

DATE: January 4, 2024

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

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



RE: January Update

I hope everyone had a fantastic holiday season!

OTFCCOA Clinic

If you have not registered for the 2024 OTFCCOA clinic that will be held on January 19 and 20 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center and want to attend, please contact Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com.

If you will be attending the clinic, make sure you bring cash or check for the the 50/50 raffle, shell raffle, and other items that will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Fred Dafler and Rick Haddix Scholarship Fund.

Tournament Questionnaire

The Tournament Questionnaire for the 2024 spring season will be posted on MyOHSAA January 15 – 31. All officials who wish to work a district regional or state track tournament **MUST** complete the questionnaire.

This year, the questionnaire will include a few changes based on feedback from officials including:

- You will now be able to pick a third option for officiating position for the district and regional, the options for the third position will be broad and include options like “any field event” unlike the specific options available on the first two selections.
- To help officials better reflect their availability and ability to travel to regional locations, you will now be able to select first and second site selections. In the past, you could only select sites for the entire regional tournament, however, now you can select options for Wed/Fri and Thur/Sat separately.
- In 2023, we added the option for officials to list non OHSAA officiating experience including working indoor track. This experience is considered as part of an official’s overall resume.

2023 – 2024 Officials Handbook Updates

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 Increase

For the third year in a row, officials will see an increase in tournament pay. In 2021 and 2022, officials saw increases in pay for track regional tournaments. In 2021, the increase brought track regional pay in line with districts. In 2022, track regional pay moved to \$10 more than the district. **Each level of the tournament will see a \$10 increase per official per day this season.** While \$10 does not seem like a lot per person, this raise accounts for a \$30,000 investment into tournament officials' pay per year. In 2022, investments totaled approximately \$23,000 and included: 1) Pay raises for regional track 2) Additional officiating positions added at the regional and state level of both sports, the 7th & 8th Grade Cross Country Invitational and 7th & 8th Grade Track Championship 3) The OHSAA adoption of the summer officials clinic 4) The addition of hotel rooms at the state meet. In 2021, we saw a \$5,000

investment with the increase of track regional officials' pay. **Since 2021 we have seen nearly \$65,000 in investments into officials in our sports!**

Official Uniforms

Officials' shirts now need to be tucked in unless the shirt has been manufactured not to be tucked in (i.e. women's cut shirts) or there is a medical reason why it cannot be tucked in.

People have reached out and asked about suspenders. They are not covered in the uniform rules and are looked at no differently than a belt; if you need them, wear them. Also, for clarification, if a hat is worn, it **MUST** meet the guidelines as outlined in the policy.

Years of Service Needed for Tournament Assignments

The number of years need to be eligible for tournaments has been changed to reflect the reality of our current officiating numbers. Years of service for districts have been reduced to help fill the needs at that level, while the years of service for the state meets have been increased to reflect the higher level of skills needed in those positions. The new years of service are listed below:

District – 1 (one) year (*previously two*)

Regional – 4 (four) years (*no change*)

State – 8 (eight) years (*previously six*)

Required Meeting Attendance for New Officials

New officials will now be required to attend the state rule meeting and one local meeting in the year they take their test. Previously, the only educational requirement that was needed for a first-year official was the test. This change, in addition to new online course structure, will help ensure our new officials have a better foundation as they start their careers.

2024 Meeting Information

State Rules Meeting

- The State Rules Meeting virtual meeting window will be open February 5 to March 22, 2024; completion between March 23 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 topics specific to each 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 through April 22, 2024. In addition to the meeting options made available to you through your local association, as in the past two seasons, 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 meetings 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.

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