



Administrator **UPDATE**

2025-26
School Year
No. 11

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

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 (lvvermilya@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

● **Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminder**

Administrators are reminded to make sure all winter sports athletes are scheduled for at least five (5) credits at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7th-8th grade level during the second grading period. If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the second grading period, then he/she will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the third grading period. Check your student-athlete schedules and work with your guidance counselor to ensure this does not happen! For questions, please contact Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Lizzy Wilson (lwilson@ohsaa.org) of our eligibility staff.

● **Plan to Recognize Winter Sports Officials January 11-17**

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.

● **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>.

● **Winter Sports Tournament Entry and Update Administrators**

Athletic administrators are encouraged to check the accuracy of their school's tournament entry in FinalForms for ALL sports, but especially winter sports. The deadlines to enter and withdrawal from winter tournaments are:

Basketball (Girls):	Feb. 2 (Div. III-VII) and Feb. 9 (Div. I-II)
Basketball (Boys):	Feb. 9 (Div. III-VII) and Feb. 16 (Div. I-II)
Bowling	Jan. 19
Gymnastics	Jan. 26
Ice Hockey	Jan. 19
Swimming & Diving	Jan. 19
Wrestling	Jan. 26

In addition, please login to your FinalForms and myOHSAA accounts to ensure all staff members are listed appropriately. If not, please make any and all necessary changes in FinalForms.

Reminder: any changes in myOHSAA to staff or tournament entry will not save and will be reverted back until the changes are made in FinalForms.

● **Athletic Administrators: Time to Update Your Swimming & Diving Emergency Contact Form**

All coaches, paid or volunteer, shall be approved by their respective Boards of Education or governing boards and possess a valid Pupil Activity Participation (Coaching) Permit. All swimming and diving schools are required to register all approved coaches on the OHSAA Emergency Contact Form, which can be found on the school's myOHSAA account. If the staff is listed in staff management, which is based on what is entered in FinalForms, they will automatically be listed in the emergency contact form. Otherwise, either make changes in FinalForms or you can remove or add personnel within the sport specific emergency contact form. Please note that any changes within the emergency form will not be reflected in the staff management section.

Credentials to enter the deck and coaching areas will be restricted to those who are listed on the emergency contact form, so please submit the form(s) as soon as possible.

● **OHSAA Can Assist with Open Dates, Job Openings**

To assist the membership, the OHSAA provides both an open dates and a job openings posting service on our website at no cost to the membership. To submit an **open date** or change the status of an open date, please email Andrew Collinsworth (acollinsworth@ohsaa.org) from a school administrator or head coach's school email account (that includes contact information). No faxes or standard mail will be accepted. Athletic administrators and coaches are asked to please notify the OHSAA to remove openings which have been filled.

Submissions for **job openings** must be sent via email to Saige Arnhold (sarnhold@ohsaa.org). No faxes or standard mail will be accepted. Emails must be sent from a school administrator's work email account that includes contact information. Submissions will be posted in the order in which they are received and will remain posted for approximately sixty (60) days unless otherwise requested. Time to post classifieds may vary depending upon seasonal consideration. Submissions should include an application deadline and contact information for interested applicants. Please DO NOT submit the posting as a Word Doc or PDF. For additional details on the job postings service, go here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Job-Openings>.

REMINDERS

● **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.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON THE OHSAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE PROGRAM: Please note — and remind your students and parents — that the OHSAA has two (2) separate scholar-athlete recognition opportunities. Besides the Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Program outlined above, in which a \$1,000 monetary award is provided, each member high school has the opportunity to present a senior male and a senior female with an OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, a certificate which exemplifies the commitment to academic excellence while participating in interscholastic athletics and is generally presented during the school's senior assembly in the spring. While each honor is important, these awards are different since not every member school will have a scholar-athlete scholarship recipient, but each school has the opportunity to present two OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Awards.

● **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 will be available soon and 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>.

- **OHSAA and The Ohio State University Coach Beyond Program Updates**

Use Coach Beyond's FREE 6-minute Parent Playbook Training in 2026

Navigating sport parents can be tricky. And parents need resources too! Share the Parent Playbook video at your school to promote a positive, supportive youth sports culture beyond wins and losses. This brief training equips parents to be their child's biggest fan and positive role model while reinforcing the educational mission of youth sports. By investing just a few minutes, administrators can strengthen parent-coach alignment and improve the overall student-athlete experience. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72fLdstNeyo>.

Equip Your Coaches Well with the Pupil Activity Permit Package from USCAH and Coach Beyond

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. Go to:

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

to learn more about the individual package or here for bulk pricing for your school:

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

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. That training of coaches, which goes beyond the X's and O's, has exceeded that goal and we have reached over 52,000 coaches in Ohio. Congratulations to everyone on the state team, LiFEsports and the OHSAA!

- **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/OHSAAStudent-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.