



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Friday, January 21, 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.

### **COVID-19 Information Begins on Page 2**

#### **You Are Invited → Finance Team To Present Review of OHSAA Fall Tournaments**

On Thursday, January 27, starting at 8:30 a.m., the OHSAA finance team led by Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl and Controller Laura Vermilya, joined by Executive Director Doug Ute, will be hosting a virtual meeting for member school administrators to provide a financial review of the OHSAA's fall tournaments. All administrators are welcome to participate, so please use this link (<https://www.ohsaa.org/meetings>) to register for that meeting and receive your link. The link to access the meeting will be located in the "Additional Information" section of your confirmation email. If you have any questions on connectivity, please contact OHSAA Manager of Membership Services and Compliance Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)).

#### **OHSAA Board of Directors Approves Several Recommendations at January 13 Meeting**

The OHSAA Board of Directors approved several recommendations from the Executive Director's Office during its regularly scheduled meeting of January 13, including placing the first four referendum items for the May 2022 voting period before the membership. For more information on those referendum items, go to:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/ApprovedRefItems-Jan2022.pdf>

The Board also approved a recommendation that girls wrestling and boys volleyball become emerging sports beginning with the 2022-23 school year and that boys and girls lacrosse move out of the emerging sports category and become fully recognized sports. In addition, the Board approved a recommendation to increase the season quarter limitations in the sport of basketball effective immediately to 132 (from 120) at the high school level and 96 (from 75) at the 7th-8th grade level and a recommendation to add the 8x400-meter relay in 7th-8th grade track & field.

#### **OHSAA January Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Available**

Here is a link to the minutes from January 13, 2022, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Board-of-Directors-Minutes/2021-22/01132022BoardMinutes.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.

#### **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 has opened. 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](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)), Ronald Sayers ([rsayers@ohsaa.org](mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org)) or Alexis Holderman ([aholderman@ohsaa.org](mailto: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.

#### **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. Details are being finalized, but the sites will likely be Athens, Bluffton, Cambridge, Columbus, Clayton and Cuyahoga Falls. 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. Complete details and registration information will be available in the near future.

### **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, which has already been sent to member school principals, asks 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. Administrators and coaches are asked to confer with each other to ensure your responses match your school's position. 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.

### **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 <a href="mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org">brugg@ohsaa.org</a>
Wrestling	Currently Live	Friday, Dec. 3	Mon., Feb. 7 at 11:59 p.m.	Tyler Brooks <a href="mailto:tbrooks@ohsaa.org">tbrooks@ohsaa.org</a>
Swimming & Diving	Currently Live	Tuesday, Nov. 30	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett <a href="mailto:kbarnett@ohsaa.org">kbarnett@ohsaa.org</a>
Ice Hockey	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Fri., Feb. 4 at 11:59 p.m.	Ronald Sayers <a href="mailto:rsayers@ohsaa.org">rsayers@ohsaa.org</a>
Gymnastics	Currently Live	Tuesday, Dec. 7	Mon., Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m.	Kate Barnett <a href="mailto:kbarnett@ohsaa.org">kbarnett@ohsaa.org</a>
Bowling	Currently Live	Saturday, Nov. 20	Mon., Jan. 24 at 11:59 p.m.	Emily Mason <a href="mailto:emason@ohsaa.org">emason@ohsaa.org</a>

### **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. Here is the latest from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from December 30, 2021, which recommends following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated isolation and quarantine guidance: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/media-center/odh-news-releases/odh-news-release-12-30-21>.

Here is a link to the CDC's update from December 27, 2021: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html> and its January 7, 2022, telebriefing on its COVID-19 update: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/t0107-covid-update.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.

### **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!