



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Happy
Holidays

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ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

2023-24 School Year, No. 10



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

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

Let's Make Sporting Behavior A Priority

With the winter seasons upon us, administrators are reminded that making sporting behavior a priority during our contests and events must be a priority. This especially holds true in the sport of basketball, where high fan interest and large crowds are the norm at many schools. Please remind your coaches, participants, student groups and parents that they represent the entire school community, and any unsporting actions are a poor reflection on everyone and defeat the purpose of interscholastic athletics, which are educational in nature.

Here are some tools to assist in creating positive environments for your contests or events:

- **A video message from National Federation of State High School Associations Chief Executive Officer Karissa Niehoff on sporting behavior** – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdA2SXDG6c4>.
- **A 6:30 NFHS video called The Parent Seat, an excellent resource to show at parent meetings that explains their role of during game day and provides suggestions on how they can cope with the roller coaster of emotions that they will feel** – <https://nfhslearn.com/library/videos/the-parent-seat>
- **Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to home basketball games** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/PregameStudentScript.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in creating a positive school environment** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SchoolEnvironment.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in setting expectations for parents** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/ParentExpectations.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in engaging with student fans** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/EngagingStudentFans.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in protecting officials** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/ProtectingOfficials.pdf>
- **Ideas to assist administrators in supporting coaches and student-athletes** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SupportingCoachesStudentAthletes.pdf>
- **Printable sporting behavior posters and banners** – <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game/Posters-and-Banners>
- **Sporting behavior scripts for public address announcers** – <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/SportsmanshipPublicAddressScripts.pdf>
- **Guidelines for public address announcers** – <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game/Public-Address-Announcer-Guidelines>

Plan to Recognize Winter Sports Contest Officials January 7-13

The OHSAA is celebrating our contest officials for their hard work and dedication. The week of Jan. 7-13, 2024, is OHSAA Winter Sports Officials Appreciation Week. We believe it is important to show our appreciation and respect for these men and women who give their time to our student-athletes. Athletic administrators are asked to read an OHSAA-provided script (available here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Respect-the-Game/OfficialsAppreciationWeekScript.pdf>) before ALL games that week and use your social media accounts to show your appreciation. 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. 14-20, 2024.

Athletic Administrators: Remind Coaches to Update Scores in MaxPreps App

With the MaxPreps Ratings Percentage Index (RPI) being used for seeding for all girls and boys basketball tournaments beginning with this year's 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 app and update your score in your account. 3.) The **HOME 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 the holiday season, be sure to input your score. It is highly recommended that each school check the results to ensure accuracy.

The RPI rankings may only be accessed on the OHSAA website. The first composite rankings will likely be posted on Jan. 10, 2024. 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 [HERE](#).

LiFEsport Program at Ohio State Offers Upcoming Trainings and Other Resources

Administrators looking for more opportunities for your coaches to learn are encouraged to check out the OHSAA's partnership with [Coach Beyond](#) and the LiFEsports Initiative at The Ohio State University.

- **Upcoming Coach Beyond Trainings:** Jan. 3 at Marion Elgin High School; Jan. 24 at Worthington Christian High School, and Feb. 2 at Lancaster High School.
- **Regional Mental Health Trainings Coming:** Coach Beyond has a one-hour training session on *Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health* that is approved for the new PAP requirements in Ohio, and we are bringing it to you! Be on the lookout for dates on large training sessions in your region of the state this spring. More info to come soon.
- **Online Mental Health Training:** In addition to an in-person training, Coach Beyond has an online one-hour training module that has been approved for the new PAP requirements. Check out the [Online Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Health](#) module on our website!
- **In Case You Missed It:** Coach Beyond held a webinar with Ohio State Head Women's Basketball Coach Kevin McGuff on how he prepares his athletes for game day. See the video and [learn from Coach McGuff](#) here!

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, new to the process this year will be the school administrator emailing student candidates directly with the application information.

Pickerington High School North Student Selected to NFHS National Student Advisory Committee

Pickerington High School North junior Lexi Williams has been selected as one of 16 students to serve on the inaugural National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National Student Advisory Committee. The 16 student leaders, all juniors in classification and all involved in sports or performing arts activities in their schools, will be attending a number of meetings throughout the 2024 calendar year to provide the NFHS student perspectives on participation in high school sports and performing arts. This is the first time the NFHS has created an advisory group composed solely of students. Williams was an Ohio ambassador who attended the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit last summer in Indianapolis and is involved in a number of extracurricular activities at her school, including the student council and diversity club, and she is the founder and president of Pickerington North's poetry club. She also is very active with her church.

Reminders for Out-of-State Travel

Administrators are reminded that schools may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season (Bylaw 9-2-1). Schools must complete the form from the following link when they are participating in a non-contiguous state: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>.

The penalty for traveling to a non-bordering location to compete in contests on more than one occasion shall be ineligibility for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved. Further, the offending school could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. A school which travels to a non-bordering location without approval from the Executive Director's Office shall be subject to a fine and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. Note

that teams may not travel out of state to practice only. However, teams may practice out of state while there to compete in contests.

Please review Bylaws 9-2-3 (sanctioning of competitions) and 9-2-4 (other requirements) for additional information on out-of-state travel.

Mandatory Online Rules Meetings Requirements

Please remind your winter sports coaches that all OHSAA sports have a mandatory on-line rules meeting requirement. Rules meetings have been posted or will be posted in *myOHSAA*, and details are sent from the OHSAA Sport Management team to coaches. Here is the schedule for winter 2024 sports:

Sport	Start Date	Late Fee Begins	End Date	OHSAA Credit Coordinator for Coaches
Basketball	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Doug Ute (dute@ohsaa.org)
Bowling	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Emily Mason (emason@ohsaa.org)
Gymnastics	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 29 at 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Ice Hockey	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Fri., Feb. 2 at 11:59 PM	Monroe Britton (mbritton@ohsaa.org)
Swim/Dive	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Mon., Jan. 22 at 11:59 PM	Kate Barnett (kbarnett@ohsaa.org)
Wrestling	Meeting now available	Late fee has begun	Mon., Feb. 5 at 11:59 pm	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.			

Thank you for your attention to this information. Please contact us if we can be of service!