



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, February 4, 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.

Winter Tournament Information

Boys Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6
Gymnastics: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 6
Ice Hockey: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Wednesday, Feb. 9
Wrestling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Sunday, Feb. 13

Girls Basketball: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Completed
Bowling: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Completed
Swimming & Diving: Draw/Seed Meeting Date – Completed

Winter and Spring Sports State Online Rules Meetings Required

This is a reminder that 2021-22 OHSAA state rules meetings for each winter sport (ice hockey and wrestling) are currently live and will be live for spring sports soon. 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 for ice hockey and wrestling. The ending dates to view meetings for the sports of basketball, bowling, swimming & diving and gymnastics have passed.

Winter Sport	Meeting Live Dates	Late Fee Began	End Date to View Meeting	OHSAA Sport Coordinator
Ice Hockey	Currently Live	Sat., Nov. 20	Fri., Feb. 4 at 11:59 p.m.	Ronald Sayers rsayers@ohsaa.org
Wrestling	Currently Live	Fri., Dec. 3	Mon., Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Spring Sport	Meeting Live Dates	Late Fee Begins	End Date to View Meeting	OHSAA Sport Coordinator
Baseball	Tue., Feb. 8, 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason emason@ohsaa.org
Boys Lacrosse	Tue., Feb. 8, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 19	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Girls Lacrosse	Tue., Feb. 8, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 19	Mon., May 2 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks tbrooks@ohsaa.org
Softball	Wed., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., April 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett kbarnett@ohsaa.org
Boys Tennis	Wed., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m.	Sat., Mar. 26	Mon., April 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Beau Rugg brugg@ohsaa.org
Track & Field	Wed., Feb. 9, 9:00 a.m.	Sun., Mar. 27	Mon., April 25 at 11:59 p.m.	Beau Rugg brugg@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			

State Basketball Tournaments Ticketing Information

Superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and head girls and boys basketball coaches were sent information last week about beginning the digital ticketing purchase process February 2 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 UD 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 will be available to the public starting Monday, February 7, at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Basketball Teams May Play Two Contests a Day

This is a reminder that basketball teams in Ohio may play two contests in a day at the same level, with a maximum of eight quarters per day for each student-athlete so long as those eight quarters are at the same level (varsity, junior varsity or freshman). Season quarter limitations for players and the maximum number of contests permitted for teams remain. This two-game accommodation is only for the 2021-22 season and should not be utilized for 2022-23 scheduling.

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 held earlier this week, 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.

Athletic Administrators Asked to Complete ATLAS Survey for Ohio Athletic Trainers Association

The Ohio Athletic Trainers Association (OATA) asks athletic administrators to please complete the ATLAS (Athletic Training Locations and Services) Project survey that they are conducting in conjunction with the Korey Stringer Institute and the National Athletic Trainers' Association. Information on this survey should have been received previously. The link to the survey is: https://uconn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_enPMxrKzIqYRnL. For questions, go to: secondary_schools@oata.org.

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.

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, in Columbus. The summit is aimed to assist school administrators and coaches in creating environments where ALL students feel honored, supported and accepted. Complete details, including the location, starting time, speakers and registration information, will be available in the near future.

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. Director Kristin Ronai will review the upcoming OHSAA referendum issues on which member school principals will vote in May, and Executive Director Doug Ute will discuss 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, 9:30 to Noon – The Centre at **Bluffton**

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

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**.

COVID-19 Information

Administrators Urged to take Precautions During COVID 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 most administrators may already be aware, the Ohio Department of Health modified its contact tracing procedures on January 26 as follows: Schools may discontinue universal contact tracing but are expected to assist Local Health Departments (LDH) with contract tracing, case investigation and exposure notification related to outbreaks or clusters in schools as determined by the LDH. Schools should continue to follow ODH's 'Mask to Stay/Test to Play' protocol 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>. To keep up with the latest from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, go here: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/index.html>.

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.

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>.

Member Schools' Tournament Responsibilities/Regulations During COVID

With OHSAA winter tournaments starting soon, the Executive Director's Office reminds administrators that the fall memo that was sent to provide 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 is still in place. 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>.

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!