan

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has modified the Model Emergency Action Plan for the Use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and municipal sports and recreation locations.

You may recall that ODH released the original model emergency action plan in October 2024 in accordance with House Bill 47 (<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb47>) passed by the 135th Ohio General Assembly. Under the law, AEDs must be placed in each public and chartered nonpublic school, and in each municipal sports and recreation location, except in townships and villages with populations of less than 5,000.

The modified AED model emergency action plan and other resources are available on ODH’s website:

<https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/sudden-cardiac-arrest/model-action-plan>.

New language is highlighted in **BLUE TEXT** in the following excerpt:

Protocol:

If a person:

- *Is unresponsive and does not respond to shouting or tapping, OR*
- Collapses suddenly and loses consciousness (passes out), **OR**
- Is not breathing, *has abnormal breathing*, is gasping for air, *or has seizure like activity*, **OR**
- **Does not** have a pulse.

Note: A person’s eyes may be open or closed.

2. If person is unresponsive *and does not respond to shouting or tapping OR collapses suddenly and loses consciousness (passes out), OR is not breathing, has abnormal breathing, is gasping for air, or has seizure like activity, OR does not have a pulse shout for help, CALL EMS (9-1-1), and send someone to get the AED.* Stay on the line with EMS (preferably on speaker phone) for instructions on CPR and AED use.

• OHSAA Regional Update Meeting PowerPoint Presentation Available

The Executive Director’s Office would like to thank all administrators who attended the fall OHSAA Regional Update Meetings. For those who were unable to attend or those who would like to see the presentation again, the PowerPoint presentation that was shown during the meetings can be viewed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/2025RegionalUpdateMtgPDF.pdf>.

REMINDERS

• Fall Sports Tournament Dates

With fall tournament season either upon us or just around, here are some key upcoming dates:

Golf

Draw/Seed Meeting – completed
Sectional Trnts. – completed
District Trnts. (Div. II) – completed
District Trnts. (Div. I) – Sept. 29-Oct. 4
District Trnts. (Div. III) – Sept. 29-Oct. 4
State Trnt. (Div. II) – Oct. 6-7
State Trnt. (Div. I) – Oct. 12-13
State Trnt. (Div. III) – Oct. 13-14

Girls Tennis

Draw/Seed Meeting – completed
Sectional Trnts. – Sept. 29-Oct. 4
District Trnts. – Oct. 6-11
State Trnts. – Oct. 16-17

Field Hockey

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 5
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 13-25
State Semifinals – Oct. 30
State Final – Nov. 1

Soccer

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 5
Sectional Trnts. – Oct. 13-18
District Trnts. – Oct. 20-25
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 28-Nov. 2
State Semifinals – Nov. 4-5
State Finals – Nov. 7-10

Girls Volleyball

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 5
Sectional Trnts. – Oct. 13-18
District Trnts. – Oct. 20-25
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 27-Nov. 1
State Semifinals – Nov. 6-8
State Finals – Nov. 8-9

Cross Country

Draw/Seed Meeting – Oct. 5
District Trnt. – Oct. 18
7th-8th Grade Invitational – Oct. 19
Regional Trnts. – Oct. 25
State Trnts. – Nov. 1

Football

Trnt. Pairings Announced – Oct. 26
Regional First Round – Oct. 31
Regional Quarterfinals – Nov. 7
Regional Semifinals – Nov. 14
Regional Finals – Nov. 21
State Semifinals – Nov. 28
State Finals – Dec. 4-6

• OHSAA Fall State Tournaments and Dates

Golf (Division II Boys) – Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 6-7: NCR Country Club, Kettering

Golf (Division II Girls) – Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 6-7: Heatherwood Country Club, Springboro

Golf (Division I) – Sunday and Monday, Oct. 12-13: Firestone Country Club, Akron

Golf (Division III Boys) – Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 13-14: NorthStar Golf Club, Sunbury

Girls Tennis – Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16-17: Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason

Field Hockey – Thursday, Oct. 30 (Semifinals) and Saturday, Nov. 1 (Finals): Thomas Worthington High School

Cross Country – Saturday, Nov. 1: Fortress Obetz, Obetz

Soccer – Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 4-5 (girls Tuesday, boys Wednesday) and Friday and Saturday, Nov. 7-8 (girls), and Sunday and Monday, Nov. 9-10 (boys): Semifinals at Statewide Neutral Sites, Finals at Historic Crew Stadium, Columbus

Girls Volleyball – Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 6-9: Semifinals Nov. 6, 7 and 8 at Sites in Dayton area TBA; Finals Nov. 8-9 at Nutter Center

Football – Friday, Nov. 28 (Semifinals) and Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 4-6: Semifinals at Statewide Neutral Sites; Finals at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, Canton

• 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 directors, 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>

Build Team Connections with The Web We Weave Activity

Coaches often face challenges with building connections and collaboration among their players, and yet team cohesion is critical for success! Coach Beyond outlines an activity to bridge gaps between players and helps athletes identify points of similarity and connection. This activity, called The Web We Weave, is easy to implement and perfect for those mid-season bumps in team dynamics. Check out how to facilitate it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPri2U4cRVc>.

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.