



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director



Wednesday, December 22, 2021
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. 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 (red = new items). School districts and local health departments may set their own requirements, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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 in some cities may be in place. Despite no mandates, the CDC and Ohio Department of Health 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 work with your local health department when a positive test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified and to facilitate appropriate quarantines and contact tracing.
- Continue to encourage student-athletes who test positive for COVID-19 to obtain medical clearance before they are permitted to return to practices or contests, with an approval form from the medical professional to be kept on file at the school. **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.**
- 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 Ohio Department of Health'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>

Additionally, here is a link to posters and signs the ODH has made available to administrators for use at schools and/or athletic facilities:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/responsible-restart-ohio/Posters-and-Signs>

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.	John Kuzio jkuzio@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 Seeks Help from Coaches in Ohio Million Coach Challenge

The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and The Ohio State University Learning in Fitness and Education through Sports (OSU *LiFEsports*) were selected as one of 10 grant recipients of the Million Coaches Challenge Grant funded by the Susan Crown Exchange. The goal of the 10 partner organizations is to train 1 million coaches by 2025. To learn more visit: <https://www.millioncoaches.org/>. The goal in Ohio is to train at least 15,000 coaches in social-emotional learning and positive youth development. To do this, we have partnered with eight districts and are engaging in the following activities to develop state-wide trainings: 1.) **Audit** current coaching certification/licensure requirements; 2.) **Assess and monitor** needs and competencies among coaches; 3.) **Advocate for improvements** in the Ohio Pupil Activity Permit to include social emotional learning-positive youth development (SEL-PYD) training for all OHSAA coaches; 4.) **Develop, pilot and implement** new SEL-PYD trainings for coaches (in-person and online), and 5.) **Increase awareness** of the role youth sport and coaches play in whole child development.

As a part of this project, OHSAA and OSU want to hear from coaches at your schools across the state of Ohio. **Please support this work by asking your coaches to take this online survey using this QR Code:** <https://go.osu.edu/ohiocoachingstudy>



Ohio Athletic Administrators Earn Awards

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recently presented awards to athletic administrators during the National Athletic Directors Conference that was held in Denver and co-sponsored by the NFHS and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), and Ohio had several award winners. Selected as a 2020 NFHS Citation Award winner was **Joe Kimling**, athletic administrator for the Madeira City Schools, while 2020 NIAAA Hall of Fame inductees were **James Rolfes**, retired athletic administrator at Springfield North High School, and **Dave Bell**, retired athletic administrator at Zanesville High School. Inducted posthumously into the 2021 NIAAA Hall of Fame was **Bruce Brown**, retired athletic administrator at Uniontown Lake High School and the former executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

In addition, **Streetsboro High School** and its high school athletic program, headed by Athletic Administrator **Randy Tevepaugh**, was recently selected for an NIAAA Quality Program Award at the Exemplary Level after submitting documentation in 10 assessment categories. Streetsboro is the 29th school district in the country and first in Ohio to receive this prestigious award.

Tips Available to Assist Athletic Administrators

In the fall edition of *Interscholastic Athletic Administration*, a quarterly publication of the NIAAA, two high school athletic administrators from Minnesota share the top 10 “Things Every New Athletic Director Should Know for Ultimate Effectiveness.” These outstanding ideas provide skills and strategies to assist in the effectiveness of athletic administrators and are applicable for both new and experienced administrators. To access the list, go to:

<http://reader.mediawiremobile.com/NIAAA/issues/207430/viewer?page=30>.

Administrators Asked to Work with EMIS Coordinators to Ensure Data Accuracy

October 2021 was the month that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) obtained a snapshot of enrollment data (EMIS) from OHSAA member schools for use to determine school placement within tournament divisions for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years*. The OHSAA will be asking school administrators to review their data this winter (**February/March 2022**) during the review/appeal process when the EMIS numbers are sent to you for verification for OHSAA tournament use. Please be sure to work closely with your EMIS coordinators to ensure data reported to ODE is both accurate and complete.

As a reminder, counts of students provided by ODE do not represent *eligible* students but rather enrollment at a school district using one of the EMIS status codes that are identified in the OHSAA Enrollment Business Rules that are found

here: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/EnrollmentBusinessRules.pdf>. There is no correlation between the data of enrollment and those students eligible to participate in athletic competition at a member school. Administrators are also reminded that the information presented by ODE to the OHSAA is for this limited purpose. ODE is not required by law to provide this data but rather does so as a courtesy.

*Denotes that the data is also used in determining school classification for governance purposes and also that tournament divisions in the eight Competitive Balance sports (football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball) are recalculated annually.

Modifications Made to Transfer Bylaws Per Constitution Article 6-1-9

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the concern about students changing schools for pandemic-related reasons, the OHSAA Executive Director’s Office has elected to utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive the strict compliance with some OHSAA Transfer Bylaws. Among the modifications include: 1.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (sub-varsity transfers); 2.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but keep playing for the same school from which they transferred in accordance with state law), and 3.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers (students who transfer but come back to the same school without playing for any other school). For complete details on these modifications, please go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/6-1-9Modifications.pdf>.

In addition, the OHSAA has used Constitution Article 6-1-9 to waive Constitution Articles 3-3-4 and 3-3-5, Continuing Membership, as it relates to sponsoring two sports per sports season, the requirement to participate in 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in a team sport and, at the high school level, participate in the OHSAA sponsored tournament for each of those sports. For more information, contact Manager of Compliance and Membership Services Ronald Sayers at rsayers@ohsaa.org.

Participation Encouraged in 30th Annual OASSA Cheer & Dance Regional Qualifiers and State Championships Events

OHSAA member schools are encouraged to have their students register to participate in the 30th Annual Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators Association (OASSA) Cheer and Dance Regional Qualifier and State Championship events. The 2022 Regional Qualifiers will be held Jan. 29 (Central - Dublin Jerome); Jan. 30 (Northeast - Massillon Perry); Feb. 5 (Southwest - Cincinnati Anderson); Feb. 6 (Northwest - Whitehouse Anthony Wayne) and Feb. 6 (Southeast - Belmont Union Local); the 2022 State Cheer & Dance Championship will be held Feb. 26 (Pickerington North and Pickerington Lakeview Junior High), and the 2022 State Cheer Championship will be held Feb. 27 (Pickerington North). To register your participants, go to

<https://oassa.org/regionals/2022-oassa-regional-qualifier-registration/>. For more details, call 614-430-8311.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the work you are doing with our student-athletes. Have a blessed and peaceful holiday season, and please contact us if we can be of service!