

DATE: September 20, 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: 7th & 8th Grade State Meet Announcement

Please see below the contents of an email that was sent out to meet managers of 7th and 8th Grade Invationals yesterday. A similar email will be going to all high school ADs in the next week or so. While this change does not directly affect the officiating community, it is important that you are aware of these changes. I also know there are meet managers and coaches among our ranks that will benefit from this communication. This change will create some additional officiating opportunities especially for younger officials looking to gain more experience. The criteria that need to be met to be a qualifier can be found [HERE](#) and a link to application can be found in the email below. All of this information will be posted on the OHSAA Track & Field page in the coming days.

If you have any questions please reach out via email.

TO: 7th & 8th Grade Track Meet Managers

FROM: Dustin Ware, Sport Administrator

WHAT: Updated Qualifier Criteria for the 7th & 8th Grade Track State Championship

DATE: September 19th, 2023

Good evening,

Starting in Spring 2024, the OHSAA will be instituting a *new qualification process* for 7th & 8th graders wishing to become eligible for entry into the **OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Track & Field State Championships**.

Our hope is that this *new process* will streamline the qualification & registration of athletes, as well as increase qualification opportunities for a larger number of students across the state.

You are receiving this email because you have been identified as potential a site/meet manager who could potentially serve as one of our "**OHSAA Qualifying Meets**" for the upcoming 2024 middle school track season.

2024 UPDATED QUALIFYING PROCESS

- Via an online application process, the OHSAA will be select a number of meets to be considered as "**OHSAA Middle School State Meet Qualifiers**"
- These meets would be geographically dispersed around the state.
- School teams would be permitted to enter as many of these "*qualifying meets*" as they wish.
 - Participation in these meets **would count** towards their 12-meet maximum.
 - Even if the school sends a single participant/relay to a meet, that will count towards their 12-meet maximum for the season

- Each week, the Top 50 athletes/relays results collected from the previous weeks meets will be tabulated and shared on page posted on the OHSAA site.
 - Only results recorded during the “**FINALS**” of a qualifying meet would be counted towards the Top 50 weekly performance list.
 - Once the final qualifier tabulations are complete, those athletes/relays who qualified would be contacted to verify their acceptance into the State Championship Meet. If an athlete/relay is not able to attend, the next qualifier will be offered a spot in the State Meet.
 - There will not be a need for team or individual registration to the State Meet, as the final top 24 qualifying marks will be automatically entered directly into the **OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Track State Championship**.

QUALIFYING MEET SELECTION

In order for a meet to be considered for selection as a “**OHSAA Qualifier**”, a School Administrator or Meet Manager would need to complete the following link:

[OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Track & Field State Championships – Qualifying Meet Application](#)

- The deadline for submission of these applications will be **October 29th**.
- Completion of an application **DOES NOT** guarantee selection as a “**OHSAA Qualifier**”.
- The OHSAA will consider both **NEW & EXISTING** invitationals.
- Selected schools will be notified by November 12th. Only those meets selected will be notified.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Qualifying meet window: **Saturday March 23 – Saturday May 4**
- Weekly Tabulation posting: **Thursday (starting March 28)**
- Final Qualifier tabulation: **Sunday May 5**
- Qualifier acceptance: **Monday May 6 – Wednesday May 8**

WHY HOST?

There are several benefits as to why a school would want to apply for a selection to serve as a “**OHSAA Qualifier**”, these include:

OHSAA BRANDING

- These meets would be an opportunity to showcase your invitationals & facility to a wider range of schools due to your co-branding of your event serving as an “**OHSAA Qualifier**”.

INCREASED REVENUE

- Given the updated qualification process, teams from all over your district will want to attend these qualifying meets. These selected invitationals will see an increase in revenue from the increase of team registration fees, spectator tickets, concessions, parking, etc.! Being that these are ‘*regular season contest*’, whatever revenue generated from hosting the meet is 100% retained by the hosting meet!

HOSTING MEET REQUIREMENTS

Attached to this email you will find the “*Host Meet Requirement*” that the selected meets would need to follow if wishing to be considered as one of these qualifiers.

Please note, these “*requirements*” are likely very minimal additions, none of which are much different than what most invitationals would have already included.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

There will be additional information posted on the [OHSAA Track page](#) in the coming days. That said, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions pertaining to the updated qualification process or the hosting of a qualifier meet.

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Thank you for taking the time to look over this email, as well as your consideration to apply to serve as one of our qualifying meets.