

DATE: February 4, 2025

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

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

RE: February Officials Memo



State Rules Meeting for Track & Field

The mandatory state rules meeting is now live online via DragonFly. **This meeting is mandatory to renew your license, and to officiate Track & Field.**

Meeting Begins	Late Fee (\$50) Begins	Meeting Closes
January 29, 2025	March, 26, 2025	April 15, 2025

If you are a coach AND an official, you must complete both State Rules Meetings. While the content in both is similar, each is customized to its specific audience.

For full instructions, please refer to the email you received from Keaton Jones via DragonFly on January 29, 2025.

Use of Illegal Equipment in Warm-ups

As a reminder, the use of illegal equipment in both competition and warm-up is prohibited. Athletes shall not be allowed to warm up with heavy or light shot puts or vaulting poles that do not pass inspection. Per NFHS rules, the penalty for the use of an illegal implement is disqualification from an event.

It is important to note that attire (warm-up clothing and uniforms) is not equipment, so wearing an illegal item during warmups is not prohibited.

Note On Officials Insurance – Indoor Track Not Covered

Officials receive insurance through the OHSAA as part of their yearly permit fee; information on this insurance can be found [HERE](#). Notably, this coverage **only** applies to OHSAA-sanctioned sports, meaning coverage would be extended for non-professional outdoor track events. As indoor track is not an OHSAA sanctioned sport, coverage is not extended to officials working those events.

I cannot and will not make any insurance recommendations; however, two possible avenues for indoor track coverage are through the [NFHS Officials Association](#) & [NASO](#). Before purchasing insurance, I recommend confirming coverage with those organizations or any other provider.

OTFCCOA Clinic Follow-Up

I would like to thank and congratulate the OTFCCOA Executive Committee on another fantastic clinic and awards dinner; all feedback so far is that it was one of the best winter clinics ever. Special thanks to Clinic Directors Kim Haddix & Mick Harris as well as Awards Directors Mariah Hohman and Tonja Stewart Shaw for their hard work.

OTFCCOA Name Badge Orders

A Note from Dennis Sabo, OTFCCOA Secretary: The Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association is again selling name badges for officials. These badges are compliant with the OHSAA Track & Field Officials Uniform Regulations and are an optional part of the uniform. All proceeds from the sale of these name badges will go towards the Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to family members of OTFCCOA member officials.

Name badges will be two-sided and include your name, permit number, photo, and local association name as well as the OTFCCOA Logo; a sample of this year's design can be found on the order form linked below.

The badges will be \$16 and can be ordered by clicking [HERE](#) by March 8, 2025; they will be mailed to your home in late March. Officials will need to upload a passport-style photo when they place their order.

Anyone with questions should contact Dennis Sabo, densabo@gmail.com.

Tournament Regulation Changes

The 2025 Tournament Regulations were approved in January and are now posted on the OHSAA website, and they can be found [HERE](#). Changes include:

- Use of online verification forms
- Implementation of fines for lost bibs
- Preferred lane changes for sprints related to positions 7 & 8
- Distance race seeding is no longer random
- Penalties for illegal access to restricted areas are clarified
- Increase in coaches' complimentary admission & clarification on coaches' boxes
- Officiating maximums added & other minor officiating changes

OHSAA Manuals

The 2025 Track and Field [Coaches](#), [Officials](#), [Seated Athlete](#), & [Electronic Starting Device](#) manuals have been posted to the OHSAA website.

Note on Expansion

As was shared in January, the OHSAA board approved the expansion of both Track and Cross Country. While a brief presentation was given at the officials clinic, it is important to note that other than the number of divisions, nothing else has been approved as far as operations of the tournaments, regulation changes, sizes of divisions etc. I encourage everyone to refrain from speculating; information will be shared as it becomes available.

Effective immediately, we will be temporarily suspending the rotation model that moves people out of their key positions when they advance or end the rotation. While we don't know how many days the state meet will be, we know we will need additional referees for the new divisions. Also, we may need additional OHSAA-assigned crews for regional tournaments. This suspension of rotations ensures that we have a solid foundation of officials to assign while we work out the kinks in the expansion. It also allows us to ensure we have the flexibility needed related to the OHSAA-assigned key positions for the regionals. We need to ensure each of the new crews is not made up entirely of officials who are all new to their roles. We are not abandoning the new assignment processes; we are simply temporarily suspending the rotation element to ensure we can give our student-athletes the best tournament experience.

Additionally, we will temporarily suspend the representation piece of state meet assignments for the 2026 track season. An expanded tournament will cause availability issues for officials, and the suspension of representation will give us the flexibility needed to fill all sports with high-quality officials. Our goal will be to be as close as possible to what the representation would be. Representation was temporarily suspended for team sports that also saw expansion.

The March Officials Memo will include a brief survey related to officiating and tournament expansion. It will help us understand the needs of officials as we work through what assigning a longer state meet will look like.

Award Winners

Please join me in congratulating the individuals below who were honored at the Ohio Track & Field and Cross County Officials Association & Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches clinics in January.

OTFCCOA Award Winners

Contributor Award

James Baumer
Brian Beining
Josh Bodnar
Les Chih
Kristopher Marshall
Tonja Stewart Shaw
Chris Walker

Joe Lenge Service Award

Jim Fox

Cope Award

Terry Armstead

OATCCC Award Winners

OHSAA SEI Award

John Waple
Jeff Magill
Nick Flynn
Tom Rapp

Dale Gabor Service Award

Dr. Allison Jones
Ty Stillman
Mike Popovich
Bill Swank

Rob Kiser
Dan Hoover
Eddie Mowen Jr.
Leaders Family

Fred Dafler Coaches of The Year

Randall McKinney
Robert Sudomir
Darin Wilson
Larry Bailey

OATCCC Hall of Fame

Diane Krumpak
Aaron Roberts
Penny Zuber
Cory J. Leslie
Doug J. Bockenstette
Joseph Milton Bradley

Ed Barker Award

Roger Hosler

7th & 8th Grade Track State Championship & Qualifying Meet Information

In August 2024, we announced several changes related to qualifying meets for the 2025 season; those changes are a direct reflection of feedback from coaches, administrators, and officials. The modifications made for 2025 will provide more opportunities for student-athletes to qualify for the championship while also helping maintain a higher level of consistency, fairness, and safety. Information on the 2025 championship, a list of approved qualifier meets (updated regularly with new approvals), an outline of qualifier requirements and updates for 2025, and the application to become a qualifier can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

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Important Dates		
	2025 Cross Country	2025 Track
	<small>All 2025 dates are subject to change</small>	
OTF&CCOA Officials Clinic	TBD 2026	
OATCCC Coaches Clinic	TBD 2026	
First Day of State Meeting <u>for Officials</u>	TBD	February 4, 2025
First Day of State Meeting <u>for Coaches</u>	TBD	February 10, 2025
First Day of Coaching	August 1, 2025	February 24, 2025
Early Season Invitational	August 16, 2025	
Season Begins	August 18, 2025	March 29, 2025
State Meeting Late Fee Begins <u>for Officials</u>	TBD	March 26, 2025
State Meeting Late Fee Begins <u>for Coaches</u>	TBD	March 30, 2025
Deadline To Declare for Tournament	TBD	April 21, 2025
State Meeting Ends <u>for Officials</u>	TBD	April 15, 2025
State Meeting Ends <u>for Coaches</u>	TBD	April 21, 2025
Non-Interscholastic Date	September 29, 2025	May 5, 2025
7th & 8 th Grade State Championship		May 17, 2025
District Tournaments	October 18, 2025	May 19-24, 2025
7 th & 8 th Grade Post-Season Invitational	October 19, 2025	
Regional Tournaments	October 25, 2025	May 28-31, 2025
State Championships	November 1, 2025 <small>@ Fortress Obetz</small>	June 6-7, 2025 <small>@ Ohio State</small>
OHSAA State Championship Officials Clinic	November 1, 2025	June 6-7, 2025
Season Ends	November 1, 2025	June 7, 2025
OATCCC Cross Country Clinic	TBD 2025	

Important Documents/Resources		
	2025 Cross Country	2025 Track
OHSAA Sport Webpage	Click HERE	Click HERE
Sport Regulations	TBD	Click HERE
Tournament Regulations	TBD	Click HERE
Uniform Guidance Video	Click HERE	
Coaches Manual	TBD	Click HERE
Officials Manual	TBD	Click HERE
Seated Athlete Manual		Click HERE
Electronic Starting Guide		Click HERE
Verification Form	Click HERE	
Mixed Gender Relay Waiver		Click HERE
Medical Waiver	Click HERE	
Non-Bordering State Waiver	Click HERE	
OHSAA Officials Handbook	Click HERE	
OHSAA School Handbook (Constitution, Bylaws, GSR)	Click Here	
NFHSLearn.com Fundamentals of Coaching	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Sport-Specific Coaching	Click HERE	Click HERE
NFHSLearn.com Sportsmanship Course	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Track & Field Officiating	Click HERE	
NFHSLearn.com Interscholastic Officiating	Click HERE	

Tournament information can be found by clicking the appropriate links on the sport-specific OHSAA Sport Webpage.