

DATE: January 15, 2026

TO: All Track & Field Coaches

CC: Athletic Administrators, Contest Officials, FAT Contractors, Tournament Managers, DAB Sport Coordinators & Secretaries

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

RE: OHSAA Track & Field Officials Manual & Info on Transition to Athletic.net



2026 Officials Manual & Mechanics Guide

New this year, the OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Manual has been expanded to include a comprehensive Mechanics Guide for officials. This guide will bring much-needed consistency in officiating across the state and enhance the training/mentoring of new officials. The Mechanics Guide covers mandatory mechanics and positioning for all field events, as well as Umpires, Starters, Clerks, Head Field Judges, & Referees for both sports. The information in the manual must be followed.

The Manual & Mechanics Guide will be made available electronically later this month. In addition to being available electronically, the manual is available for purchase from the OHSAA. Officials who would like a paper copy can purchase one for \$8, and it will be mailed to you in early March. **The deadline to order a paper copy is February 7, 2026, at 11:59pm; no late orders will be accepted. To place an order, click [HERE](#).**

More information about the manual and guide will be shared at a later date and included in the State Rules Meeting. THANK YOU in advance for embracing this change that will help us better serve our state's student athletes.

OHSAA Transition to Athletic.net

Please see the information below that was sent to all member schools and FAT contractors today related to a transition to Athletic.net. While this will not affect the majority of officials, ensuring you are aware of this change will be beneficial to those officials working in leadership positions at the tournaments, serving as meet managers, or working as FAT operators.

Note To Member Schools

The OHSAA will transition to Athletic.net for its tournament meet entry system, effective with the 2026 Track & Field season. We are announcing this transition as early as possible to give our coaches, administrators, meet managers, and FAT contractors as much time as possible to work through the needed processes to be ready for the 2026 Track & Field and Cross Country season.

Before doing anything, you should visit the [OHSAA / Athletic.net Policy and Usage Website](#) to learn more about how the platform can and will be used by the OHSAA and the greater track community in Ohio. Below are a few notes:

- Team pages have already been created for all member schools, and rosters are locked to the appropriate grade levels. DO NOT set up any new team pages.
- All 7th & 8th Grade State Championship Qualifying meets must be fully hosted in Athletic.net. This ensures the ranking, declaration, and registration processes work correctly. Schools that have already been approved will be contacted directly as they will need to reapply.
- Schools can continue to use any platform they wish for regular season high school contests and non-7th & 8th grade qualifying meets.

- Only performances marked as “Official” in Athletic.net can be used for high school first-round tournament seeding. There is a process for meets not hosted in Athletic.net to be processed and made official.
- FAT Contractors can request an upgraded Athletic.net account to gain enhanced features.

As with any transition, there will be bumps in the road; however, using the information found on the [OHSAA / Athletic.net Policy and Usage Website](#) will help ensure a smooth transition and minimize issues. Please ensure you review that page in detail before reaching out.

A representative from Athletic.net will be with me at the OATCCC Coaches Clinic on January 30th. This will allow coaches to ask questions face-to-face and learn more about the platform's functionality. Additionally, I will review some basic information during my tournament regulations presentation that afternoon.

Note: The OHSAA transition to Athletic.net DOES NOT affect the OATCCC Indoor State Championship, as their event is fully independent of the OHSAA. Indoor Track is not an OHSAA sanctioned sport.

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