

# 2023-24 OHSAA General Media Regulations

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**Note:** Underlined text or text with a strike-through (~~text~~) denote changes from 2022-23 media regulations.

## OHSAA Media Regulations Commonly Asked Questions

### 1. Who are the OHSAA's official television and streaming partners and what rights do they hold?

Spectrum News 1 is the OHSAA's official television partner. Spectrum has exclusive live video rights to selected OHSAA postseason events in football and basketball. A contest televised by Spectrum News 1 can have no other video play-by-play productions for that same contests (live or delayed).

A tournament contest streamed by Spectrum can have no other live video play-by-play productions. Delayed video coverage of the same contest is permitted if the facility can accommodate the request.

The NFHS Network is the OHSAA's official streaming partner. The NFHS Network has exclusive live video streaming rights to selected OHSAA postseason tournament events. A contest covered by the NFHS Network can have no other live video productions, including live TV and live video streaming. Delayed video is permitted of the same contest if the facility can accommodate the request.

In some cases, OHSAA tournament contests that are not televised by Spectrum News 1, not streamed by Spectrum and not streamed by the NFHS Network could be available for live video coverage (TV and streaming) at the discretion of the OHSAA, with payment of a rights fee, according to the tournament rights fee chart posted on the 'News & Media' page at [OHSAA.org](http://OHSAA.org).

### 2. Is live video streaming and/or television permitted for high school regular-season contests?

For all regular-season contests, in all sports, the host school determines permission for all live video requests. This includes both streaming and television requests. There is no fee due to the OHSAA for any media coverage of regular-season contests. Schools and/or conferences are permitted to charge media rights fees.

### 3. Do I need to accommodate media covering the visiting team during a contest at my school?

The OHSAA expects the host school to accommodate the primary media that follow the visiting school. When needed, the Athletic Director of the visiting school should be consulted to determine the priority media outlets that follow his/her school.

In addition, even if the host school is live broadcasting the contest, the OHSAA expects that the host site will accommodate the primary live broadcast of the visiting school.

In football, the OHSAA has developed the press box priority seating chart that is used for playoff games in which the two Athletic Directors submit a list of their priority media and seats are assigned accordingly, rotating back and from from the home team first, then the visiting team second, then back to the home team third, etc. The chart is posted on the football page at [OHSAA.org](http://OHSAA.org)

### 4. Can media charge a pay-per-view fee for their OHSAA tournament contest coverage, including broadcasts?

Media outlets are permitted to charge a fee for customers to obtain their content, including broadcasts, of OHSAA postseason tournament contests. For any OHSAA tournament contest that media is permitted to broadcast, either live or delayed, a media outlet cannot charge users more than \$10 per single contest, or more than \$30 per month for a subscription.

### 5. When are Additional Rights Fees Assessed?

A media outlet shall not be charged more than one rights fee for the same type of coverage (live or delayed) of an OHSAA tournament contest. In addition, if a media outlet covers an OHSAA tournament contest live (audio or video) and then posts that same broadcast on the station's website, or shows the game again on delay, there is no additional fee.

### **SAME FORM OF COVERAGE EXAMPLES (no extra fee)**

If a media outlet televises an OHSAA tournament contest live, and also live streams that same contest using the same

production, the media outlet shall only pay the specific rights fee for live television, and will not owe additional fees for streaming, because both forms of coverage were live. Or if a media outlet is doing a live radio broadcast of a contest and the broadcast is also available on the station's website with a live video feed, a second rights fee is not owed.

If a media outlet is doing a delayed video production of an OHSAA postseason tournament contest and the video is shown both on TV and the station's website, a second rights fee is not owed since both forms of coverage were on delay.

#### **DIFFERENT FORM OF COVERAGE EXAMPLES (extra fee)**

If a media outlet is doing a live video stream of an OHSAA postseason contest and then shows the contest on television later, a second rights fee is owed for delayed TV since one form of coverage was live streaming and the second was delayed TV.

If a media outlet is doing a live audio broadcast while recording video of the contest to show later online and/or TV, a second rights fee is owed because the first form of coverage was live audio and the second was delayed video.

#### **6. How do I obtain media credentials to cover an event?**

For regular-season events, media shall contact the host school's athletic department. For sectional, district and regional tournament contests (and state semifinal games in soccer, football and lacrosse), media shall contact the site manager or the appointed media coordinator. For state tournament games, media credential requests must be submitted to the OHSAA by using the official credential application process. The forms are found on the "State Finals Media Credentials" page on the 'News & Media' page at OHSAA.org.

\* There are four state tournaments that do not require submission of a credential application: golf, tennis, field hockey and bowling.

#### **7. What is the policy for photographers at events?**

During regular-season events, the host school is responsible for determining which media and photographers can have sideline access. During postseason OHSAA tournament contests, the site manager or media coordinator are responsible for determining access. For state tournaments, the OHSAA is responsible for credentialing and determining access.

Bona fide newspapers may sell photos from any regular-season or OHSAA postseason tournament contest through the newspaper's website or office. Individual photographers are permitted to sell photos from regular-season and pre-state tournament events if they are affiliated with one of the schools participating and that school's athletic director has given permission for him/her to sell photos. However, the site manager or media coordinator are responsible for determining if the photographer receives special access.

Individual photographers may not sell photos from state tournament contests. See Section 6 for more information.

#### **8. When is flash photography not permitted?**

Flash photography is not permitted at any time in the sports of gymnastics, diving, bowling and any OHSAA tournament contest in volleyball. Flash photography is also prohibited at the start of a swimming race, so as to not interfere with the starter's signal. In golf, flash photography (and noise from a device) is not permitted when a player is swinging the club or addressing the ball. In basketball, flash photography is not permitted from within the free throw lane area extended through the baseline.

Flash photography is permitted in regular-season volleyball contests only in gymnasiums that have a low light meter reading (see Section 6 for more information).

#### **9. What is the policy for the use of the OHSAA logo?**

The policy for use of the OHSAA logo by media outlets in their coverage of school sports is posted on the 'News & Media' page at OHSAA.org. Additional information is located in the OHSAA's General Sports Regulations.

#### **10. Can student-athletes accept an award from a media outlet, such as a "Player of the Game" award?**

Yes, provided the value of the award does not exceed \$500 and the student-athlete does not participate in a promotion for the media outlet or prize. Please see OHSAA Bylaw 5.

A reminder that student-athletes at OHSAA member schools cannot receive compensation or benefits to endorse products, services, media outlets, etc.

## 2023-24 OHSAA

# Working with the Media

*The OHSAA's guide for coaches, student-athletes,  
administrators and tournament managers,  
and the media who cover high school sports.*



Ohio High School Athletic Association  
www.OHSAA.org  
@OHSAAsports

**Respect  
THE  
GAME**<sup>SM</sup>

Edited and Endorsed by the OHSAA Media Advisory Committee,  
the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association and the  
Ohio Newspaper Photographers Association




The OHSAA annually produces the "Working with the Media" brochure for schools and media members to assist with their coverage of high school sports.

## Memo to OHSAA Member Schools Regarding Broadcasting

Note that during regular-season contests, the host school always controls all media access and live coverage permissions. During the postseason tournaments, some levels of the tournaments have rights fees due to the OHSAA, and there are two media partners – Spectrum and the NFHS Network – that have exclusivity for the events they select.

Spectrum covers the football playoffs and the basketball state tournament (the 'Final Four' in Dayton). The NFHS Network covers many sectional, district and regional contests and also the state tournaments in field hockey, cross country, soccer, volleyball, ice hockey, wrestling, lacrosse, track and field, softball and baseball. The NFHS Network also has a school partner program in which schools can free receive equipment to cover their home events.

### Live Audio Broadcasts

Note that live audio broadcasts are always permitted regardless of the live video regulations described below. In some cases, if there are space issues, the participating schools or the OHSAA may develop a priority system to determine which broadcasts receive media credentials to cover the event.

### Postseason Events on the NFHS Network

The OHSAA has partnered with the NFHS Network to provide live video streaming of many postseason tournament contests. There are two types of NFHS Network coverage: 1.) mounted pixellot camera at a venue, and 2.) production company with cameras and announcers. If the NFHS Network is covering an event with a mounted pixelot camera, then student broadcast groups are permitted to provide their own original live video coverage with their own equipment, but all other video productions must be on tape-delay. If the NFHS Network is covering an event with a production company, then there can be no other live video coverage of that event. Tape-delayed video productions are permitted if the facility can accommodate the request.

### Postseason Events on Spectrum

If Spectrum is covering a contest with multiple cameras and announcers, then there can be no other live or tape-delayed video play-by-play productions of that contest. Live audio broadcasts are permitted. If Spectrum is covering the game with one camera, then live audio and tape-delayed video productions are permitted if the facility can accommodate the request.

### Media Following Their Local Teams

The OHSAA encourages and supports media following their local teams throughout the tournaments and expects host sites to accommodate the primary media following both teams. Live audio broadcasts are always permitted. Live video broadcasts are permitted if the contest is not covered by Spectrum nor the NFHS Network. Tape-delayed video broadcasts are permitted if the contest is covered by an NFHS Network or a one-camera Spectrum stream, and the facility can accommodate the additional broadcast requests.

## OHSAA Tournament Media Credential Expectations & Conditions

### EXPECTATIONS

Thank you for your coverage! Please be mindful that interscholastic athletics is different than college and professional sports. For most of our participants, this is the only time in their lives their name will appear in print or be heard over the air. While the participants want to win, they play for fun and to be with their friends. Interscholastic athletics are unique in that they are education-based and are intended to foster a sense of community as well as to teach teamwork, citizenship and discipline. So please be respectful in your reporting and realize that you are covering an interscholastic athletics contest, not a college or professional event.

In addition, we ask that you please respect the officials working this contest and not degrade or ridicule them in your coverage. There is an officials shortage in Ohio and across the country and we owe officials a 'thank you' instead of criticism.

### CONDITIONS OF OHSAA CREDENTIALS

Please see Section 5 for conditions of receiving working media credentials to cover an OHSAA contest.

 **NFHS Network** @NFHSNetwork · 2h

If you come across an account pretending to be the #NFHSNetwork, report it right away. Follow these steps to stay secure! Catch all the High School sports action only on the #NFHSNetwork: [bit.ly/3jkb1Oo](https://bit.ly/3jkb1Oo)



**HOW TO REPORT  
FAKE LINKS &  
ACCOUNTS  
ON TWITTER**

- 1 Open the profile you'd like to report.
- 2 Select the **Overflow** icon.
- 3 Select **Report** and then select the type of issue you'd like to report.

**PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PHISHING**

**REPORT**

The NFHS and OHSAA remind fans and media to be leary of clicking on links or submitting credit card information to watch a streamed contest from an unknown source. There are many fake social media accounts that claim to have live tournament contests available for a fee.

## Introduction

The Ohio High School Athletic Association develops the regulations for media coverage of all OHSAA tournament contests. Some policies shall also be in effect for regular-season contests. Besides the following regulations, the OHSAA Board of Directors may adopt additional media regulations for OHSAA tournament contests.

## Section 1 General Broadcasting Regulations

**a.)** Radio, television and webcast companies may originate broadcasts from regular season and OHSAA tournament contests provided OHSAA, school and local regulations and OHSAA exclusive agreements are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site. Written requests to originate OHSAA tournament contests should be made at least one week in advance of each contest, or as soon as qualifying teams are known, with the contest manager (sectional, district and regional contests) or the OHSAA office or designated contest or media managers (state contests).

**b.)** All OHSAA tournament contests are the property of the OHSAA, and rights awarded to broadcast an OHSAA tournament contest are limited. Radio, television and webcast companies must apply in writing to originate broadcasts of OHSAA tournament contests. Rights fees will be assessed in sports and at rates to be determined by the OHSAA Board of Directors.

**Notes:** Rights fees paid to the OHSAA help cover the Association's costs of administering tournaments. Rights to broadcast do not entitle the outlet the right to determine any of the logistical matters related to the origination or special access to areas or individuals. All logistical issues are to be worked out between the originating outlet and the contest manager of the host venue in advance of the event (or the OHSAA's Director of Information for state tournament events), with the contest manager or OHSAA having the final say when the two sides cannot mutually agree. The OHSAA office will mediate in any unresolved issues.

**c.)** When rights fees are assessed, checks, cash or money orders must be collected prior to the contest unless alternative arrangements have been made in advance. Checks or money orders must be made out to the OHSAA unless a tournament contest manager or the OHSAA office or designated contest or media managers indicate otherwise.

**d.)** Broadcast rights for OHSAA tournament contests may not be sold, leased or given to any other media outlets without permission from the OHSAA. A media outlet given permission to take a feed from another outlet must apply for broadcast rights approval before accepting a feed from that outlet and must abide by all other OHSAA regulations, including payment of appropriate rights fees.

**Notes:** A recording (DVD, videotape, electronic file, etc.) of a contest is considered a "feed." Therefore, a television station, even if granted broadcast rights by the OHSAA, may not share a video with any other station or stations without written permission from the OHSAA and payment of appropriate rights fees. The airing of a coach's game or scouting video does not qualify for a rights-fee waiver.

**e.)** The OHSAA may enter into an exclusive contract with a company to provide live and/or tape-delayed telecasts and/or video and audio webcasts of OHSAA tournament contests. No other television originations or video or audio webcasts — live or tape-

delayed — are permitted during contests in which the OHSAA has entered into an exclusive contract.

**f.)** Broadcasts of OHSAA tournament contests may not be duplicated in any form for resale without the written permission of the OHSAA. Should permission for resale be granted, the OHSAA reserves the right to collect a rights fee for such sales at rates to be determined by the OHSAA Board of Directors.

**g.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, advertisements for alcohol, tobacco, drugs of any kind, gambling of any kind, political parties or candidates or any other advertising considered in poor taste are prohibited.

**Notes:** No tavern or other establishment whose primary business is serving or distributing alcoholic beverages will be accepted for sponsorship. Combination businesses, such as hotels, restaurants or convenience or drug stores, which dispense alcoholic beverages in a capacity secondary to its primary purpose, may advertise on broadcasts but no part of the advertising message may refer to the sale of alcoholic beverages, or to a bar, cocktail lounge or other facility dispensing alcoholic beverages. Advertising messages for the type of prohibited sponsors cannot be used during the broadcast from the station break preceding the contest until after the final station break following the contest. Advertisements promoting the passage of a school levy may be accepted.

**h.)** The OHSAA reserves the right to terminate a media outlet from broadcasting any tournament contest at any time or to prohibit future broadcasts by an outlet if, in the OHSAA's judgment, there has been an unfair account of the teams or officials in the contest; if previous broadcasting by an outlet has been in poor taste or incompatible with the educational dignity of the OHSAA, event or institution from which it originates, or if an outlet does not comply with the regulations stated herein.

**i.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, all broadcast equipment shall not be placed in a position where it could be injurious to participants, spectators or other media members. The OHSAA, host facilities or host institutions shall not be responsible for any unlawful or negligent acts by any authorized or unauthorized media outlets or any of their employees or agents. These outlets and/or their agents shall hold the OHSAA harmless from any accident claims which arise from such causes, but not limited to, as malfunction of equipment, collapse of platforms or tables or any structure or device which is the property of or under the care of these outlets or agents. More information is described in "conditions for media credentials" located in Section 5.

**j.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, all broadcast equipment is to be placed in a position where it does not interfere with paying spectators. When contests are sold out, the originating party may be required to pay for any seats which are made unusable by equipment set-up for the origination of a broadcast. The OHSAA office will mediate if needed.

**k.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, all costs, including installations, wire charges, etc., incurred in connection with broadcasts are to be met by the media outlets concerned. There are to be no expenses to the OHSAA or tournament contest managers in connection with such broadcasts.

**l.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, radio, television and webcast companies may utilize sideline reporters in the sport of football provided school and local regulations are adhered to, space is available and it is logistically possible at the host site's venue. Sideline reporters in all other sports are not permitted

unless approved by the OHSAA, which will determine the areas sideline reporters may work.

**m.)** At the discretion of the OHSAA, stations may be required to provide a minimum of 60 seconds per tournament game broadcast for public service messages provided by the OHSAA. Each message shall be 30 seconds in length, with recommended insertion order for one in each of the first and second halves of each contest, or one during the contest and one during the pre-game, halftime or post-game segments. Stations may be required to provide affidavits of performance from each game broadcast to document this regulation.

**n.)** Other than adhering to the regulations that are described in this section, conferences/leagues or OHSAA member schools hosting contests own the right to enter into exclusive contracts or charge rights fees for broadcasts of regular-season contests.

**Notes:** The OHSAA expects host schools to accommodate the primary media, including broadcasts from each of the participating schools, even if the host school is also live streaming the game. Schools are also reminded that efforts to accommodate the media will enhance public relations. When deciding whether or not to charge rights fees or enter into exclusive agreements, consideration should be given to the value of services that broadcast outlets traditionally provide at no cost to schools (such as announcements of closings, delays, ticket availability, etc.).

**o.)** During OHSAA tournament contests, stations approved for broadcast may display one banner if space is available at a venue for that purpose; the displaying of banners does not violate school or local regulations, and the displaying of such banner does not conflict with a contract the OHSAA has in place with an exclusive corporate or media partner. If approved, banners should be displayed at the station's broadcast location, and the banner may only be displayed while the station is broadcasting.

**p.)** Stations are reminded that athletic staff representatives of NCAA-member schools (all divisions and including members of a school's coaching staff) are not to appear as commentators or for guest interviews during regular season or OHSAA tournament contests since this is a violation of NCAA rules. Violation of this rule could result in penalties to the NCAA school involved or jeopardize the eligibility of athletes participating in the game being originated. This is not an OHSAA regulation but is provided as information and to prevent violations from occurring.

**1.)** While athletic staff representatives of NCAA-member schools are permitted to comment about recruits after the recruit has signed a National Letter of Intent, NCAA regulations prohibit coaches and institutional staff members from making any appearance, live or video-taped, during a broadcast of a contest featuring prospects.

## Section 2 Television Regulations

### Television, Section 1. — Definitions

**a.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a live telecast shall be defined as one in which the origination occurs simultaneously with the event being covered.

**b.)** When a tape-delayed broadcast is permitted, the broadcast production can begin when the contest has concluded. ~~For the purpose of these regulations, a delayed telecast shall be defined~~

~~as one which is telecast after 10:00 p.m. on the day the contest is played, and includes more than three minutes of game-action footage.~~

**c.)** For the purpose of these regulations, an over-the-air commercial station shall be defined as one which is freely available to anyone with a television within the broadcast area and accepts payments for advertising of any programming, even if a broadcast is not sponsored.

**d.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a cable television station shall be defined as one which requires a subscription to receive. Subscribers receive cable stations through local cable system operators, who receive the programming from the networks and transmit them into homes.

**e.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a low power station shall be defined as one which provides television service for locally-created and community-oriented programming in both rural locations and individual communities within larger urban areas. Low power stations cannot employ transmitter powers in excess of 1,000 watts.

**f.)** For the purpose of these regulations, an educational access station shall be defined as one which is not-for-profit, non-commercial (funding is obtained from community governments or cable franchise fees; there are no sponsorships or advertising) and broadcasts are primarily produced by volunteers.

**g.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a school station shall be defined as one which is school-owned and operated, non-commercial (accepts no sponsorships or advertising) and some of the production and broadcast crew is comprised of students.

### Television, Section 2. — Live Telecasts

**a.)** For all regular-season contests, in all sports, the host school determines permission for live video requests. This includes both online streaming and television requests.

**b.)** Many OHSAA tournament contests are televised by Spectrum News 1, and/or streamed by Spectrum, or streamed by the NFHS Network. In some cases, if a contest is not covered by Spectrum nor the NFHS Network, the contest could be available for live video coverage (TV and streaming) at the discretion of the OHSAA, with payment of a rights fee, if applicable, according to the tournament rights fee chart.

### Television, Section 3. — Delayed Telecasts

**a.)** Delayed telecasts of regular-season contests are permitted provided approval is granted by the Athletic Director of the host school with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**b.)** Delayed telecasts of OHSAA tournament contests are permitted provided they do not conflict with an OHSAA exclusive agreement and approval is granted by the tournament contest manager (sectional, district and regional contests) or the OHSAA Executive Director's Office (for state contests) with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**c.)** Approval for delayed telecasts of OHSAA tournament contests permit stations the right to telecast the stated contest(s) an unlimited number of times for two weeks following the date of the contest. Additional airing of contests following the two-week

period may result in additional rights fees assessed at rates to be approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors.

#### Television, Section 4. — Rights Fees

a.) Live television productions of OHSAA tournament contests require payment of a rights fee determined by the OHSAA. When live television productions are granted for regular-season contests, a rights fee and other requirements shall be determined by the host school.

b.) For OHSAA tournament contests, rights fees will be assessed at rates approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors. Tournament rights fees for the 2023-24 school year shall be posted on the OHSAA News & Media web site ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

b.) The OHSAA has no control over “park and power” fees, “hookup” fees or any other miscellaneous fees that school or local tournament sites may assess for broadcasting at their venue, although fees assessed for these services should be kept to a nominal level. The OHSAA shall mediate, if needed.

#### Television, Section 5 - Additional Tournament Rights Fees

Please see the FAQs on page 2.

#### Television, Section 6A. — Waiver of Tournament Rights Fees

Tournament rights fees shall be waived when the following conditions are met:

a.) School Stations — All OHSAA regulations shall be adhered to; the contest shall not be fed to any other station; formal application for waiver shall be submitted by the teacher or school administrator in the same manner as other outlets but shall also include a full description of the station and its programming, and students involved with the broadcast shall be accompanied at the contest by a teacher or school administrator.

#### Television, Section 6B. — Majority Waiver of Tournament Rights Fees

The majority of tournament rights fees shall be waived when the following conditions are met (Note: The fee assessed to Education Access Stations shall be approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors):

a.) Educational Access Stations — All OHSAA regulations shall be adhered to; the contest shall not be fed to any other station, and formal application for waiver shall be submitted by a station administrator in the same manner as other outlets but shall also include a full description of the station and its programming.

**Notes:** Educational access stations and school stations that accept sponsorships or advertising for coverage of contests must pay established OHSAA rights fees.

#### Television, Section 7. — One Origination

In the event more than one station is approved to telecast the same OHSAA tournament contest(s), said stations may be required to share equipment and announcing positions if the host site cannot accommodate more than one request. Such sharing will be mutually arranged by the stations involved, the contest manager and the OHSAA. If facilities are not available to accommodate more than one station and sharing of equipment and announcing positions cannot be arranged, consideration shall be given first to the home team (as designated by the brackets drawn for the tournaments - not necessarily the host site). With these factors being equal, priority shall be given first to stations which have previously televised OHSAA activities. Sharing equipment and announcing positions means that only one production unit and set of cameras are allowed at the site. Additional announcer

set-ups are permissible should the originating unit provide a “split feed” to another outlet desiring the game video and desiring to use its own announcers, provided the local site can accommodate the personnel.

**Notes:** While recognizing the value of providing educational opportunities for students at its member schools, the OHSAA will make all efforts to accommodate school stations. However, space limitations at OHSAA tournament contests will likely result in the priority for accommodations going to “traditional” broadcasting outlets.

#### Television, Section 8. — Spot News Coverage

a.) Reporters and photographers from over-the-air stations, cable stations or web sites approved for credentials shall be granted access to OHSAA tournament contests for spot news coverage and may broadcast, cablecast, air, televise or display game highlights only on a bona-fide newscast or approved web site. A bona-fide newscast is one that is regularly scheduled on an OHSAA-approved media outlet. Guidelines for approved web sites are listed later in these regulations.

b.) Stations or web sites shall be limited to show a maximum of three minutes of game highlights from each OHSAA tournament contest for a bona-fide newscast or on an approved web site.

c.) No live feeds from an OHSAA tournament contest may be shown on a newscast or posted on a web site if they conflict with a company that has an exclusive agreement with the OHSAA to air a contest live or by tape-delay.

d.) So long as highlights of OHSAA tournament contests are limited to three minutes or less, no rights fees will be assessed by the OHSAA.

e.) Rights fees established by the OHSAA Board of Directors will be assessed whenever highlights of OHSAA tournament contests are sold.

## Section 3 Radio Regulations

#### Radio, Section 1. — Definitions

a.) For the purpose of these regulations, an over-the-air commercial station shall be defined as one which is freely available to anyone with a radio within the broadcast area and accepts payments for advertising of any programming, even if a broadcast is not sponsored.

b.) For the purpose of these regulations, a public radio station shall be defined as one which is not-for-profit, non-commercial and privately funded.

c.) For the purpose of these regulations, a low-power station shall be defined according to FCC regulations as one which provides radio service for locally-created and community-oriented programming. These stations are non-commercial (accept no sponsorships or advertising) and broadcasts are produced by volunteers.

d.) For the purpose of these regulations, a school station shall be defined as one which is school-owned and operated, non-commercial (accepts no sponsorships or advertising) and some of the production and broadcast crew is comprised of students (technical assistance provided by school or station personnel).

**Radio, Section 2. — Live Broadcasts**

**a.)** Live broadcasts of regular-season contests are permitted provided that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**b.)** Live broadcasts of OHSAA tournament contests (all sports) are permitted — unless the OHSAA enters into an exclusive contract with a company to provide live and/or delayed broadcasts of state tournament contests — with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**Radio, Section 3. — Tournament Rights Fees**

**a.)** For OHSAA tournament contests, rights fees will be assessed in sports and at rates approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors. The same rates will be assessed whether the contest is broadcast live or is delayed.

**b.)** Tournament rights fees for the 2023-24 school year are posted on the OHSAA News & Media web site ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**Radio, Section 4. — Additional Tournament Fees**

**a.)** Outlets approved for a radio broadcast that desire to also stream the audio of a contest onto a station-owned web site or onto a cable television system (audio only) are permitted to do so long as this does not conflict with a contract the OHSAA has in place with an exclusive media partner. When there is not a conflict and the station is permitted to stream, the station shall not be assessed a rights fee twice. Outlets approved for a radio broadcast which originates an audio broadcast exclusively onto a cable television system shall be subject to the rights fees as posted on the OHSAA web site.

**b.)** The OHSAA has no control over “hookup” fees or any other miscellaneous fees that school or local tournament sites may assess for broadcasting at their venue, but fees should remain nominal. The OHSAA will mediate, if needed.

**Radio, Section 5 - Additional Tournament Rights Fees**

Please see the FAQs on page 2.

**Radio, Section 6A. — Waiver of Tournament Rights Fees**

Tournament rights fees will be waived when the following conditions are met:

**a.)** School Stations — All OHSAA regulations shall be adhered to; the contest shall not be fed to any other station; formal application for waiver shall be submitted by the principal or athletic administrator in the same manner as other outlets but shall also include a full description of the station and its programming, and students handle the majority of the broadcast and are accompanied at the contest by a school administrator (teacher, advisor, etc.).

**Radio, Section 6B. — Majority Waiver of Tournament Rights Fees**

The majority of tournament rights fees shall be waived when the following conditions are met (Note: The fee assessed to low-power stations shall be approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors):

**a.)** Low-power Stations — All OHSAA regulations shall be adhered to; the contest shall not be fed to any other station, and formal application for waiver shall be submitted by a station administrator in the same manner as other outlets but shall also include a full description of the station and its programming.

**Notes:** Low-power stations and school stations that accept sponsorships or advertising for coverage of contests must pay established OHSAA rights fees.

**Radio, Section 7. — One Origination Per School**

**a.)** In the event that more than one radio station is approved to broadcast the same OHSAA tournament contest(s) for each school, each school shall be required to designate just one radio station to cover the contest if the host site not be able to accommodate more than one station per school. Should each school not be able to designate one radio station, priority shall be given first to stations which have previously broadcast OHSAA events.

**Notes:** While recognizing the value of providing educational opportunities for students at its member schools, the OHSAA will make all efforts to accommodate school stations. However, space limitations at OHSAA tournament contests will likely result in the priority for accommodations going to “traditional” broadcasting outlets.

**Section 4  
Webcast Regulations****Webcast, Section 1. — Definitions**

**a.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a live webcast shall be defined as the placement of an audio or video broadcast on-line that occurs simultaneously with the event being covered.

**b.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a delayed webcast shall be defined as the placement of an audio or video broadcast on-line that occurs following a contest. Provisions of this agreement permit the webcast of the stated contest(s) an unlimited number of times.

**c.)** For the purpose of these regulations, a school webcast shall be defined as the placement of an audio or video broadcast onto a school-owned website or school-operated webpage, is non-commercial (accepts no sponsorships or advertising) and some of the production includes students.

**Webcast, Section 2. — Live Audio and Video Webcasts**

**a.)** Live audio webcasts of regular-season contests are permitted provided that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**b.)** Live audio webcasts of OHSAA tournament contests are permitted — unless the OHSAA enters into an exclusive contract with a company to provide live and/or delayed webcasts of OHSAA tournament contests — with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**c.)** For all regular-season contests, in all sports, the host school determines permission for live video requests. This includes both online streaming and television requests.

**d.)** For OHSAA tournament contests not televised by Spectrum News 1 and not streamed by Spectrum or the NFHS Network, live video streaming is permitted with payment of a rights fee established by the OHSAA.

**Webcast, Section 3. — Delayed Video Webcasts**

**a.)** Delayed video webcasts of regular-season contests are permitted provided approval is granted by the Athletic Director of the host school with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

**b.)** Delayed video webcasts of OHSAA tournament contests are permitted provided they do not conflict with an OHSAA exclusive

agreement and approval is granted by the tournament contest manager (sectional, district and regional contests) or the OHSAA Executive Director's Office for state tournament contests with the understanding that local regulations are adhered to, space is available and the set-up at the venue is logistically feasible for the host site.

#### **Webcast, Section 4. — Rights Fees**

**a.)** When a live video webcast exception is granted for OHSAA tournament contests, a rights fee shall be determined by negotiation between the media outlet and the OHSAA Executive Director's Office. When the live video webcast exception is granted for regular season contests, a rights fee and other requirements shall be determined by negotiation between the media outlet and the host school.

**b.)** For OHSAA tournament contests, rights fees will be assessed in sports and at rates approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors. Tournament rights fees for the 2021-22 school year are posted on the OHSAA News & Media web site ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

#### **Webcast, Section 5. — Additional Tournament Fees**

Please see the FAQs on page 2.

#### **Webcast, Section 6. — Waiver of Tournament Rights Fees**

Tournament rights fees will be waived when the following conditions are met:

**a.)** School Webcasts, Live Audio and Delayed Video — All OHSAA regulations shall be adhered to; the contest shall not be networked to any other outlet; formal application for waiver shall be submitted by the principal or athletic administrator in the same manner as other outlets but shall also include a full description of and the station and its programming

**Notes:** School webcasts that accept sponsorships or advertising for coverage of contests must pay established OHSAA rights fees.

#### **Webcast, Section 7. — Combined/Limited Originations**

**a.)** Video, One Origination — In the event that more than one outlet is approved to video webcast the same OHSAA tournament contest(s), said outlets may be required to share equipment and announcing positions should the host site not be able to accommodate more than one request. Such sharing will be mutually arranged by the outlets involved, the contest manager and the OHSAA. If facilities are not available to accommodate more than one outlet and sharing of equipment and announcing positions cannot be arranged, consideration shall be given first to the home team (as designated by the brackets drawn for the tournaments - not necessarily the host site). With these factors being equal, priority shall be given first to outlets which have previously video webcasted OHSAA events. Sharing equipment and announcing positions means that only one production unit and set of cameras are allowed at the site. Additional announcer set-ups are permissible should the originating unit provide a "split feed" to another outlet desiring the game video and desiring to use its own announcers, provided the local site can accommodate the personnel.

**b.)** Audio, One Origination Per School — In the event more than one outlet is approved to audio webcast the same OHSAA tournament contest(s) for each school, each school shall be required to designate just one outlet to cover the contest should the host site not be able to accommodate more than one outlet per school. Should each school not be able to designate one outlet, priority shall first be given to outlets which have previously broadcast OHSAA activities.

**Notes:** While recognizing the continued growth and validity

of webcasting, the OHSAA will make all efforts to accommodate outlets that are webcasting. However, space limitations at OHSAA tournament contests will likely result in the priority for accommodations going to "traditional" broadcasting outlets. In addition, while recognizing the value of providing educational opportunities for students at its member schools, the OHSAA will make all efforts to accommodate school webcasts. However, space limitations at OHSAA tournament contests will likely result in the priority for accommodations going to "traditional" broadcasting outlets.

## **Section 5 Tournament Media Credentials**

**a.)** Working media credentials are issued for OHSAA tournament contests by a tournament contest manager or media coordinator (for sectional, district and regional contests) or the OHSAA Executive Director's Office for state tournament contests to a representative of an accredited media organization recognized by the OHSAA for the sole purpose of providing access to cover a tournament contest.

**b.)** Written requests for OHSAA tournament credentials shall be made prior to the established application deadline. Because of demand, credentials will be issued on a priority system approved by the OHSAA Board of Directors within these regulations (Section 6). All requests may not be honored. Size of circulation, market sizes, number of subscribers and content will be the main determining factors. Requests must be made in writing.

**Notes:** If space limitations prohibit all requests from being filled, the competing schools' athletic administrators may be asked to help determine priority. Those who have not followed a school on a regular basis will be eliminated first. In addition, the competing schools' athletic administrators, the sports or managing editor of a newspaper or the news or sports director of a broadcast company may be asked to answer questions concerning the legitimacy of a media request.

**c.)** When media members arrive at OHSAA tournaments, they may be requested to present employee identification or a letter from a supervisor to verify legitimacy.

**d.)** Unprofessional conduct or "cheering" in the working news media area at OHSAA tournament contests is not permitted. Children are not permitted to receive media credentials or be in the working news media area without written permission from the OHSAA. These areas will be maintained to offer a working atmosphere conducive to productivity and concentration. Violation of this regulation may result in loss of credentials and ejection from the news media area.

**e.)** Radio, television and webcast companies that originate broadcasts from OHSAA tournaments may be limited to two seats for play-by-play talent. A third seat may be available if space permits but is never guaranteed. In addition, a credential may be granted to a station engineer who may need to set up equipment before or after a contest for the broadcasters, but a third seat in the press box (or on press row) is not guaranteed.

**f.)** Media outlets which are not originating broadcasts may be provided credentials for no more than two reporters and two photographers for each tournament contest. Attempts will be made to be flexible, especially when space is available and for those media outlets that have shown in the past to provide extensive coverage.

**1.)** Due to space limitations, radio reporters not originating

broadcasts may apply for single game credentials at the OHSAA state football, girls basketball and boys basketball tournaments. Space and other factors will determine if the OHSAA can grant all-tournament credentials to non-originating broadcast media.

**g.)** Credentials or tickets for spouses, children, friends, etc., will not be provided, and those who attend an event with a media member will be required to purchase a ticket.

**h.)** Generally, media members can expect to receive a program (and/or rosters) upon arrival at OHSAA tournament contests. Statistics will be distributed to media members when possible. Priority will be given to those still producing a live broadcast and those on deadline.

**i.)** Priorities in Issuing OHSAA Tournament Media Credentials

**1.** In allocating space for accredited media organizations to OHSAA tournaments, priority will be given to:

- a.)** Media which is statewide in scope (wire services, regional television, etc.)
- b.)** Media which covers their hometown competing teams (daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, radio stations, television/cable stations, etc.)
- c.)** Media which covers the site of the host facility (daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, radio stations, television/cable stations, etc.)
- d.)** All other media (internet sites, specialty publications)

**2.** In allocating space for the print media at the state wrestling, state girls basketball and state boys basketball tournaments, priority will be as follows:

- a.)** The Associated Press and daily newspapers with circulations of 35,000 or more may request two (2) all-tournament credentials. Additional credentials will be granted only if space is available.
- b.)** Other daily newspapers may request one (1) all-tournament credential. An additional single-session credential may be requested should a wrestler or school qualify from your normal coverage area and as space allows. Additional credentials will be granted only if space is available.
- c.)** Weekly newspapers may request one (1) single-session credential should a wrestler or school qualify from your normal coverage area. Additional credentials will be granted only if space is available.

**3.** Television stations requesting credentials for their videographer(s) and their on-air talent to cover a state tournament contest for news-gathering purposes only (non-broadcast) will be approved, but seats on press row are not guaranteed.

**4.** Radio stations requesting credentials for their reporter(s) to cover a state tournament contest for news-gathering purposes only (non-broadcast) shall be limited to one credential unless additional space permits multiple credentials.

**j.)** Guidelines for Credentialing Websites (Non-Originating Broadcasts) at OHSAA Tournaments

**1.** Internet sites desiring OHSAA tournament media credentials must submit requests using the OHSAA's approved credential application form. For state tournaments, and earlier rounds of the tournament when possible, the OHSAA will review the website and its content to determine legitimacy.

**2.** Internet sites desiring media credentials must have a unique, registered domain name, ending in one of the recognized

extensions (.com, .co, .cc, .org, .edu, .net, .us).

**3.** Internet sites staffed by full-time employees with the intent of reporting on tournament contests for bona-fide news purposes will be considered for one credential, or more if space allows. Assigned seats on press row may not be available.

**a.)** Websites run parallel by traditional media (i.e. newspapers, radio stations and television stations) may be issued credentials if the request is for unique content that can only be accommodated by fulfilling the credential request.

**4.** Credentials for school websites and internet sites affiliated with/following a participating team, as approved by that school's athletic administrator, will receive consideration for being granted credentials.

**a.)** This applies to written and/or statistical coverage, not photography. See Section 6-h for policies regarding credentialing photographers for school purposes (yearbook, website, newspaper) at OHSAA state tournaments in team sports (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse).

**5.** Internet sites desiring media credentials must have a demonstrated record of regular, sustained coverage of high school sports, which should include (but is not limited to):

- a.)** Publishing game stories and game statistics in a timely basis about individual contests;
- b.)** Publishing scores on game days;
- c.)** Streaming audio, video or other content on a real-time basis of contests;
- d.)** Publishing feature stories about high school sports teams, coaches and student-athletes.

**6.** The following internet sites will not be granted credentials:

- a.)** Social media webpages
- b.)** Sites in which the majority of the content is personal in nature (such as a diary, blog, fan-based, etc.) rather than edited news content
- c.)** Internet sites associated in any way with alcohol, tobacco, drugs of any kind, gambling of any kind, political parties or candidates or any other advertising considered in poor taste or not in compliance with the mission of interscholastic athletics as determined by the OHSAA;
- d.)** Sites developed solely to list/profile/rank recruiting prospects or teams and/or to provide chat rooms/forums/blogs. The OHSAA reserves the right to determine if a website falls into the category of a recruiting site.

**Notes:** The OHSAA will use a number of criteria to determine if state tournament credentials will be granted to webcast companies not originating a broadcast. Reasons for a denied credential application include, but are not limited to, lack of sustained coverage of high school sports, lack of sufficient bona fide news content, lack of editorial oversight or an emphasis on recruiting.

**7.** Internet sites must furnish, upon request, certifiable traffic numbers from an established auditing firm and/or from its service provider. Hit counters on pages will not fulfill this requirement. The following information may be asked to be provided:

- a.)** The average number of "unique viewers/visitors" to the site in the last 30-60-90 days;
- b.)** The average number of "page views" by each visitor;
- c.)** The name and contact information of the auditing firm and/or service provider to discuss/ensure the accuracy of the numbers.

### k.) Guidelines for Credentialing Specialty Publications at OHSAA Tournaments

1. Specialty publications desiring OHSAA tournament media credentials must submit requests using the OHSAA's approved credential application form. For state tournaments, requests must include samples of the specialty publication and must be made with enough time to allow the OHSAA to review the publication and its content to determine legitimacy.

2. Credentials for specialty publications staffed by full-time employees with the intent of reporting tournament contests for bona-fide news purposes will be considered for one credential if space allows. Assigned seats on press row may not be available.

3. Credentials for specialty publications affiliated with a participating team, as approved by that school's athletic administrator, will receive consideration for being granted credentials.

a.) This applies to written and/or statistical coverage, not photography. See Section 5 for policies regarding credentialing photographers for school purposes (yearbook, website, newspaper) at OHSAA state tournaments in team sports (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse).

4. Specialty publications desiring media credentials must have a demonstrated record of sustained coverage of high school sports, which should include (but is not limited to):

- a.) Publishing game stories and game statistics in a timely basis about individual contests;
- b.) Publishing feature stories about high school sports teams, coaches and student-athletes.

5. The following specialty publications will not be granted credentials:

- a.) Publications that only provide recruiting lists, prospect profiles or rankings of recruiting prospects;
- b.) Publications that only provide lists of outstanding teams;
- c.) Any publication deemed in poor taste or not in compliance with the mission of interscholastic athletics as determined by the OHSAA.

6. Specialty publications must declare their coverage plans with their credential request to determine if the content to be printed does not duplicate existing content already being provided, or violate rights already granted by the OHSAA to another party.

7. Space and facility restrictions, among other factors, will determine whether credential requests for photographers from specialty publications will be approved.

### l.) Conditions of OHSAA Tournament Credentials

Acceptance of working media credentials for OHSAA tournament contests constitutes an agreement by all media members to abide by the following conditions established by the OHSAA:

1. Bearer of the credential agrees that he/she is engaged in a legitimate working function for an accredited media organization, and that the credential shall be used solely for news and editorial coverage of the tournament event.

2. Newspapers bearing an OHSAA credential and assigned to the state tournament for news-gathering purposes are permitted to respond to and fill requests from their readers and/or online viewers to reproduce and sell images that appear in print or in the newspaper's official web site photo galleries. Auxiliary media web sites, web sites established by individual/freelance photographers/photography companies and/or individual/free-

lance photographers/photography companies are not covered under this regulation.

a.) Should the OHSAA enter into a contract with an official state tournament photographer, the official photographer retains exclusivity regarding on-site marketing and sales presence, on-site promotional consideration, OHSAA souvenir program and broadcast advertising and staff-level event access.

b.) No media representatives will be permitted to directly or indirectly market the sale of photography at the state tournament event site proper. This includes the distribution of brochures, flyers, signs or promotional apparel worn by media representatives. Event site proper includes the facility proper and any adjacent facilities or parking locations.

3. Auxiliary media websites, websites established by individual/freelance photographers and/or individual/freelance photographers may be credentialed for OHSAA tournament contests below the state tournament level provided parameters established by the OHSAA Office are adhered to.

a.) Among the parameters that may be required are pre-registration with the OHSAA Office and submission of an annual or seasonal fee.

b.) Once parameters are met and credentials are granted, these photographers are permitted to respond to and fill requests to reproduce and sell images for sectional, district and regional tournaments, but not state tournaments.

c.) Freelance, school and/or independent photographers that are credentialed to cover sectional, district or regional tournament contests may not set up an on-site promotional display, may not request that public address announcements be made and may not distribute promotional material at the contest site.

4. Bearer of the credential agrees that the accredited media organization and bearer shall indemnify, defend and hold the OHSAA and all agents thereof harmless from and against any and all expenses, lawsuits, damages, costs and liabilities (including reasonable attorney fees and expenses) incurred by, arising from, or in connection with:

a.) the unauthorized use of news and editorial content or photographs/electronic images, whether such unauthorized use is by the bearer, the accredited media organization designating the bearer to use the credential on its behalf, or some third party to whom the bearer distributes news and editorial content or photographs/electronic images;

b.) any injuries resulting from acts or omissions by the bearer or some third party to whom the bearer directly or indirectly distributed news and editorial content or photographs/electronic images;

c.) any cameras, wires, cables, computers, telephones or other equipment brought to the premises by the bearer, or

d.) the use of any news and editorial content or photographs/electronic images or any other matter other than coverage of the tournament event.

**Notes:** When news and editorial content or photographs/electronic images are used for entertainment or commercial use, the accredited media organization and/or bearer agrees to obtain all necessary licenses, consents or releases permitting the use of any party's proprietary material, including, but not limited to, any party's copyrights, trademarks, rights of publicity, rights of privacy or other proprietary or personal rights, however denominated, included in any photograph/electronic image taken or other material obtained in connection with the credential. The accredited media organization and/or bearer is solely responsible for determining which licenses, consents and releases shall be obtained.

5. Bearer of the credential assumes all risk and danger incidental to this tournament event which is being covered and releases the OHSAA and all agents thereof from any and all liabilities resulting from such cases.

6. Bearer of an OHSAA tournament credential agrees that the credential is not transferable, may be revoked at any time at the sole discretion of the OHSAA and will automatically terminate if any term hereof is breached. In cases deemed unique by the OHSAA, these policies and any other OHSAA media policies may be amended. The accredited media organization and/or bearer that breaches the conditions of use of this credential is subject to legal liability as well as all costs incurred in enforcing the terms of these conditions including but not limited to reasonable attorney fees.

## Section 6 - Photography Regulations

a.) These regulations apply to both regular-season and OHSAA tournament contests. They also apply to all photographers approved for credentials, including those representing participating schools.

b.) These regulations shall be administered by contest managers for regular-season and OHSAA tournament contests prior to the state tournament or the OHSAA office for state tournaments.

c.) **Flash Photography:** Authorized media representatives, who have been approved for credentials by contest managers or the OHSAA, shall be permitted to use electronic lighting equipment (includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras) throughout the course of a given activity in all sports EXCEPT bowling, gymnastics and diving (including warm-ups). In addition, electronic lighting is NOT permitted to be used in the following situations: in basketball in the free throw lane area (behind the background); in golf from the time the golfer addresses the ball until contact is made; and in swimming immediately before the start of a race so as to not interfere with the starter's signal.

In the sport of volleyball, electronic lighting is not permitted at any time during OHSAA tournament contests, and electronic lighting is only allowed during regular-season contests in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of f2.8. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season volleyball contests, photographers must work with school administrators anytime prior to the start of a match to test equipment and have the light meter reading verified. The reading can then be used for future matches in the same facility in the same season without retesting.

1. Requests to use strobe lights (when permitted per Section 6-c) mounted to fixed positions shall be made in advance of the contest.

2. Requests to use strobe lights mounted to fixed positions shall be honored:

2.1 as facility space permits

2.2 on a priority system based on:

2.21 an official photographer so designated by the OHSAA

2.22 newspapers that cover their hometown teams

2.23 newspapers that cover the site of the host facility

2.24 media which is national, regional or statewide (wire services) in scope

2.25 all other approved media

d.) Photographers approved to use strobe lights mounted to fixed positions shall ensure contest managers or the OHSAA that such lights are mounted and secured safely.

1. To ensure safety, photographers shall meet with contest managers or the OHSAA no less than 90 minutes before game time.

2. As a courtesy, contest managers or the OHSAA may inform participating coaches and contest officials that photographers have been approved to use strobe lights in fixed positions.

3. Photographers are expected to use good judgment when placing strobe lights in fixed position so that such lights do not interfere with a participant's execution of a play. In the sport of basketball, for example, strobe lights shall not be mounted directly behind the backboard.

e.) **Positioning:** In basketball, photographers and videographers are prohibited to position themselves behind the backboard (within the free-throw lane area) unless approved by the OHSAA.

1. The first violation of this policy shall result in a warning from contest managers or the OHSAA, and the second violation of this policy shall result in the removal of the photographer from the contest facility.

2. Photographers may position themselves along the baseline outside the lane area of the court (and are permitted to use electronic lighting as specified in Section 6-c).

3. The use of remote-operated cameras behind a basket is permitted (without flash) so long as the guidelines listed above are followed.

4. In soccer, photographers are permitted between the team benches only if approved by the head official (who may consult with both head coaches, if needed).

f.) Photographers for other sports shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of football, field hockey and soccer, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In volleyball, photographers shall not be positioned in an area that could be "in play." When a soccer match goes to penalty kicks (after overtime), photographers may position themselves on the field in the midfield area if approved by the site manager or media coordinator. In football, photographers shall not be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. In baseball, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas unless a photographer's area (typically with a paint or chalk line) has been established by the game manager and approved by the officials before the game. The OHSAA requests that at least one area be designated for photographers that provides an unobstructed view of the field. In softball, no such deadball area for photographers is permitted by NFHS rules. In golf, photographers may not position themselves behind the hole in line with the golfer.

Officials have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in or keeping their equipment in designated dead ball areas. In the sport of golf, photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. In the sports of volleyball, bowling, track and field, swimming and tennis, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

g.) **Photo Sales and Availability**

1. Individual credentialed media personnel and spectators may not sell photos from state tournaments. Furthermore, credentialed media may not give photos to current student-athletes (or their parents or legal guardians) or post galleries of their

photos from state tournaments on their personal websites. (A gallery is defined as more than five photos displayed on one webpage.) If a credentialed media photographer posts a photo on his/her personal webpage, it may not be made available for high-resolution download.

**2.** In team sports (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, team wrestling, ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse), one school-designated photographer (student or adult) may be credentialed for OHSAA tournament contests if approved by the school's athletic administrator. The school-designated photographer may only give his/her photos to the school (athletic director, principal or head coach) for the school's use. Photos may not be sold or posted online in galleries (see previous note) and may not be posted so they are available for high-resolution download.

**3.** Bona fide newspapers, as determined by the OHSAA, may sell photos from OHSAA tournament contests via the newspaper's office or official website. Permission is granted because newspapers have always been permitted to fill the photo requests of their readership, and photo sales is not their primary purpose for covering a contest.

**a.** School officials have the authority to permit or deny freelance photographers (including parents) from having special access at their regular-season athletic contests.

**b.** School officials have the authority to permit or deny the sale of photos from their regular-season contests.

**c.** Freelance photographers who are granted a media credential for sectional, district and regional tournament games (and state semifinal games in the sports of football, soccer and lacrosse) may sell photos from the contest as long as the photographer is affiliated with a specific school and can produce a written or on-site verbal show of support from that school's athletic director. However, said photographers may not set up booths or tables, distribute promotional material or request that public address announcements be read that advertise their services.

**d.** Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet will not be credentialed for state tournament contests. Photos taken from spectator viewing areas at state tournament contests are for personal use only and may not be sold.

**h.) Guidelines for Credentialed School Photographers at OHSAA Tournaments**

The following regulations shall apply to school-approved photographers of participating schools at OHSAA tournament events:

**1.** Photographs taken shall be exclusively for the school's publication, promotional, educational or public relations use.

**2.** Photographs may not be sold. See Section g-2 for terms of use.

**3.** The school's principal or athletic administrator must submit a written request (email will suffice) for the authorized school photographer to the tournament contest manager or the appointed media coordinator (sectional, district and regional contests) or the OHSAA office (for state tournament contests) in order to be issued a media credential. The following conditions apply:

**a.)** For team events (field hockey, football, soccer, volleyball, team wrestling, basketball, ice hockey, baseball, softball and lacrosse) a school may have one photographer (student or adult).

**b.)** The OHSAA reserves the right to request photos from school photographers for promotional purposes (photo credit will be given).

**b.)** The credentialed school photographer must agree to adhere to all OHSAA regulations, including Conditions of OHSAA Tournament Credentials; may be subject to further

regulations as determined by the OHSAA, and will lose credentials, be removed from the tournament contest and jeopardize the school's ability to be granted a photography credential in the future should these regulations be violated.

**c.)** Because of the large number of teams involved and limited space available, no media credentials for school representatives shall be authorized at state tournaments in the individual sports of golf, tennis, cross country, bowling, gymnastics, swimming and diving and track and field.

**d.)** At the individual state wrestling tournament, a school may have one student media representative. The principal or athletic director must submit the official student media credential application form and the student must have a ticket to exchange for a temporary media credential.

**e.)** The OHSAA will not honor requests for media credentials on behalf of coaches (including college coaches), parents of state tournament competitors or businesses or individuals contracted by the school.

**i.) Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems ("Drones")**

The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), most commonly referred to as drones, is not permitted anywhere within the entire athletic facility during any OHSAA tournament contest, beginning one hour before the contest is scheduled to begin. This includes both indoor and outdoor contests. The facility includes both the area above the playing surface itself, and the areas above the surrounding surfaces that are a part of the facility, including, but not limited to, bleachers and other seating areas, parking lots, sidewalks, running/walking track, adjacent athletic fields, etc.

**1.** The use of UAS at regular-season contests is permitted pending approval from the host institution, which accepts all liability and confirms that the UAS complies with local, state and federal regulations.

**OHSAA Tournament Policy/Public Address Announcement on Spectators Taking Photos and Videos**

"Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this contest by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats that have been purchased. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at this event are for personal use only. The use of photographs or videos for commercial, scouting or coaching purposes is strictly prohibited. The OHSAA reserves the right to remove offenders from this contest and invoke additional penalties."