

DATE: November 21, 2022

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ (William) Duckworth
Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter
Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: Officials' Uniform and Tournament Pay Changes / Cross-Country Post-Season Bulletin

Year One In Review

This fall marks the one year since I was given the honor of serving our officiating community as DOD. Please click [HERE](#) to view a brief video.

Officials Handbook

Each year the OHSAA makes adjustments to the Officials Handbook. This handbook is the go-to for non-competitive officiating questions. It can be found by clicking [HERE](#) and then clicking on "Officials Handbook". Highlights of the changes are outlined below, please review the full document linked above for full details.

Tournament Pay Changes

District Tournament Pay

The new manual clarifies that pay for these meets is by the division/meet, not by day. This means that when multiple district meets are held at the same location on the same day, pay should be for each individual meet.

Regional Tournament Pay

For the second season in a row, the OHSAA has increased pay for those working at the regional tournament; each position will see a \$10 increase per day. While only a small increase per person per day, it is an estimated \$5,000 increase in regional officiating fees, a sizable investment in our community.

State Meet Hotel Accommodations

In 2022 the OHSAA provided complimentary hotel rooms for the officials working the track state meet. These accommodations were part of a test involving several sports. The new manual now solidifies that complimentary hotel rooms will be provided for multi-day individual sports tournaments such as track and field. This investment in our officiating community is estimated at ~\$5,000 per year.

Officials' Uniform Changes/Modifications

The stated changes/modifications to the uniform rules should cost officials **NO MONEY**. They have been made to increase the professional appearance of our officiating community, bring better consistency throughout the state and clarify the grey areas.

Pants, Shorts & Skirts

Clarifies that they should be plain with no stripes or designs. It also clarifies that stretch/yoga pants are prohibited as part of the official's uniform. These had always been unpermitted items; however, it was never clearly stated.

Shirts

Now allows long sleeved polo shirts in addition to short sleeved.

Outer Garments

Clarifies that the rules for jackets also apply to pull overs, vests and all other outer garments (rain gear excluded). It also clarifies that an officials name as well as state or local association information can be included opposite the OHSAA logo.

Rain Suites

Clarifies that these are not subject to OHSAA logo and color rules, however, they now may not contain initials, names or logos of other governing bodies.

Hats

Hats will continue to be a non-required/optional item for officials. However, when they are worn, they now must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) Be unadorned other than a manufacturer logo
- b) Include the OHSAA logo
- c) Include the initials, name and/or logo of your local officials association
- d) Include the initials, name and/or logo of the Ohio Track and Field and Cross Country Officials Association
- e) Include the initials, name and/or logo of a OHSAA level tournament or invitational.

Name Tags/Badges

Name tags/badges will continue to be a non-required/optional item for officials. However, when they are worn, they now must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) Be unadorned other than a manufacturer logo
- b) Include the OHSAA logo
- c) Include the initials, name and/or logo of your local officials association
- d) Include the initials, name and/or logo of the Ohio Track and Field and Cross Country Officials Association
- e) Include the initials, name and/or logo of a OHSAA level tournament or invitational.

Governing Bodies

No items from governing bodies other than the OHSAA may be worn while officiating OHSAA level events.

Other Items

Required Meetings

The manual has had language added to clarify that both spring and fall local rules meetings count for permit renewal; this is not a change, just a clarification. Please note, tournament eligibility has different local rules meeting requirements than the above-mentioned permit renewal regulations.

“Walk Up Start” At Cross Country Meets

It appears there is some confusion around the state regarding the prior starting procedure for cross country meets. All starters at all meets, regardless of level of competition or type of meet, must be following the process as outlined in the NFHS Officials Manual to ensure consistency for the athletes. No official, conference or district may set aside this rule. This process mirrors that used in distance races during track. Please refer to the manual for full instructions, however, a summary is below:

- Runners take a position about a meter behind the starting line.
- The starter issues one long whistle blast
 - o The athletes step up to the starting line and freeze as prompted by the whistle blast.
- The starter then raises the red flag and starting device over their head.
- The starter fires the device and drops the flag simultaneously and the runners are off.

37th Annual OT&F&CCOA Officials Clinic

The 37th Annual OT&F&CCOA Officials Clinic will be held January 20 & 21 at the **Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center** in Lewis Center (just north of Columbus/Worthington). The Awards Dinner will be held on the evening of January 20. The state rules interpretation will be held on January 21; it will be the **only** in-person track and field state rules interpretation for officials. You **must** be registered for the clinic to attend

this state rules interpretation meeting. More information, including registration information has been mailed to all officials; it can also be found [HERE](#).

OT&F&CCOA Officer Election

The OT&F&CCOA will be holding elections for one executive committee position and a president elect at their clinic this January. If you are interested in running for one of these roles or want more information, please reach out to Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com. No nominations will be taken from the floor at the clinic.

Join me on Facebook or Twitter

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ohiohstrackandcross>

Twitter: @ohio_track_xc

Sincerely,

BJ (William) Duckworth

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