



## Welcome to the 2026 OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament

Welcome to the 89th Annual Boys and Fourth Annual Girls OHSAA Wrestling State Tournament. If you have any concerns or needs, please ask for Tim Stried from the OHSAA or the media assistants on press row or at the media entrance.

The policies cited below have been developed with members of the media and in accordance with OHSAA regulations. The media entrance opens at the following times: Session 1 (11:15 a.m.), Session 2 (8:30 a.m.), Session 3 (4 p.m.), Session 4 (8:30 a.m.) and Session 5 (3 p.m.). Press row remains open for media between sessions.

### 1. Recognition of Media

- A. Last year, Michael Leonard from the Akron Beacon Journal was recognized with the OHSWCA/OHSAA MEDIA AWARD. This year the recipient is Curt Conrad from the Richland Source. Congratulations Curt!
- B. **During Session 2**, media are asked to nominate individuals for next year's media award. During Session 3, media will then vote on the Top 3 nominees. Forms will be provided by the media ushers.

### 2. Reporting for Matches

- A. The official program has a description of how the match board is used.
- B. Check the program for match numbers. The match number is the key. All 1,345 matches have a number.
- C. Match calls will not be made over the PA. Check the match board above the center arena scoreboard.
- D. Beginning at each session, the first 10 match numbers will be called and assigned to a mat to wrestle. The next 10 numbers will then be called and assigned to a mat as "on-deck." The next 10 match numbers will be called to report to the bullpen. When a match is completed, the on-deck match begins wrestling and the next assigned match moves from the bullpen to "on-deck" for that mat number.

### 3. General Policies

- A. Media credentials are for your use only. They are non-transferable.
- B. **IMPROPER USE OF A PASS WILL SUBJECT THE USER TO REMOVAL FROM THE TOURNAMENT AND POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS PLACED UPON THE MEDIA OUTLET TO WHICH THE CREDENTIALS WERE ISSUED. DO NOT CHEER, COACH AND/OR COMMENT DURING A WRESTLING MATCH.**
- C. Please wear your media credential at all times. Those with floor passes must also wear the designated wrist band.
- D. Use of tobacco products are not allowed in the facility.
- E. Check in at the media entrance and with the assistants at press row prior to each session.

### 4. Access to the Arena Floor and Media Interviews

- A. Only "COMBO", "PHOTO/TV" and "TEMPORARY" credentials admit media to the floor and the assigned wrist band must be worn.
- B. Media with a "PRESS ROW" credential will not be allowed on the main arena floor except for the interview area beside the head table during Session 5 and the viewing area in the northeast corner during Sessions 1-4 where media members may wait for the wrestler and/or coach they have requested to interview.
- C. **Interviews will take place in the media interview room or in the media viewing area in the northeast corner of the arena floor during Sessions 1-4. During Session 5, interviews will take place near the head table in the southwest corner. Interviews are not permitted beside the mat. See next page for more details.**

### 5. Access to Referees/Officials

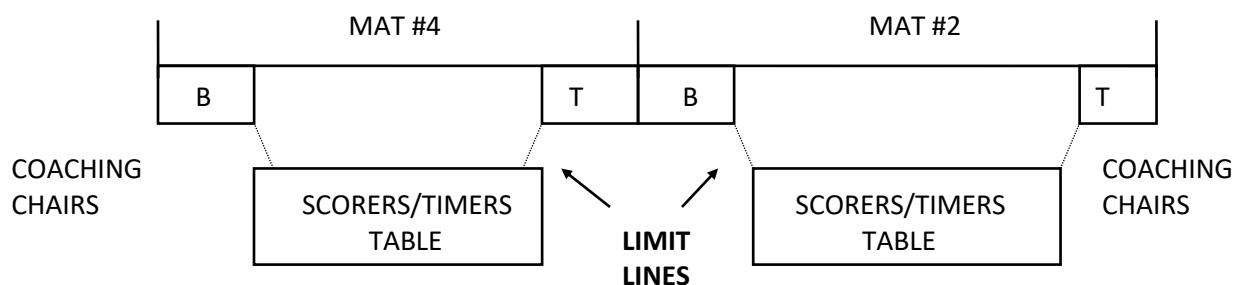
If requested, a pool reporter will be designated to direct any interview questions to a referee or tournament official. Please contact Tim Stried or a press row assistant if you have any questions for a referee or tournament official.

**6. Photographers**

- A. Below is a diagram indicating a line drawn from the coaches' chairs to the Match Scorer/Timer table. Similar to basketball, this is a "limit line" which you can follow when sitting or kneeling to take photographs. The coaching chairs have been placed in a designated area.
- B. Please do not stand in front of the Team Scoreboards.
- C. If videotaping or taking photos from Press Row, please do not obstruct views of others.

Under no conditions can we allow you to stand or kneel in front of the limit line:

- 1. The scorers and timers must have a clear visual sight to watch matches.
- 2. The official must have room to work around the mat.



**7. Results and Team Scores**

- A. Live results are available at USA Bracketing and brackets will also updated throughout each session at BaumsPage.com. Printed results are no longer available.

**8. Media Interview Request System**

- A. To interview a coach or wrestler during Sessions 1-4, complete a request slip and hand it to one of the press row assistants. A runner will take the request slip to the coach. Coaches and wrestlers are encouraged to do interviews. The runner will try to notify you if the coach clearly declines your request. Once the match is finished the coach/wrestler will go to the media interview room located in the northeast corner.
- B. For the **CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES**, a runner has been assigned to each finalist and will automatically take both wrestlers and their coaches to the media interview area on the arena floor in the southwest corner. Please keep in mind that this process may be slowed down by the awards ceremony and/or a cool-down period for the competitors.
- C. Be sure to indicate match number, mat number and media seat number, and plan ahead – give the slip to the runner prior to the match being wrestled. This will be easy to do by following the match board and program. Most matches have been preassigned to a mat number.
- D. **Members of the media are not allowed to interview a wrestler or coach on the arena floor except in the designated area in the northeast corner.** Interviews are also allowed in the auxiliary gymnasium.

**9. Official's Decisions**

Please help us conduct a first-class tournament by not criticizing the decision of an official. Please keep comments to yourself – especially if you are on the floor.

**10. Media Refreshments**

The OHSAA provides media with soft drinks, water and snacks throughout the tournament in the "Board Room," which is located in the northeast corner on the right side of the hallway. Also, an early dinner for the media will also be served once per day. Additional food items can be purchased at concession stands located on the Entry Level.