

To: OHSAA Spring Sport Officials

From: OHSAA Officiating Department

Re: Spring Sport Season Cancelled

This is a very strange time in our history, and we are emotional about the fact that our students will not be able to participate in spring sports. Also, it is disheartening that our schools cannot garner any revenue from spring sports as well as officials cannot recoup some of their expenses through spring sport activities. As you know, officiating OHSAA interscholastic contests requires certification. Most non-school leagues, whether in the summer or fall, also require OHSAA certification. The OHSAA provides the vehicle for the certification. We do not provide the regular season contests.

With that said we should talk about what the certification actually provides. The dues paid for certification are for the services that the OHSAA provides to officials. Some of those services include the insurance (which is also valid during non-OHSAA events), as well as the pre-season materials and any personal services by the OHSAA officiating staff. Some of those personal services include creating online meetings and processing upgrades, reinstatements, and educational credits. The dues also go to support things like the Directors of Officiating Development (DODs) and our District Administrators. All of these services have been and are currently being delivered.

We do not currently plan to issue any refunds or credit any dues toward next season. We have discussed what we will be instituting for the 2020-2021 school and fiscal year. We will be discussing in the coming weeks renewal periods, including the late renewal period. We have to assess information as it develops as to what the fall season could look like. We will update you as information becomes available.

NASO Independent Contractor Resource

There may be some opportunities available for officials in the Federal Stimulus Package. The National Association of Sport Officials (NASO) has worked diligently with leaders across the country to decipher information concerning the Federal Stimulus package and its status as it relates to officials. To better inform officials nationwide, NASO has created a list of state-by-state resources as it relates to the CARES Act that they will be continually updating as new information becomes available. Please visit <https://www.naso.org/state-by-state-independent-contractor-unemployment-resources/> for Ohio updates.

Permit Upgrade Process for Spring Sport Officials

To help mitigate the effects of the cancellation, for this year only, all baseball/softball officials with 2 or more years of service can take the upgrade exams. The exams will be posted on <https://exams.nfhs.org> from May 5 through May 20. Your username and password to access these exams are your permit number.

