



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, February 18, 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.

OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Additional Referendum Items at February 17 Meeting

The OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office to place nine (9) more items up for referendum vote of the membership during its regularly scheduled meeting of February 17. This brings the count to a total of 13 referendum items for 2022, which member school principals will vote upon between May 1 and 15. Additional referendum items to place before the membership may be approved by the Board next month. For more information on those referendum items, go to: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/ApprovedRefItems-Feb2022.pdf>

OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Recommendation to Reinstate the 10-Day Rule for Team Sports

Beginning this June

At the February OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office to reinstate the 10-day rule for team sport coaches (*General Sport Regulation 7.5.1*), beginning June 1, 2022. This regulation was suspended during 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective immediately, *General Sport Regulation 7.5.1* shall read*:

Members of a school team's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may coach students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31. *This information will be reflected in the 2022-23 OHSAA Handbook, with any necessary editorial changes.

General information:

- The 10-day maximum applies to the entire coaching staff and not towards each individual coach (for example, each coach of a team is *not* entitled to 10 different days of coaching).
- The 10-day maximum does not translate to hours (for example, 10 days does not permit 240 total hours of coaching).
- This regulation is different than Sports Regulation 8, which is regarding Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction. Please review that regulation, which is **NOT** the same as team instruction.
- In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted.
- Student-athlete participation may not be made mandatory from June 1 – July 31.

Future Basketball Season Starting, Ending and Tournament Dates Set through 2025-26

While the current *OHSAA Handbook* has the starting, ending and tournament dates listed through the 2022-23 season, approval was given by the OHSAA Board of Directors on those dates through 2025-26. The basketball dates for the next four years are as follows:

Girls Basketball	Coaching	Season	Sectional	State
<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Trnt. Begins</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
2022-23	Fri., Oct. 21	Fri., Nov. 18	Mon., Feb. 6	Thu.-Sat., Mar. 9-11
2023-24	Fri., Oct. 27	Wed., Nov. 22	Mon., Feb. 12	Thu.-Sat., Mar. 14-16
2024-25	Fri., Oct. 25	Fri., Nov. 22	Mon., Feb. 10	Thu.-Sat., Mar. 13-15
2025-26	Fri., Oct. 24	Fri., Nov. 21	Mon., Feb. 9	Thu.-Sat., Mar. 12-14

Boys Basketball	Coaching	Season	Sectional	State
<u>Year</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Trnt. Begins</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
2022-23	Fri., Oct. 28	Wed, Nov. 23	Mon., Feb. 13	Fri.-Sun., Mar. 17-19
2023-24	Fri., Nov. 3	Fri., Dec. 1	Mon., Feb. 19	Fri.-Sun., Mar. 22-24
2024-25	Fri., Nov. 1	Wed., Nov. 27	Mon., Feb. 17	Fri.-Sun., Mar. 21-23
2025-26	Fri., Oct. 31	Wed., Nov. 26	Mon., Feb. 16	Fri.-Sun., Mar. 20-22

EMIS Data to be Shared with the Membership Soon

The OHSAA Executive Director's Office has received enrollment data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for use to determine school placement within tournament divisions for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. That data is expected to be shared with school administrators to review within the next week or so in order for you to verify that data for OHSAA tournament use (and for use in determining school classification for governance purposes). Please be sure to work closely with your EMIS

coordinators to ensure data reported to ODE – and subsequently shared with you by the OHSAA – is both accurate and complete. When the data is shared with the membership, an appeals process will also be explained.

OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Recommendation to Modify District Athletic Board Election Process

The OHSAA Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Executive Director's Office to modify a portion of the district athletic board election process this year. With five of the six district athletic boards having expiring and/or interim positions available **in the same classification**, it was determined that the person receiving the most votes in those situations will be awarded the longer term available on that board for that particular classification, while the person receiving the second-highest number of votes will be awarded the shorter term available on that board for that classification. There are 13 other expiring and/or interim positions that will be voted upon that do not have duplicate classification positions available and will follow the normal election process.

NFHS Foundation Approves Purchase and Distribution of Wet Bulb Globe Thermometers

The NFHS Foundation has announced a grant program to distribute 5,000 wet bulb globe thermometers to high schools across the country. The \$1.5 million program will provide schools with an important tool for minimizing heat-related illness during outdoor activities. Wet bulb globe thermometers measure the heat stress in direct sunlight, accounting for temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover. High schools can use the thermometer's reading to help determine if the weather is appropriate to hold outdoor activities. An initial grant was approved by the NFHS Foundation Board of Directors last fall of \$450,000, but demand for the thermometers was so high that an additional distribution was approved in January to cover the purchase of 5,000 units. Approximately 2,500 thermometers will be distributed in April, with the remainder to be delivered to schools in time for late-summer workouts. **The NFHS will work with its member state associations to distribute the thermometers to schools, but at this point a distribution plan has not been determined by the NFHS and we are unclear on the total number that will be available for Ohio's schools. We will share final details with the membership when they are available.**

State Basketball Tournaments Ticketing Information

Superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and head girls and boys basketball coaches were recently sent information about beginning the digital ticketing purchase process for the state girls and boys basketball tournaments. That process is replacing the paper forms schools were sent in the past and is being handled by our digital ticketing partner, HomeTown Ticketing.

Each OHSAA member school has access to purchase up to eight (8) all-session tickets for the girls' tournament AND eight (8) all-session tickets for the boys' tournament before tickets are available to the public. Those eight tickets can be located together. Each school is being provided with one presale code for the girls' tournament and a separate one for the boys' tournament. Purchasers have the opportunity to click on and select their seats from a seat map of the University of Dayton Arena. All-session ticket sales will be valid through Friday, March 4, or until your school's presale code has been used to purchase eight (8) all-session tickets. All-session tickets sales began for the public on February 7.

For more questions, including the steps to claim tickets and the process to utilize paper tickets when hosting OHSAA tournament contests, contact OHSAA Director of External Affairs Jacki Windon at jwindon@ohsaa.org.

Winter Tournament COVID-19 Reminders

As we move heavily into OHSAA winter tournaments, here are some reminders as they relate to COVID-19:

- There currently are NO state mandates regarding vaccinations, masks and social distancing, although local executive orders, ordinances in some cities and requirements set by the local health department, local school district and/or host tournament facility may be in place. **Protocols set locally may be different for your participants and spectators at an away/neutral/tournament site than those in place at your home facilities.**
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has said that masks are required while using public transportation (e.g. school buses).
- 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.

Member Schools' Tournament Responsibilities/Regulations During COVID

With OHSAA winter tournaments upon us, the Executive Director's Office reminds administrators that the fall memo that was sent is still in place which provides reminders as they relate to Bylaw 3-1-1 (Bylaw 3-1-1, Administrative Responsibility, and Tournament Participation Agreement); positive COVID cases and quarantines, and the OHSAA tournament postponement and cancellation policy. The memo has been updated for the winter, so please take time to read this prior to your teams starting winter tournament play. The memo can be accessed here:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Sports/2021OHSAAFallTournamentUpdate.pdf>.

Mark Your Calendars → OHSAA to Host Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Summit in April

The OHSAA will be hosting *Better Together: A Summit on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging* on April 8, 2022, at the Quest Conference Center, 9200 Worthington Road, Westerville. The summit is aimed to assist school administrators and coaches in creating environments where ALL students feel honored, supported and accepted. Complete details, starting time, speakers and registration information will be available in the near future.

Tuesday, February 22, is the deadline for those interested in submitting a proposal to be a presenter at the summit. Please contact OHSAA Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl (kkiehl@ohsaa.org) to request a proposal form.

Mark Your Calendars → OHSAA to Host Athletic Discussion Meetings in April

The OHSAA will return to in-person meetings in April when it hosts Athletic Discussion Meetings for school administrators in each of the six OHSAA athletic districts. Registration information will be sent later this month asking athletic administrators to complete the registration process for not only themselves but also superintendents and principals within their school/district. The meetings will feature OHSAA Director Kristin Ronai reviewing the upcoming OHSAA referendum issues on which member school principals will vote in May, and OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute discussing current issues of interest. Meetings will take place as follows:

Wednesday, April 6, 10:00 to noon — Ohio University Inn & Conference Center, **Athens**

Monday, April 18, Noon to 2:00 — Quest Conference Center, **Westerville**

Wednesday, April 20, Noon to 2:00 – Community Auditorium, **Clayton Northmont High School**

Monday, April 25, 1:45 to 3:45 – Sheraton Suites, **Cuyahoga Falls**

Tuesday, April 26, 9:00 to Noon – The Centre at **Bluffton**

Thursday, April 28, 1:30 to 3:30 – Pritchard Laughlin Civic Center, **Cambridge**

Mark Your Calendars → NFHS to Host Virtual Women’s Sports Summit in May

The National Federation of State High School Associations will host a women’s sport summit, *“Better Together: Women and Sport Leadership Virtual Summit,”* May 1-3, 2022, for administrators, coaches and officials at the interscholastic level.

This is an outstanding professional development opportunity – held during the 50th anniversary of Title IX being enacted into law – will include keynote addresses by Betsy Butterick (Communications Specialist), Violet Palmer (first female NBA referee) and Dr. Jen Welter (first female NFL coach). The three-day event will combine standalone speakers and moderated panels for three different tracks (administrators, coaches and officials), as well as general sessions for all attendees. For information about the Summit, go to: <https://bit.ly/3s45YD4>. To register, go to: <https://meetings.nfhs.org/btwls22/>.

NFHS Learning Center Debuts Free ‘Football Tackling’ Course

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NFL have teamed up to produce a new, free “Football Tackling” course for the NFHS Learning Center, designed to assist interscholastic coaches in teaching, evaluating and programming proper tackling techniques. “Football Tackling” begins by presenting that coaches must have a simple framework to effectively teach tackling while also managing contact. Coaching “checkpoints,” known as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), are also addressed in the opening chapter and range from striking accuracy and body positioning to appropriate drill intensity. The course also stresses the importance of managing contact while players become acclimated to tackling drills and other physical practice activities. Also shared are different types of tackling drills, which separates them into four distinct categories, while the final chapter touches on the importance of equipment fitting. For more information on “Football Tackling,” please visit [The NFHS Learning Center](https://www.nfhs.org/learning-center).

Membership Encouraged to Support Suicide Prevention Awareness with Uniform Patches

On July 16, 2022, the National Suicide Prevent Lifeline is transitioning from its current 10-digit number to the new 3-digit number, **988**. To raise awareness of this change, a senior baseball player at Cincinnati Sycamore High School has designed a 2-inch 988 patch that can be placed on sports uniforms, provided that they are permitted by NFHS Rules. The goal of the patch is to raise awareness and to show support for those going through mental struggles and encouraging those struggling to reach out for help. The cost per patch is \$0.55, along with the additional cost schools may encounter to sew the patch on (adhesive also an option). School administrators or coaches interested in ordering patches for their uniforms, or who want to receive further information on the initiative, can send an email to 988initiative@gmail.com.



OHSAA Board Resolution Cards

The OHSAA Constitution requires the board of education or similar governing body to adopt a resolution authorizing its schools that were members during the 2021-22 school year to continue membership for the 2022-23 school year. The OHSAA Board Resolution Card, which requires a signature from the governing body’s president and superintendent/head of school, was mailed on January 19, 2022, and should arrive no later than January 28, 2022. Please read the instructions that accompany the card, complete the required items and return the card to the OHSAA office using the pre-stamped envelope provided **no later than June 30, 2022**. For questions, please contact either Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org).

Competitive Balance Roster Data Entry Period Opens for Winter Sports

Administrators are reminded that the window to enter Competitive Balance roster data for the winter sports of boys basketball and girls basketball opened on **February 1, 2022**. Athletic administrators, or their designees, must submit their roster data within the ArbiterGame system (under the 'Eligibility' tab). The deadline to submit basketball roster data is **Friday, April 1, 2022**. **ALL** schools that compete in a varsity contest in those sports must submit their roster data by that date. All other winter sports are **not** part of Competitive Balance. Note that the deadline for submitting Competitive Balance roster data for the fall sports of football, soccer and volleyball has passed. For questions, contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org), Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) or Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff.

Spring Sports State Online Rules Meetings Required

This is a reminder that 2022 OHSAA state rules meetings for each spring sport (ice hockey 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 OHSAA spring sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Sport Administrator
Baseball	Tue., Feb. 8 at 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Gates egates@ohsaa.org
Lacrosse (B)	Tue., Feb. 8 at 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 19	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Lacrosse (B)	Tue., Feb. 8 at 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 19	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Softball	Wed., Feb. 9 at 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., Apr. 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Boys Tennis	Wed., Feb. 9 at 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 26	Mon., Apr. 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Dustin Ware dware@ohsaa.org
Track & Field	Wed., Feb. 9 at 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., Apr. 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Dustin Ware dware@ohsaa.org
Late Fee Begins	Day after first date of competition.			
End Date	The "End Date" is the same as the tournament entry/withdraw deadline date.			

School Officiating Class Opportunities Workshop Available to View on YouTube

For administrators that were unable to participate on the OHSAA's virtual workshop for schools interested in creating officiating class opportunities for students at their high schools that was recently held, you can view that meeting on YouTube by going to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOINCcrU6il>.

With a nationwide shortage of officials, the OHSAA is asking administrators to consider offering student officiating training opportunities at their schools to assist in the recruitment and retention of officials. Besides staff from the OHSAA, the workshop includes presentations from administrators at RefPrep, an online e-learning company created to teach officiating in a fun, engaging and more effective way, and school representatives from Steubenville High School, Massillon Jackson High School, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and Lima Senior High School who share the successes they have had at their schools in creating officiating training opportunities for their students.

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!