

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: All Athletic Administrators (HS & MS), All Track & Cross Country Coaches (HS), All 2024 Qualifying Meet Managers, All 2024 Qualifying Meet FAT Contractors, All OHSAA Track Officials



FROM: BJ Duckworth | Sport Administrator &  
Director of Officiating Development

RE: 2025 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Track State Championship Qualifier Meet Information

In 2024, the OHSAA transitioned to an approved qualifying meet format. As part of that new format, only performances occurring at meets approved by the OHSAA would be eligible for the championship. This process was put in place to increase safety and fairness, ensure access to the meet data, and bring consistency to the meets.

I appreciate all of the feedback provided by coaches, officials, and the general track community on how we can improve the process and allow athletes more opportunities to qualify. We heard you and have used your feedback to make changes. The qualifying meet format will continue in 2025; however, it will include several changes outlined below.

\*\*\* Unrelated to the changes, I want to remind everyone that teams (both HS & MS) MUST be using the OHSAA certified/approved school MileSplit accounts to enter all regular season meets and the OHSAA Championship. Any accounts created in addition to the certified/approved school accounts cannot be used to enter meets. High school accounts can only be used for high school meets and the same goes for middle school.

Changes to the 2025 qualifier format:

- The deadline will be changed from November 2024 to March 28, 2025. Late applications will be allowed when deemed appropriate with a late fee. This change removes the penalty from the student-athlete (losing the ability to participate in a qualifier) and moves it to the meet host while also encouraging on-time applications.
- **The application MUST include the MileSplit Meet ID and Meet URL. These are critical requirements to ensure the data from the meet can be pulled into the top 50 list. This was a critical issue in 2024.**
- Officiating requirements were reduced to four officials. Reducing costs for schools while still providing adequate supervision of non-officials working events, thus helping ensure a higher level of safety and fairness. If only four officials are contracted, they MUST serve in the designated positions.
- Team requirements reduced to four teams per gender, allowing teams more opportunities to qualify while still ensuring meets are large enough to be competitive.
- **All Seated event results must be reported in the final results as "Seated Events." Seated event results CANNOT be reported in the same event as footed athletes.**
- The maximum requirement at qualifying meets of two entries from each team per event has been removed, giving athletes more opportunities to qualify. Meet management will be able to determine the maximum limits for their meet, following NFHS and OHSAA regulations. To ensure geographic representation, we will continue to only allow two athletes from each team per event and one relay at the championship meet.

- Field event operational requirements were changed to allow the events to be completed quicker while also ensuring athletes have needed coaching time between events. Items like open pits for long jump and the allowance of four trials were added.

In the coming days, the OHSAA Track & Field page will be updated to reflect all of this new information, including full details of the new regulations, relevant dates, etc. The link to the meet application is below and live. Please review the full details once they are posted prior to applying.

[2025 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Qualifying Meet Application](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

**BJ Duckworth**

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