

DATE: January 7, 2025

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

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

RE: January Officials Memo & OTFCCOA Clinic Update



OTFCCOA Clinic Information

A Note from Dennis Sabo, OTFCCOA Secretary:

- **Clinic Dates:** January 24 & 25, 2025
- **Clinic Location:** Nationwide Hotel & Conference Ctr | 100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035
- **New this year:** credit cards will be accepted for raffles & to purchase items. A credit card processing fee will be included for all card purchases.
- **Raffles:** There will be two raffles taking place this year, all proceeds of which will benefit the Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarship Fund. Make sure you bring some extra cash or a credit card! Tickets will be \$5 for 10 tickets or \$20 for 50 tickets.
 - o The **Shell Raffle** will have five drawings from the same pot.
 - 1st Draw = 5 boxes of .32 cal (Donated by OHSAA)
 - 2nd Draw = 5 boxes of .32 cal (Anonymous Donor)
 - 3rd Draw = 10 boxes of .22 cal (Anonymous Donor)
 - 4th Draw = 5 boxes of .22 cal (Donated by OHSAA)
 - 5th Draw = 5 boxes of .22 cal (Donated by OHSAA)
 - o The **50/50 Split the Pot Raffle** will have multiple chances to win.
- **Items For Sale:** This year, there will be several items for sale with all proceeds benefitting the Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarship Fund. Make sure you bring some extra cash or your credit card!
 - **Backpacks** will be available for \$30 each.
 - **Ponchos** will be available for \$20 each.
 - **Sling Bags** will be available for \$20 each.
 - **Highlighter/pouch** will be available for \$8 each.

*If you would like to purchase any of these items and will not be at the clinic, contact Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com
- **Agenda:** Please click [HERE](#) to view the agenda for the clinic.
- **Awards Winners:** Please click [HERE](#) to view a list of this year's awards winners.
- **Late Registration:** If you have not registered for the clinic and want to attend, please contact Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com **IMMEDIATELY** to see if late registration can be accommodated.

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

OTFCCOA Name Badge Orders – Now Available

A Note from Dennis Sabo, OTFCCOA Secretary: The Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association will again be 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. **If you would like a photo taken for you, please see a member of the OTFCCOA Executive Committee at the clinic.**

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

Wolf & Bear Gloves For Throwing - Prohibited Items

I wanted to bring your attention to two items that are currently being used by track athletes around the country at various levels; the Bear Glove and the Wolf Glove. Click [HERE](#) to be taken to the manufacturer's website to view the items.

After reviewing the photos of the items, discussing with the Assistant Rules Interpreters, and communicating with the NFHS; both the Bear Glove and the Wolf Glove have been determined to be illegal for use in OHSAA contests.

- The Bear Glove is illegal as it is a glove and therefore prohibited by NFHS Rule 6-4-1 & 6-5-1. Additionally, it is an illegal aid, prohibited by NFHS Rule 6-2-16
- The Wolf Glove does not appear to be a glove; however, it is prohibited as it is an illegal aid under NFHS Rule 6-2-16.

Please note, while I am referencing product names used by a specific manufacturer, similar items from other manufacturers would be illegal if they have a similar design.

Tournament Questionnaire

The Tournament Questionnaire is no longer in MyOHSAA; it is sent to all eligible officials via email and is done through a Google Form. **The questionnaire will run from January 6 – January 29;** please refer to that email for more information. If you feel you are eligible but did not receive the email, please reach out.

2025 Regional Sites

The 2025 regional tournament sites with tentative start times are now posted on the OHSAA website. Click [HERE](#) to view the tournament website and time schedules. Representation from each athletic district to each regional site will be added in late January once the tournament regulations have been approved.

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](#).

State Rules Meeting for Track & Field – Mark Your Calendars

The mandatory state rules meeting will be available online via DragonFly per the cart below. **This meeting is mandatory to renew your license and to officiate the sport.** This is a separate meeting than Cross Country state rules meeting that was completed last year.

Meeting Begins	Late Fee (\$50) Begins	Meeting Closes
February 4, 2025	March, 25, 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.

Officials Handbook Changes

The [OHSAA Officials Handbook](#) is reviewed and updated each summer. The 2024/25 handbook, including the board-approved changes, can be found by clicking the link above. This year's changes center around increased pay for tournament officials and a small adjustment to officials' uniforms. **The new handbook went into effect in the fall of 2024.**

Officials Tournament Pay

For the 4th straight year, track & cross country officials will see pay increases in the tournaments. Dale was able to secure pay raises for 2021-22 before he got sick and we have been able to secure them for 2022-23, 2023-24, & again for 2024-25. In addition to the pay changes this year, the pay scale is more structured based on the level of position for both sports.

All officials in the track tournaments will see a \$10 pay increase. While that does not seem like a lot per person, spread across all officials at the tournaments, it is an estimated \$19,200 total yearly increase (District \$10,400, Regionals \$7,200 & State \$1,500). For cross country, some of the positions will see increases while others do not. Click [HERE](#) for a breakdown of the changes.

In total, since the 2021-22 school year, we have seen around \$80,000-\$90,000 in annual investments in our track and cross country officials through increases in tournament pay each of the past four seasons, creation of additional regional and state tournament officiating positions, pay for hotel rooms (and breakfast for those who stay) for state track, and covering 100% of the costs for the state meet clinics.

Officials Uniform

Track and Cross Country officials are now required to wear close-toed shoes. They may not wear sandals, flip-flops, Croc-style shoes, etc. This change was made to increase the safety and mobility of our officials.

Recording Devices

The OHSAA policy prohibiting officials from using body cameras, GoPro cameras, etc., was added to the handbook. This policy was first shared during the spring of 2024 and can be found on page 22.

BJ Duckworth

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Track & Field and Cross Country

Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Important Dates		
	2025 Cross Country <small>All 2025 dates are subject to change</small>	2025 Track
OTF&CCOA Officials Clinic	January 24 & 25 2025	
OATCCC Coaches Clinic	January 23 – 25 2025	
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 25, 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	

Important Documents/Resources		
	2024 Cross Country	2025 Track
OHSAA Sport Webpage	Click HERE	Click HERE
Sport Regulations	Click HERE	Click HERE
Tournament Regulations	Click HERE	TBD
Uniform Guidance Video	Click HERE	
Coaches Manual	Click HERE	TBD
Officials Manual	Click HERE	TBD
Seated Athlete Manual		Click Here
Electronic Starting Guide		TBD
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.