

January 14, 2025

Ohio Prep Sports Media Association Update

Hello OPSMA members! Thank you for your continued coverage of high school sports. Please see below for several updates, including being a part of the annual writing and photography contest. All OPSMA members are encouraged to enter the contest, which is the only regular source of funding for the OPSMA. Please see below for the entry form. The deadline to enter is February 14, 2025.

Please support the OPSWA and enter the contest and serve as a judge!

New OPSMA ID Badges Available

The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSMA members at no cost that can include the member's photo and their media outlet logo. Any OPSWA member that wants a new ID badge with the new OPSMA logo can email their headshot and media outlet logo to Saige Arnhold at sarnhold@ohsaa.org.

Call for Contest Judges

The annual OPSMA writing and photography contest is judged by OPSMA members. Any OPSMA member interested in being a judge should notify Tim Stried. Every category has at least two judges, with the final results being the average score of the two judges.

Annual Writing and Photography Contest Details

Entries can now be submitted for the annual OPSMA writing and photography contest. The submission deadline is February 14 (postmark). The contest includes articles and photos about Ohio high school sports published in print or online between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024. The cost is \$15 per person to enter the contest.

Contest Home: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/contests>

Contest Entry Form (deadline to enter is February 14 postmark)

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/News/OPSWA/OPSWAContestApplication.pdf>

OPSMA members serve as judges in the contest. Please reply to indicate if you are willing to serve as a judge.

Tim Stried coordinates the entries, sends out the judges packets, tabulates results, etc.

Minimum Two – Maximum of Three – Entries Per Category

Sportswriters and photographers must submit at least two pieces per category entered, with a maximum of three pieces per category. Entries by the same author or photographer within a category will be given one collective score, instead of separate scores for each entry. Entrants shall use one entry form per category (not a form for each piece within a category). Writing contest entries must be printed on regular 8.5x11 paper so that copies can be made to send to the judges. Photos can be submitted on any size paper.

Categories:

Please see the category descriptions below. Sportswriters and photographers must enter the correct category!

More details are posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/contests>

- **News Story** – typically some kind of breaking news element (not game stories or features).
- **Feature Story** (story telling) – good features often have a lyrical voice to some degree and a unique quality (not newsy or formulaic).
- **Column** – must have a strong amount of opinion or perspective, not simply a unique game recap or feature.
- **Game Recap Story** – cover all the basic elements of a contest, but with some sort of flair that grabs the readers' attention.
- **Action Photograph** – from an athletic contest
- **Posed Photograph** – the photographer poses the subject(s) for the shot

Note that there is no longer an Investigative/Enterprise category. Members should utilize the Feature Story category for those types of entries.

Divisions: (daily newspapers have four or more issues per week)

Division I: Daily Circulation over 25,000 (11 newspapers, see list on contest application form) and Websites

Division II: Daily Circulation between 10,000 and 25,000

Division III: All other daily newspapers (at least four printed editions per week)

Division IV: Non-daily newspapers and specialty publications

Thank You OPSWA Members for Football Honors Participation

The OPSWA weekly notebook was a big success again this fall. Thank you to all members who submitted content, and thanks to Jake Furr, OPSMA Vice President, for compiling them for Tuesday release. Thank you to the district chairs for coordinating the all-district teams and for submitting your nominees for the All-Ohio teams. That group also determined the list of finalists for the Ohio Mr. Football Award. Thank you to all OPSMA members who participated in the all-district teams selection and those who voted for the Mr. Football Award.

OPSWA Member Meeting Tuesday in Late April

There will be an in-person OPSMA member meeting in late April at the OHSAA office in Columbus. Lunch will be provided. In the first hour, the OPSMA officers will discuss several changes and points of emphasis during the upcoming school year. After lunch, OHSAA Executive Director Doug Ute will hold a Q&A session with the membership.

OPSWA Officers

Ohio Prep Sports Media Association members conducted officer voting last April. Congratulations to the following four individuals who were reelected to a two-year term from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2026. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the officers with any OPSMA suggestions or issues. OPSMA officers select the Hall of Fame (members nominate potential honorees), vote for All-Ohio teams (with the district chairmen, listed below), determine any changes to OPSMA procedures, etc.

President: Eric Frantz, MaxPreps.com

Vice President: John Kampf, Willoughby News Herald

Vice President: Tom Wilson, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

Vice President: Jake Furr, Mansfield News Journal

Hall of Fame

The 2025 induction class for the OPSMA Hall of Fame will be announced in late January and inducted at the 2025 boys basketball state tournament in Dayton. The 2023 OPSMA Hall of Fame class included Steve Junga (Toledo), Bob Rossiter (Canton), and Karl Pearson (Ashtabula). The 2024 OPSMA Hall of Fame class included Chuck Ridenour (Shelby) and Rick Cassano (Southwest Ohio). The complete OPSMA Hall of Fame list is posted at:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

OPSWA Membership List

Please check the district membership lists, and if you are aware of any edits, please email Tim Stried at tstried@ohsaa.org. The membership lists are posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/membership>. The goal is that OPSMA members utilize the list to communicate with other members for such things as exchanging information on out-of-area opponents, facility details, etc.

OPSWA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process

Since 2017, the OPSWA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSWA members are encouraged to be a part of the selection process for the all-district teams in football and basketball. The All-Ohio teams are based on the work and nominations of the district committees. Please contact your district chairperson to be a part of the process.

Northeast Lakes: Matt Goul, Cleveland.com

Northeast Inland: Chris Beaven, Canton Repository
Northwest: Mark Hazelwood, Norwalk Reflector
Southeast: Paul Boggs, Portsmouth Daily Times
East: Sam Blackburn and Brandon Hannahs, Zanesville Times-Recorder
Central: Steve Blackledge, PressProsMagazine.com, retired from Columbus Dispatch
Southwest: Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com; Scott Halasz, Xenia Daily Gazette; Jeff Gilbert, Dayton Daily News

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www.Instagram.com/OHSAAsports

www.TikTok.com/ohsaa_sports