

DATE: June 16, 2023

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth
Assistant Sport Administrator &
Director of Officiating Development
Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: Post Season Wrap Up & A Look Forward

A Message of Thanks!

Click [HERE](#) to view a brief video of thanks and reflection.

Update on OHSAA Positions & Responsibilities

As some of you may be aware Tyler Brooks, Senior Manager of Officiating and Sport Management, left the OHSAA earlier this year. With that vacancy and the knowledge that the nearly 15,000 OHSAA Sports Officials needed more support, the OHSAA restructured his position. Tyler's position, that was originally split between officiating and sport management was filled with two positions one focused on each. Lizzy Wilson, formerly at Pickerington North, is now at the OHSAA serving as Manager of Officiating Administration. Charles Anderson, who was previously Manager of Officiating Administration, will now focus on other officiating related items. Angie Lawler will continue in her role. Monroe Britton, formerly an intern at the OHSAA, has been hired as a Sport Administrator. Please be patient with the office as we work through these changes in responsibility.

Additionally, as part of this reorganization, I am excited to announce that I have accepted a position to serve as Assistant Sport Administrator for Track & Cross Country. Together with Dustin Ware, I will work to help make the sports the best they can be for our student athletes. I will continue to serve as Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter and will retain my full-time employment as Sr. Director of Operations at the YMCA of Sandusky County. I am excited for this opportunity to serve the sports I love in a new way and appreciate the support and work of each of you. I am incredibly honored to be able to serve and thankful for having so much support at home.

Permit Renewal

Permit renewal is underway and can be done **online only through myOHSAA**. The OHSAA office will continue with the adjusted renewal deadlines used the last several school years, which are outlined in the table below. This allows you more flexibility while maintaining a timeline that allows our office to best serve you. Officials wishing to work Cross Country in the fall should follow the deadline for the Fall Sports and those only planning to work Track in the spring can renew at any point before December 31.

Season	Deadline to Renew Without a Late Fee	Deadline to Renew WITH \$50 Late Fee
Fall Sports	June 30	July 15
Winter Sports	September 30	October 31
Spring Sports	December 31	January 31

Logo Change

I have been flooded with emails, calls, and in-person questions as I traveled for regionals and at the state meet related to if and when the logo on our officiating uniforms will change. **There is currently no plan to change the logo on our officiating uniforms anytime in the near future.** While I can't guarantee that it will never change, Beau has assured me and all DODs in a meeting after the state meet that the logo will not be changing. Any rumors or information to the contrary are false.

The new logo will be/is being used for administrative, marketing, and staff purposes; the old logo will be used on all officiating uniforms. You will see OHSAA staff (including myself, other DODs and tournament assigners) wearing the new logo when we are not working as an official at an event. When I put on the white shirt, I wear the officiating logo.

Along those lines, wearing the new logo is not permitted by anyone who is working at a contest as a registered official. Please note, this includes name badges that some local associations made with the new logo.

Again, there is currently no plan to change the logo on our officiating uniforms anytime in the near future.

Changes to New Officials Testing & Class Process

Effective earlier this month, we have implemented a new process for the education and testing of new/prospective officials. Please see below for details of the new process.

- The new course went live earlier this month, with a new one available monthly for prospective officials. This will allow us to continue to recruit new officials year-round.
- The course will ONLY be available online, and we will no longer be able to host in-person new officials classes. This brings a high level of consistency to our education process.
- The new process will provide the new officials with 7.5-8 hours of self-paced officiating education between two separate courses managed through one central process. The steps are below:
 - Create an account on MyOHSAA; access this through the OHSAA officiating page.
 - Pay the required fee.
 - Receive the rule book electronically.
 - Take the RepPrep course & upload the completion. Course includes narrated content and multiple quizzes.
 - Take the NFHS Officiating Track course & upload the completion.
 - Take the concussion course & upload your certification number. I recommend they take the NFHS certification as they will have already created a free NFHS account through the previous step.
 - Take and pass the test.
 - Be connected with their local officials' association.
- In conjunction with RefPrep, I will make changes to their course yearly. The NFHS will make adjustments to their class as appropriate.
- Mariah Hohman has been selected as the instructor for our new virtual class offering; she will handle all new officials for our sport in the state. Once new officials start the process, she will ensure they progress through the process by completing each step, and at the end, she will make a direct connection of the new officials to me as well as their local association.
- Jeff Polhemus will continue to lead the recruitment, retention, and mentorship committee that was formed for our sport last year.

I am excited about this educational and testing process and its support for prospective officials.

Our new officials will be better prepared when they step on the track, and for the first time, we will have a

process that directly connects them to their local association secretary. We know that connection to local associations, especially the mentorship and socialization they provide, is critical to retaining new officials.

I ask that each association work to connect each new official with one of your veteran officials who can provide them with mentorship through their first few years. Our veteran officials have a wealth of knowledge and expertise that they can (and should) share with our new officials.

I also want to dispel a rumor that is going around. Current officials will NOT be asked to take this course; this process is for new officials or officials who have had a lapse in their license.

FireFly

I will not be addressing this topic in this email. All applicable information will be sent to officials when appropriate from the office.

Middle School Cross Country Invitational Date Change

The decision has been made to move this meet to Sunday, October 22, 2023.

Sincerely,

BJ Duckworth

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