

DATE: June 22, 2022

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ (William) Duckworth
Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter
Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: 2022 End of Track & Field Season Bulletin / Cross Country Pre-Season Note 1

A Season of Firsts & New Beginnings

The 2022 track & field season marked a season of firsts in many ways.

- The OT&F&CCOA held its first-ever Rookie Clinic in conjunction with the state tournament. Thirty “rookies” were paired with five veteran officials utilizing the state tournament as its classroom.
- The Lake Erie USATF Association, The Ohio USATF Association, The OHSAA and The OT&F&CCOA came together to host the first-ever officials' recruitment event at the track and field state tournament.
- A task force made up of your fellow officials has been working to make recommendations related to how we select officials for the tournament assignments. We hope to have an announcement about cross country assignments very soon.
- A recruitment, retention and mentorship committee is being formed. This group will lead our efforts in these categories and help us continue to grow our sport.
- 15% of the officials assigned to the nine key positions at the regional tournament were being assigned to one of those nine positions for the first time or in a new role.
- 20% of the officials assigned to the high school state meet were assigned for the first time or in a new role.
- 100% of the officials assigned to the middle school state meet (with the exception of mentors) were assigned to their first OHSAA assignment.

NFHS Active Official of The Year Awards

Congratulations to the below recipients on their 2022 NFHS Active Official of The Year Awards. They received their award this past weekend at the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Dinner. Each of these recipients was nominated by their local association and selected by me based on their current and past contributions to the sport. This award is given each year to active officials nominated by their association in late winter/early spring. The awards are rotated between the athletic districts based on the district's percentage of overall officials. Pictures from the event can be found [HERE](#).

John Daubenspeck (NE) | Boys Cross Country
Ed Miller (SW) | Girls Cross Country
Bob Smalling (NE) | Boys Track & Field
Kent Lamberson (NW) | Girls Track & Field

OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Dee Clay (NW) on his induction to the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame. Dee has been a Track & Field and Cross Country official for over 45 years. Pictures and video from the event can be found [HERE](#).

For information on how to nominate someone to the Hall of Fame, please click [HERE](#).

OT&F&CCOA 2023 Award Nominations

Each year, the Ohio Track & Field and Cross County Officials Association awards the Joe Lenge Service Award, the Fredrick Cope Award and several Contributor Awards. For more information on who qualifies for each award or to nominate someone, please click [HERE](#) and click on the picture next to the award description.

While it is common for secretaries to send nominations in on behalf of their association; **anyone** may nominate someone who qualifies for the awards. Nominations for these awards are due by August 1, 2022

Permit Renewal

Permit renewal is now underway. Officials who plan to work cross country & track must renew by June 30, 2022 to officiate the fall season. Officials wishing to officiate only track can renew without a late fee by December 31, 2022. Please log into [MyOHSAA](#) to complete your permit renewal.

Local Association Membership

One question that is being asked in growing frequency, especially by newer officials, is “Why should I join a local association?” Local associations serve many roles and are critical to the success and growth of our sport.

Local associations:

- Provide face-to-face educational opportunities for members.
- Help serve as a connection between officials and schools/leagues in need of officials.
- Provide access to local rule resources through their local rules interpreters.
- Providing access to local secretaries who are a great first step for many officials' questions.
- Provide comradery and socialization opportunities
- Provide mentorship and development thought connections with veteran officials

I strongly encourage any official who currently is not a member of a local association to join one near them. If you need help finding one, please let me know.

Cross Country State Rules Interpretation Meeting

A few years ago, the OHSAA began requiring the attendance of a State Rules Interpretation Meeting for Cross Country. This meeting will again be required this year and will be offered 100% virtually through MyOHSAA. The timeline for this meeting is TBD, and officials will receive notification once the meeting is ready.

Local Rules Meetings

This spring, for the first time track and field officials were able to view two pre-recorded meetings and receive local meeting credits. That opportunity will be available this fall for cross country officials as one local virtual meeting will be made available. When this meeting will be posted is TBD; please do not reach out to the OHSAA office or me and ask; once the meeting is posted, everyone will receive an email notification. The process will be the same as in the spring; the meeting will be available for a short period and anyone who views it will receive a local meeting credit.

Cross Country Tournament Eligibility

Officials wishing to work Cross Country Tournaments must view the State Rules Interpretation and attend at least one fall local rules meeting. Additionally, you must complete the tournament questionnaire and meet the years of service requirements for that particular level of the tournament. For more information, please view page 58 or the OHSAA Officials Handbook; the handbook can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Cross Country Tournament Questionnaire

This fall's tournament questionnaire will be available July 1 – July 15. Starting this year, officials who wish to work the OHSAA Pre-Season Invitational and/or the OHSAA Middle School Invitation in addition to the

tournaments must complete the questionnaire. Also, you will see several other small changes, including the opportunity to share your non-OHSAA cross country officiating experience.

Sincerely,

BJ (William) Duckworth

Wjduckworth2@yahoo.com

Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter

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