

DATE: January 13, 2022

TO: All Track & Field and Cross-Country Officials

FROM: BJ (William) Duckworth, OHSAA Director of Officiating Development, Track & Field

RE: 2022 Educational Opportunities & General Updates



I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Now that the holidays have passed, many will begin officiating indoor track and field, while others will wait for what is hopefully a dry, sunny and warm spring season. As we have done for many years, the pre-season is a time for us to attend local rules meetings, view a state interpretation and focus on continuing education. This bulletin includes information on some new resources and opportunities as well as updates on things we have done for many years. Please take some time to review; I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual OT&F&CCOA Clinic later this month.

Important Note from the OT&F&CCOA about the January Clinic

The executive committee of the OT&F&CCOA has been monitoring the latest information related to the COVID surge and is planning to move forward with the clinic as scheduled. The hotel will set up the rooms with increased distance between each seat. The OT&F&CCOA strongly recommends that all attendees wear masks and they will have some available for those who need/want them. Participants should ensure they wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer before using the coffee station and hospitality room. While the room will be cleaned between days, we encourage everyone to sit in the same location each day. Finally, we will have disinfectant wipes available for those who want to utilize them. If anyone has any questions, please get in touch with Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com

4x800 M Relay Added For Middle School Track

The OHSAA board today (January 13) voted to add the 4x800 meter relay to the middle school order of events. It will be placed into the order to mirror high school as the first event. The recommendation to add the 4x800 to middle school was brought to the Track Advisory Committee last year for consideration and was supported by that group. Adding the 4x800 meter relay will now provide a third distance event for middle school athletes and help balance the number of sprint and distance events offered. The Track Advisory Committee consists of the DOD, Sport Administrator, elected officers from the coaches and officials association, and at large members from the coaching and officiating bodies.

One Rule – One Interpretation

Consistency in the application of rules is, and always has been, of the most importance in how we approach continuing education. We are adding additional opportunities and resources for officials with that in mind. My goal is that all associations and over 800 individual officials enforce rules consistently using the same interpretations; One Rule – One Interpretation. In addition to the items listed below, we will be much more purposeful in regularly sending out communication to all officials. Throughout the year-- specifically during the season-- I will be sending out communications like the end-of-season cross country note everyone received in the fall. These will be based on the most asked questions to the state interpreters and also include information about any issues that have come up.

Local Rules Meetings

Local rules meetings will again be required in 2022. Please see the Official's Manual for details on meetings needs related to tournament eligibility and permit renewal. The Official's Manual can be found at <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Officiating/OHSAAOfficialsHandbook.pdf>

Virtual Local Rules Meetings – NEW in 2022!

Starting this year, with the help of local rules interpreters, I will produce two virtual meetings that can be viewed for local meetings credit. These meetings will be posted under “Special Presentations” on MyOHSAA this spring. The videos will be posted one at a time and officials will receive an automated message when each is posted. These virtual opportunities are meant to provide flexibility in how officials receive their continued education, not replace local association meetings. I encourage you to participate in as many local rules meetings as possible, not just your required amount. I ask that we all focus on continued education, not simply meeting the requirement. I will send out additional reminders when they are posted.

Meeting One:

- A message from the Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association
- Safety in the field events
- Events not competed/canceled
- Game reports
- Common field event recording errors
- Checking in and out of field events

Meeting Two:

- A message from the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches
- Seated events
 - o History
 - o Equipment specifications
 - o Qualifying
 - o Event rules

Manual for Coaches & Officials

Please make sure you review the 2022 manual. This manual is intended to include the most important information as well as the Ohio Modifications. It should serve as a supplement to the NFHS Rules and Case Books, as well as the NFHS Officials Manual. I suggest you print and keep a copy of the manual with you at meets; many officials have theirs spiral bound for easy handling. The manual can be found at ohsaa.org/sports/track and will be posted later this month.

State Rules Interpretation

As in the past, the rules interpretation will be primarily available online, however, there will be three opportunities to attend in-person State Rules Interpretations this year. Please make sure you view or attend this mandatory meeting by the due date to avoid possible late fees or suspension.

Online Meeting Available: February 9, 2022 at 9am – March 26, 2022 at 11:59pm

Online Meeting Available WITH \$50 LATE FEE: March 27, 2022 – April 25, 2022 at 11:59pm

In Person Meeting Availability

February 19, 2022 at 11am | Kettering Fairmont High School Recital Hall (use Shroyer Rd. entrance)

February 22, 2022 at 6:30pm | Toledo St. Francis High School Chapel (use Bancroft St. entrance)

March 3, 2022 at 7pm | Austintown Fitch High School Cafeteria (use door d)

FAQs – NEW in 2022!

I can't take credit for this idea, but it was good, so we implemented it. Together with the Assistant State Interpreters, we have compiled a FAQ document that will quickly reference the most asked questions. It will be updated as needed and as new topics come up. I ask that officials check this document often to ensure they have the correct answers to the most common issues/questions. This FAQ can be found at ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD

Q & A Session – NEW in 2022!

I can't take credit for this idea either, but I jumped on it when it was suggested. We know that many officials miss the opportunity to ask questions at the State Rules Interpretation. In response, we have put together this opportunity where officials can ask rules questions of the state rules interpreters. This is only a Q&A session, it does not count as a meeting credit! We will **not** review the rules changes and I ask only those who have viewed/attended the 2022 State Rules Interpretation participate. To keep the size of the sessions manageable, I have set up times by district. To participate, use the appropriate Google Meets link or call-in number below. During the meeting, please make sure you are muted when not speaking.

Northeast District

March 15, 2022 6 – 6:45pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/yys-zovv-xzt>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 252-699-0135 and enter this PIN: 202 967 002#

Northwest District

March 15, 2022 7 – 7:45pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/jjj-zqdo-kqc>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 219-250-1846 and enter this PIN: 870 392 505#

Central

March 16, 2022 6 – 6:45pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/agv-bmdn-brg>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 585-491-8832 and enter this PIN: 144 313 241#

Southwest

March 16, 2022 7 – 7:45pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/rks-auhs-xxp>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 573-375-5130 and enter this PIN: 404 406 866#

East/Southeast

March 17, 2022 6 – 7:45pm

To join the video meeting, click this link: <https://meet.google.com/mar-qgbn-oho>

Otherwise, to join by phone, dial +1 920-550-6927 and enter this PIN: 564 049 612#

Officials Evaluation Process – Updated For 2022!

While evaluations have always been completed on officials, specifically those working OHSAA assigned positions, we have made some changes to the process. There is now a formal evaluation document that evaluators will complete and a FAQ document that will give everyone more information and clarity around the process. Evaluation FAQs and forms can be found at ohsaa.org/Officiating/DOD.

NFHS Virtual Training

The NFHS, through their site [NFHSlearn.com](https://nfhslearn.com), offers FREE virtual officials' education to all officials. This interactive, video-based educational tool can be viewed at your own pace and was developed by the NFHS in conjunction with USATF. While this educational tool does not review Ohio-specific modifications, it is a fantastic educational tool available to all of us. To view this training, please visit the below link. If you have participated in the NFHS Concussion Training, you will use the same log-in information you set up for that. If you do not have an NFHS account, you will need to set up a free account before moving forward with this training. Once you have set up an account, you can "order" the free track and field officiating training and then view it at your leisure. This training is particularly good for newer officials and veteran officials working in a new position. This training can be found at <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/officiating-track-and-field>

Tournament Questionnaire

The 2022 questionnaire will look a little different this spring, with the Middle School Track and Field State Championship Meet now included. This fall, the Early Season Cross Country Invitational and the 7th & 8th Grade Cross Country Invitational will be included as well. Please make sure you log into MyOHSAA and complete it between January 15 and January 31, 2022. A reminder on this will be sent from the OHSAA.

Thank you for all you do for the student-athletes and the sport we all love. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to reach to me or the other state interpreters.

Sincerely,

BJ (William) Duckworth

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Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter