



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

## Guidance for Bylaw 9-2-3, Sanctioning

This document will provide an explanation of the process a school must go through to ensure it is in compliance with Bylaw 9-2-3 which reads:

*Whether a contest/event is in Ohio or outside of Ohio, schools must secure a sanction through the National Federation of State High School Associations for competition by a member school in any of the following contests:*

- (a) ANY event which includes an Ohio AND an out-of-state school that is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community;*
- (b) Events involving non-bordering states where five (5) or more states are involved;*
- (c) Events involving non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved;*
- (d) Events involving two (2) or more schools that includes a team from a foreign country, with the exception of Canada and Mexico.*

*NOTE: In (b) and (c) above, no sanction is required if the contest(s) only involve Ohio schools and/or schools which border Ohio. Schools desiring to participate in an event covered under the aforementioned scenarios must visit [https://www.nfhs.org/ Sanctioning/](https://www.nfhs.org/Sanctioning/) in order to obtain the sanction.*

- If a school is participating in an event which is covered under Bylaw 9-2-3, it is the responsibility of the school to check and see if the event has been sanctioned by the NFHS. This holds true regardless of whether the event is within Ohio or outside of Ohio. The school can complete this verification obligation by using this link: <https://www.nfhs.org/Sanctioning/Home/Search>
  - If an event should be sanctioned per 9-2-3 and it is not listed on the link above, the school should decline the invitation to the event until such a time that a sanction can be verified.
- The majority of the time, it is not the school's responsibility to request the sanction from the NFHS unless it is the host/sponsor of the event. It is the host/sponsor of the event which would be required to request the sanction from the NFHS. The participating school is simply obligated to verify the sanction prior to participation.
  - Once the host/sponsor requests the sanction, the OHSAA Office will be contacted by the NFHS to approve/deny any Ohio schools' participation in the event. The OHSAA's response for Ohio school participation will then be shown within the details of the event on the search page listed above.
- If the OHSAA school is participating in a sanctioned event within Ohio or in a bordering state, there is no form required to be submitted to the Executive Director's Office- the school simply needs to check on the sanctioning status. **However, if the sanctioned event is being conducted in a non-bordering state then it will need to first be approved by the applicable OHSAA sport administrator using the Bylaw 9-2-1 form:** <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>

Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai ([kronai@ohsaa.org](mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org)) if you have any questions!