



Administrator **UPDATE**

2025-26
School Year
No. 10

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Happy Holidays



NEED HELP?

✓ Winter Sports & Tournaments

Basketball: Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)

Bowling: Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org)

Gymnastics: Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)

Ice Hockey: John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)

Swim & Dive: Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)

Wrestling: Monroe Britton (mbritton@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 (FinalForms/DragonFly)

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org)

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

✓ 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

• Let's Make Sporting Behavior a Priority

With the winter seasons upon us, administrators are reminded that making sporting behavior a priority during our contests and events must be a priority. This especially holds true in the sport of basketball, where high fan interest and large crowds are the norm at many schools. 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.

Administrators with teams involved in all-day events or multi-contests on a single day are also asked to remind your coaches that their student-athletes need to demonstrate sporting behavior before, in-between and after their events/contests.

An effective tool to assist with this effort is to consider having your students address their peers on positive sporting behavior by reading a live pregame statement. Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to a home game are available here:

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

There are plenty of other tools available on the OHSAA website to assist schools in creating a sporting environment. For details, go to:

www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game.

• Plan to Recognize Winter Sports Contest Officials in January

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. The week of Jan. 11-17, 2026, is OHSAA Winter Sports Officials Appreciation Week. We ask that athletic administrators show your appreciation and respect for our officials, who give their time to contribute to the experience our student-athletes receive in education-based athletics, by reading the OHSAA-provided script before ALL games that week as well as use your social media accounts. The scripts are available here:

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

Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to a great week of celebrating our officials. The OHSAA Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be Apr. 5-11, 2026.

• OHSAA Scholarship Program Information Coming Soon

Athletic administrators will be receiving information next month (and principals will be copied) on the process to begin nominating qualified senior student-athletes for an OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship. Each school may submit only one male, one female, one male ethnic minority and one female ethnic minority candidate for scholarship consideration. Recipients of any athletic scholarships (full or partial) in NCAA Division I or II institutions or appointees to military academies are not eligible. The on-line application process will include information being entered by a school administrator (principal or athletic administrator), the student and a school guidance counselor. To ensure that emails do not get trapped by firewalls/sent to a spam folder, this year's process will again include the school administrator emailing student candidates directly with the application information.

• OHSAA December Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Available

Here is the link to the minutes from the December 4, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2025-26/20251204BoardMinutes-Special.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. Note that the Board approved modifications to OHSAA spring sports tournament regulations (which will be posted on the OHSAA website in the near future) along with **the start date for regular season contests in the sport of field hockey moving to Monday, August 17, in 2026 and Monday, August 16, in 2027.**

• Athletic Administrators: Remind Coaches to Update Basketball Scores in MaxPreps App

With the MaxPreps Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) being used again this year for seeding for all girls and boys basketball tournaments, athletic administrators are asked to remind their basketball coaches to report scores in their MaxPreps account within 24 hours after each contest. As reminders: 1.) Make sure your school's varsity schedules are updated and accurate. If you have any missing games, please add them. 2.) After your game, open the MaxPreps Admin app and update your score in your account. 3.) The WINNING TEAM is responsible for reporting scores into MaxPreps. Only one team needs to report the score. If playing at a neutral site or playing out-of-state, which will happen frequently during Martin Luther King Jr. and President's Day weekends, be sure to input your score. It is highly recommended that each school check the results to ensure accuracy.

The RPI rankings may only be accessed on the OHSAA website. Once the rankings are live, they will be updated daily. The final day for score submissions will be prior to the OHSAA Basketball Tournament Draw meetings, with the exact date and time to be announced. For questions pertaining to your account, how to input scores, adding an additional coach to the school account, etc., contact MaxPreps rep Eric Frantz at efrantz@maxpreps.com or view the MaxPreps Support link:

<https://support.maxpreps.com/hc/en-us>.

• Mark The Date: OHSAA Fall Tournaments Financial Review is January 28

On Wednesday, Jan. 28, 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 fall tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, and no advance registration is required. To access the live presentation, go here: <https://bit.ly/4rLWGtt>.

• Have a Team Traveling Out-of-State? Don't Forget . . .

Administrators are reminded that schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in contests and/or practices in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval of the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. If such approval is given, it is the sole discretion of the school as to whether the team/individual is permitted to miss school time. Schools must complete the form from the following link when they are participating in a non-contiguous state: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>.

The penalty for traveling to a non-bordering location to compete in contests on more than one occasion shall be ineligibility for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved. Further, the offending school could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. A school which travels to a non-bordering location without approval from the Executive Director's Office shall be subject to a fine and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. Please review Bylaw 9 for complete information on out-of-state travel.

• Streetsboro Athletic Administrator Randy Tevepough Wins National Citation

Randy Tevepough, athletic administrator at Streetsboro High School, was one of eight athletic administrators across the country who was recently awarded a citation from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). NFHS Citations are presented annually to outstanding athletic administrators in recognition of contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. Tevepough was presented his award during the 56th annual National Athletic Directors Conference Dec. 14 in Tampa. The conference is sponsored by both the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Tevepough is in his second year of a three-year term on the OHSAA Board of Directors and has been a member of the Northeast District Athletic Board since 2012. He also is on the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) Executive Board and is the Quality Program Assessment Committee chair for the NIAAA, while also serving as a mentor and cohort facilitator. Tevepough, who is dedicated to advancing student-athlete experiences and community engagement, has won numerous awards for his work at the local, state and national levels.

• OHSAA and The Ohio State University Coach Beyond Program Team Up for Coaches Survey

The OHSAA and The Ohio State University Coach Beyond Program are conducting a study to examine the training needs, interests and practices of Ohio coaches. Please forward the link to this voluntary survey to your coaches:

<https://go.osu.edu/ohiocoachsurvey>.

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 and have reached over 52,000 coaches in Ohio! Congratulations to everyone on the state team, LiFEsports and the OHSAA.

• Congratulations Fall Sports State Champions!

Cross Country (boys) –Beavercreek (I); Lexington (II); Peninsula Woodridge (III); Convoy Crestview (IV)

Cross Country (girls) – Gahanna Lincoln (I); Columbus Bishop Watterson (II); Dayton Oakwood (III); Toledo Ottawa Hills (IV)

Field Hockey – Worthington Thomas Worthington

Football – Lewis Center Olentangy Orange (I); Avon (II); Columbus Bishop Watterson (III); Cleveland Glenville (IV); Liberty Center (V); Kirtland (VI); St. Henry (VII)

Golf (boys) – Dublin Jerome (I); Kettering Archbishop Alter (II); Warren John F. Kennedy (III)

Golf (girls) – Dublin Jerome (I); Gahanna Columbus Academy (II)

Soccer (boys) – Dublin Jerome (I); Avon (II); Columbus Bishop Watterson (III); Worthington Christian (IV); Cincinnati Summit Country Day (V)

Soccer (girls) – Upper Arlington (I); Whitehouse Anthony Wayne (II); Bay Village Bay (III); Cincinnati Summit Country Day (IV); Cincinnati Madeira (V)

Tennis (girls) – Soleil Cordell, Delaware Olentangy Berlin (I singles); Saanvi Reddy/Adriana Moreno, Mason (I doubles); Genevieve Hayden, Pepper Pike Orange (II singles); Grier Peckham/Caroline Koch, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy (II doubles)

Volleyball (girls) – Cincinnati Seton (I); Avon (II); Tipp City Tippecanoe (III); Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas (IV); Mentor Lake Catholic (V); Newark Catholic (VI); Tiffin Calvert (VII)

REMINDERS

• OHSAA Referendum Issue on Name Image and Likeness (NIL)/Personal Branding

To read the full language of the new OHSAA bylaw on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)/Personal Branding, go here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/NILFINAL-2026ReferendumItems.pdf>.

To read a condensed summary of the new bylaw, go here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/NILSummaryPage.pdf>.

The OHSAA partnered with Influential Athlete to assist in presenting the information surrounding the proposed language given the short turnaround time available to do so and is extremely appreciative of them. With their work with the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and others, we have full confidence in their ability to assist those who are interested in utilizing their services. Influential Athlete will continue helping develop educational materials that will be available on our website for our schools. Please note, however, schools are not obligated or required to partner with Influential Athlete and may choose to utilize others that best fit if students engage in NIL/Personal Branding Rights deals. Here are two brief handouts created by Influential Athlete:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OHSAASStudent-AthleteYESNOList.pdf>.

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OHSAAName,Image,LikenessInfographic.pdf>.

• Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your coaches that all 10 OHSAA winter 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 winter 2026 sports:

Sport	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Basketball (G)	Already Started	Mon., Feb. 2, 11:59 PM	Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)
Basketball (B)	Already Started	Mon., Feb. 9, 11:59 PM	Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)
Bowling	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 19, 11:59 PM	Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org)
Gymnastics	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 26, 11:59 PM	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Ice Hockey	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 19, 11:59 PM	John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)
Swimming & Diving	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 19, 11:59 PM	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Wrestling	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 26, 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)

NOTES: 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>.

OHSAA Mission Statement

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