

DATE: December 8, 2023

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth

Assistant Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development
OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: December Update

OTFCCOA Clinic

Registration information for the OTFCCOA clinic has been mailed to all officials. The 2024 clinic will be held on January 19 and 20 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio. Cynthia Beacham is the clinic director. The awards dinner will be held on January 19, 2024, at the same location, with Gretchen Acker as the banquet director.

Those who attend the entirety of both days of the clinic will receive **two** local rules meeting credits, one for each day, as well as the state meeting credit. The clinic will also include shell and 50/50 raffles with the proceeds to benefit the Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarship Funds.

OTFCCOA Awards

Please join me in congratulating those the OTFCCOA will honor at their awards dinner on January 19, 2024 at Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center. To attend, please contact Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com

Contributor Award Honorees

Central District - Lester Barnhart
Southwest District - Charlie Gase
Southeast District - Mick Harris
Coach- NE District - Diane Krumpak
Northwest District - Kent Lamberson
OHSAA - Angie Lawler
Southeast District - Tony Mollica
Northeast District - Deb Molnar
Northwest District - Char Sharp
Southwest District - Elizabeth Van Tine

Cope Award Honoree

Herb Hartman (*posthumously*) – Southwest District

Lenge Service Award Honoree

Harold Grice – Southwest District

Officiating Dues at Work and Officials Insurance Information

To learn more about how your state officiating dues work for you, click [HERE](#). To learn about the insurance provided to you as an official, click [HERE](#).

Cross Country State Meet Clinic – New for 2024

Based on the overwhelming response, success and popularity of the Track State Meet Clinics, in 2024 the OHSAA will host a clinic at the State Cross Country Meet. While the details are still being worked out, this clinic will follow a similar format as the Track State Meet Clinic with experienced mentors being paired with officials who have not yet had the opportunity to work the State Cross Country Meet.

2024 Track State Meet Update

Meet Management details are still being worked on related to the 2024 championship in Dayton. Items such as the event timeline, length of the meet, officials' hotel, and many other items are still in the works. Once more information is confirmed, it will be shared with the greater track community including our officials. I can confirm a few things related to the meet:

- This is a one-year move to accommodate renovations to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at OSU.
- We will be keeping the at large qualifiers in both field and running events.
- The Track State Meet Clinic will be paused in 2024, but will return in 2025.

2024 Meeting Information

State Rules Meeting

- The State Rules Meeting virtual meeting window will be open February 5, 2024 to March 22, 2024; completion between March 23, 2024 and April 13, 2024 will require a late fee. This meeting is required for all officials.
- If you are a coach and an official you need to take **BOTH** state rules meetings as they cover topic specific to that audience.
- The **ONLY** in person State Rules Meeting will be given in conjunction with the OT&F&CCOA Clinic in January at Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center. The meeting will only be open to those who have registered for the Clinic.

Local Rules Meetings

- Local rules meetings can be attended from January 29, 2024 through April 22, 2024. In addition to the meeting options made available to you through your local association, as in the past two season, I will produce and provide two virtual local meetings that will be available to all officials in the state.
- Officials who wish to work a district, regional or the state track tournament **MUST** attend at least four local meeting in the **spring**.
- Officials who do not want to work the track tournament but want to renew their permit must attend a total of four local meetings each year and can be any combination of fall and spring.

Tournament Questionnaire

The Tournament Questionnaire for the 2024 spring season will be posted in January. All officials who wish to work a district regional or state track tournament **MUST** complete the questionnaire.

OTFCCOA vs OHSAA

The OTFCCOA and OHSAA work very closely together and due to that there can be some confusion over who is responsible for things; adding to the confusion is my being a past president. For four decades the OTFCCOA has been putting on the January Clinic and has had a focus on educating the officials in the state. They also raise funds to provide scholarships to family members of their members and work to advocate for topics to help the state officials. The work they have done and continue to do helps move our sport forward; we would not be where we are today without them. The OTFCCOA has two seats on the OHSAA Track & Cross Country Advisory Committee (President and Secretary) and use those spots to fight for changes that benefit officials.

One of my roles as DOD is to oversee the continuing education of officials, and because of that responsibility, I work closely with the OTFCCOA and our local associations. While I do provide feedback to the OTFCCOA and local associations, as well as serve as the liaison between the OTFCCOA and the OHSAA, they have always operated as an independent organization. Local associations are also independent organizations approved by the OHSAA.

For clarity, the January clinic is and always has been run by the OTFCCOA; the new track & cross country state meet clinics are run by the OHSAA. Both myself and the OHSAA office send communications on behalf of the OTFCCOA; they are always clearly indicated similar to the two items at the beginning of this update.

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