



Administrator **UPDATE**

2025-26
School Year
No. 12

Tuesday, January 20, 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 (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

• State Basketball Tournaments Ticketing Information

Athletic administrators will be sent information on Wednesday, Jan. 28, about the digital ticketing purchase process for the state girls and boys basketball tournament through the OHSAA's digital ticketing partner, Hometown. The window for schools to order tickets will be open for a week prior to tickets going on sale to the general public.

Each OHSAA member school has access to purchase up to eight (8) Finals Package and Semifinals Package tickets for the girls state tournament AND eight (8) Finals Package and Semifinals Package tickets for the boys state tournament. Those eight tickets can be located together. Each school this week will be provided with ONE presale code that works for both girls and boys tournament tickets. Purchasers have the opportunity to click on and select their seats from a seat map of the University of Dayton Arena. Tickets for Wright State University's Nutter Center and Vandalia Butler High School are general admission. All-session ticket sales will end on Mar. 8 for the girls tournament and Mar. 15 for the boys tournament or until your school's presale code has been used to purchase your eight (8) all-session tickets. Ticket Packages and center court club ticket sales for the public begin Wednesday, Feb. 11. Single-game tickets for the state finals go on sale Monday, Mar. 9 (girls) and Monday, Mar. 16 (boys).

The championship games for the 2026 state basketball tournaments will again all be held at the University of Dayton Arena, with the girls on Friday and Saturday, Mar. 13-14, and the boys on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 20-22. The girls state semifinals will be held Mar. 12-13 at either Dayton, Wright State or Butler, and the boys state semifinals will be held Mar. 19-21 at either Dayton or Wright State. For questions, including the steps to claim tickets, contact OHSAA Customer Experience Manager Claudia Markoff at cmarkoff@ohsaa.org.

Go here to see the specific times for the girls and boys 2026 state basketball tournaments:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/ohsaa-announces-basketball-state-tournament-formats>

OHSAA Winter Sports Tournament Draw Dates

Here are the dates for the upcoming OHSAA winter sports tournament draws. Schools will be provided details on the draws from their respective OHSAA District Athletic Board.

Swimming & Diving – Sunday, Feb. 1

Bowling – Sunday, Feb. 1

Girls & Boys Wrestling – Sunday, Feb. 8

Basketball (G) – Sunday, Feb. 8 (D III-IVII)
and Sunday, Feb. 15 (D I-II)

Ice Hockey – Thursday, Feb. 12

Basketball (B) – Sunday, Feb. 15 (D I-II)
and Sunday, Feb. 22 (D I-II)

Gymnastics – Sunday, Feb. 15

• Board Approves Naming OHSAA State Track & Field Tournament after Jesse Owens

The state track & field tournament will now be named the OHSAA Jesse Owens State Track & Field Tournament. The OHSAA Board of Directors approved the Executive Director Office's recommendation for the change at its regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 15, 2026. Besides recognizing the incomparable Owens, who demonstrated excellence, resilience, integrity

and courage throughout his lifetime, the move takes place as part of the Jesse Owens Initiative, “Beyond the Finish Line,” an aligned effort with the Jesse Owens Foundation and The Ohio State University to resurrect the legacy of Owens, one of America’s greatest heroes, empower the next generation and unite people from all backgrounds to pursue their highest potential. The OHSAA’s state tournament, which expands to five from three divisions in 2026, will be held at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus June 4-7.

Owens won nine OHSAA state track and field tournament events — including four as both a junior and senior in 1932 and 1933 — and set seven state records while competing for Cleveland East Tech High School. At the national interscholastic meet in Chicago during his senior year, he set a world record, tied a world record and set a national high school mark. Owens then enrolled at Ohio State, where on May 25, 1935, he performed one of the greatest feats in athletic history at the Big Ten Championships held in Ann Arbor, Mich. Uncertain that he would even participate after recently falling down a flight of steps, Owens set world records in the 220, 220 low hurdles and the long jump and tied the world mark in the 100, all in a span of about 45 minutes. In 1936, he qualified for the Olympic Games that were held in Nazi Germany and became the first American track & field athlete to capture four gold medals in a single Olympiad, winning the 100, 200, long jump and 4x100 relay. While showcasing his excellence on a global stage, his victories provided a powerful rebuke to Adolf Hitler’s racist ideology, cementing his status as a legendary figure who symbolized perseverance and breaking barriers, with his achievements setting a standard for future generations of athletes. Owens died on March 31, 1980.

• Need Help With Sporting Behavior at Your School?

Do you need help in improving sporting behavior at your school or school community? The OHSAA can help with plenty of information and tools posted on its website at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game>.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) also can help with its #BenchBadBehavior Toolkit. In addition to assets like posters, videos, program ads and web ads, other resources are available to support you in creating a positive atmosphere at your events. To download the Toolkit, go to: <https://benchbadbehavior.com/toolkit>.

REMINDERS

• 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>.

• OHSAA Scholarship Program Information To Be Emailed Next Tuesday

Athletic administrators will be receiving information next Tuesday, Jan. 27 (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.

• 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 Rights

To read the full language of the new OHSAA bylaw on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL)/Personal Branding Rights, 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	Date Has Passed	Michael Cornathan (mcornathan@ohsaa.org)
Gymnastics	Already Started	Mon., Jan. 26, 11:59 PM	Kelly Schoenly (kschoenly@ohsaa.org)
Ice Hockey	Already Started	Date Has Passed	John Kronour (jkronour@ohsaa.org)
Swimming & Diving	Already Started	Date Has Passed	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.