



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Wednesday, January 5, 2022
Administrator Update

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: OHSAA Executive Director's Office

The following updates and reminders are being sent electronically to member school superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Administrators Urged to take Precautions as COVID Numbers Again Surge

With positive cases and hospitalizations surging in Ohio and nationally due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the OHSAA is reminding administrators to assess risk factors as we move through our indoor winter sports and make decisions and take precautions to protect ourselves and those around us. Here is **the latest from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from December 30, 2021:** <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/media-center/odh-news-releases/odh-news-release-12-30-21> and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from of December 27, 2021: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>. To keep up with the latest from the CDC, go here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html>.

Continue to work with your local health department when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified and to facilitate appropriate quarantines, masking and contact tracing (there are no requirements from the OHSAA). In the revised Covid quarantine guidance from the ODH, there are recommended changes on when individuals who test positive are allowed to resume activities and whether a mask is required. Again, these are recommendations, and your local health department should make those determinations, including if the additional masking is required. Keep in mind that if there is no local mandate from the health department, local schools may determine whether masks shall be worn during competition.

As was published in this update throughout most of the fall, here are recommendations the OHSAA is asking our member schools to please consider as they relate to COVID-19. School districts and local health departments may set their own requirements, and the CDC has said that masks are required while using public transportation (e.g. school buses). Please remember that protocols set by a school district or local health department may be different for your participants and spectators at an away/neutral/tournament site than those in place at your home facilities.

- There currently are NO state mandates regarding vaccinations, masks and social distancing, although local executive orders or ordinances in some cities may be in place. Despite no mandates, the CDC and ODH recommend that masks be worn at indoor events regardless of vaccination status and that social distancing of three feet be maintained when there are crowded situations.
- Anyone demonstrating signs of any infectious illness should go home and contact their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Continue to practice proper sanitation of student-athlete equipment and personal belongings and of all facilities and venues.
- Encourage participants to refrain from making pre- and post-game contact (high-fives, fist bumps, etc.) with officials.
- Continue to utilize signage and public address announcements at your facilities that encourage spectators to practice good hygiene and know the symptoms and that encourage spectators not fully vaccinated to wear masks and stay socially distanced.

Here is a link to the ODH's 'Mask to Stay/Test to Play' quarantining option for students who have been exposed to others who test positive for COVID-19: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/k-12-schools-quarantine-alternative.pdf>.

No 'Return to Play' Form Required; Schools Should Consider Use, However

The OHSAA's current guidance is that schools **consider** a 'return-to-play' sign-off from medical professionals for student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19 before they are permitted to return to practices or contests. While no 'return-to-play' form is required by the OHSAA, schools should be mindful of potential legal ramifications should something happen to a student who does not have medical clearance. Additionally, parents may want peace of mind in knowing medical clearance has been given before their child returns to competition.

To reiterate, it is up to each school/district to determine if you have such a policy. If you DO have such a policy, you are permitted to use an OHSAA form, although a simple sign-off by a medical professional would suffice rather than the OHSAA form. Any such form should be kept on file at your school and is not needed by the OHSAA. An updated OHSAA form is available here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2020/RTPCoronavirus.pdf>.

As a reminder, the ODH's Orders from last school year (2020-21) REQUIRED a signed document by medical professionals for students who tested positive for COVID before they were permitted to return to competition. The physician's clearance was required due to the concern of heart issues developing (myocarditis) for those students with COVID. As you may know, those ODH's health orders

were subsequently rescinded. There NEVER WAS a requirement by the OHSAA. The Association was simply passing on the mandate from ODH and, as a courtesy, providing a form for use.

OHSAA Surveys Coming Soon

In the near future, the OHSAA will be sending surveys to the membership to gain feedback on some issues. One survey will ask whether to expand participation opportunities for students attending a traditional public school that does not offer a certain sport a student wants to play. Another survey will ask whether coaching from June 1 to July 31 should be unlimited (as has been the situation the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic) or we should return to the 10-day coaching limitation regulation between June 1 and July 31 that was previously in place. These surveys will likely be sent directly to principals, who will be asked to gain feedback from their superintendents/heads of school; athletic administrators, and coaches (e.g. one response per school). In addition, the OHSAA is currently reviewing its regulations on student 'out-of-season' participation between August 1 and May 31 and what involvement school coaches should be permitted during that period. Feedback will also be sought from various constituents on those regulations. Look for more details on these surveys in future editions of the *Administrator Update*.

Reminders: Winter Sports Tournament Entry and Update Administrators in myOHSAA

Athletic administrators are encouraged to check the accuracy of their school's tournament entry in *myOHSAA* for ALL sports, but especially winter sports. The deadline to enter and withdrawal from winter tournaments is January 24, 2022 (girls basketball, bowling and swimming & diving); January 31, 2022 (boys basketball, gymnastics and ice hockey) and February 7, 2022 (wrestling). In addition, please login to your *myOHSAA* account to provide updates in **Staff Management** (are all your coaches listed?; are your principal and superintendent listed and are their emails correct?).

Winter Tournament Information

Girls Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Jan. 30
Boys Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6
Bowling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6
Gymnastics: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6

Ice Hockey: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Wednesday, Feb. 9
Swimming & Diving: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Jan. 30
Wrestling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 13

Winter Sports State Online Rules Meetings Required

This is a reminder that 2021-22 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling) are currently live. Completion of these meetings is required for tournament participation. Please have the head coach, an assistant coach or the athletic administrator complete the meeting prior to the final meeting date* for each sport (*coincides with the tournament entry/withdraw without penalty date). All rules meetings are available through *myOHSAA* and can be accessed through the 'Rules Meeting' icon. Here are the timelines, deadlines and additional information:

Sport	Meeting Live Dates	Late Fee Began	End Date to View Meeting	OHSAA Sport Coordinator
Basketball	Currently Live	Thursday, Nov. 25	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Beau Rugg brugg@ohsaa.org
Wrestling	Currently Live	Friday, Dec. 3	Mon., Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Swimming & Diving	Currently Live	Tuesday, Nov. 30	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Ice Hockey	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Fri., Feb. 4 at 11:59 p.m.	Ronald Sayers rsayers@ohsaa.org
Gymnastics	Currently Live	Tuesday, Dec. 7	Mon., Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Bowling	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason emason@ohsaa.org

OHSAA December Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes Available

Here is a link to the minutes from December 2, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2021-22/December022021BoardMinutesSpecial.pdf>

Please feel free to share this link with other staff members and coaches that you believe may have an interest in the board minutes.

For More Information . . .

Please see the December 22, 2021, OHSAA *Administrator Update*

(<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/AdministratorUpdate12222021.pdf>) for information on:

- **Million Coach Challenge** (survey for school coaches regarding student-athlete social-emotional learning and positive youth development through an OHSAA partnership with The Ohio State University's LiFEsports program).
- Prepare for **review of upcoming enrollment (EMIS) data**.
- **Modifications to OHSAA Transfer Bylaws and Constitution Articles (two sports per season/continuing membership)** per Constitution Article 6-1-9.
- Participation encouraged in **OASSA Cheer & Dance Regional and State events**.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the work you are doing with our student-athletes. Please contact us if we can be of service!