

DATE: March 5, 2024

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth

Assistant Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development  
OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: March Officials Update

### Non-Scored Events Prohibited

In line with OHSAA bylaws and the information provided on page 14 of the [Ohio Track & Field Officials' Manual](#), non-scored events are prohibited as the OHSAA prohibits exhibition competition for all sports. All events at all meets must be scored; no official, school, conference, meet, or DAB may set aside this rule. Further, officials are prohibited from officiating non-scored events. If an official is asked to officiate an unscored event, they should refuse to allow the event to take place and notify meet management of your obligation to notify the OHSAA via a game report. Following the meet, officials should file a game report notifying the OHSAA of the intent of the school. If the school holds the unscored event after the officials leave, the official should file a game report notifying the OHSAA of the actions. This includes meet management hosting events such as throwers relays or JV races that are non scored.

### Reminder About State Rules Meeting

As a reminder, officials have until March 22, 2024 to complete your state rules meeting without a fee; completion between March 23 and April 13, 2024 will require a late fee. **This meeting is required for all officials** regardless of officiating the tournaments.

If you are a coach and an official, you need to take **BOTH** state rules meetings as they cover topics specific to each audience.

### Electronic Starting Device Guide

In accompaniment to the new tournament regulations related to the use of electronic starting devices (ESDs), the OHSAA is producing a guide on how the systems must be used for the tournaments. This guide will also serve as a best practice for when ESDs are used during the regular season. This document was put together with input from the outgoing NFHS National Rules Committee Chairperson, FAT operators, starters with experience in ESDs, and myself. The document is not yet complete and will be located on the OHSAA Track & Field Webpage. It will be sent out to everyone as part of the April Update.

**Please note:** The tournament regulations related to the use of ESDs does not prevent the use of black powder shells during the regular season. Please see the first state-wide virtual local meeting for more information.

### Game Reports for Uniform Violations

In an effort to reduce the number of mid and late season uniform violations, meet referees **MUST** file a game report anytime a team receives two or more uniform warnings or violations in the same contest.

- This helps ensure school administration is aware of the issue and also allows the official the ability to share the reason the coach gave for the violations.
- Ensure OHSAA follow-up and rule clarification with both the coach and school administration.
- This gives the official the ability to add a non-punitive punishment for uniform violations.
- Should be filed as an equipment issue.

This information was also shared as part of the state rules meeting.

## Uniform Guidance Video Now Available

An additional uniform resource has been added to the OHSAA Track & Field Website. A brief video discussing uniform regulations can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

## 2024 NFHS Pre-Meet Notes

The 2024 NFHS Pre-Meet Notes are now available by clicking [HERE](#). This document provides additional information and guidance on some of the 2024 rule changes, as well as information on preventative officiating and electronic starting. I encourage all officials to take some time to review the document.

## Clarifications On Required Rosters

Language in the 2024 Officials Manual indicates that the meet referee must be given a paper copy of the roster in smaller meets but that at larger meets, the roster can be given to the meet manager electronically. To clarify, it is 100% acceptable for rosters at meets of ANY size to be submitted electronically through a meet management platform (Milesplit, Baums, Direct Athletics, etc.). When electronic entries are used, the referee does not need to have a paper copy provided to them as long as the meet manager has them available to be viewed in the electronic format. With advancements in technology, it is becoming more common that small weekday meets are using electronic methods to handle meet entries, and this clarifies that process as being acceptable.

## OHSAA Position Announcements

**Sport Administrator:** Dustin Ware, Sport Administrator for Track & Cross Country, has left the OHSAA to take a new opportunity. Until a long term plan is put in place, I will be handling both my traditional responsibilities as DOD and Assistant Sport Administrator as well as his. This may delay my response to your emails.

**Tournament Data & Technology Manager:** In order to better support our tournament sites, we have brought Josh Bodnar on board as our Tournament Data & Technology Manager. He will provide support to our District sites as needed, handle all data responsibilities at all five OHSAA Track & Cross Country events, as well as ensure regional data is correct. Josh has an extensive technology background with his full time employment at OSU and has timed/scored meets at the MS, HS, and collegiate levels. Josh can be contacted at [Jbodnar@ohsaa.org](mailto:Jbodnar@ohsaa.org).

## Resource List

Below is a list of documents available to assist officials and coaches.

- [OHSAA Track & Field Officials Manual](#)
- [OHSAA Track & Field Coaches Manual](#)
- [OHSAA Seated Athlete Competition Guide](#)
- [Uniform Guidance Video](#)
- [2024 Tournament Regulations](#)
- OHSAA Tournament Managers Manual – Not yet posted
- Electronic Starting Guide – Not yet posted
- Regional Meet Sites & Schedules – Not yet posted
- District Meet Information: Click the district below  
[NE](#) | [NW](#) | [SW](#) | [C](#) | [E](#) | [SE](#)
- [Electronic Starting Grant Applications](#)
- [2024 NFHS Pre-Meet Notes](#)
- [NFHS All Access \(Digital Rule and Case Books\)](#)
- [NFHS FREE Officiating Track & Field Course](#)

### **Name Badges Available**

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.

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 9, 2024;** they will be mailed to your home in late March. Officials will need to upload a passport-style photo when they place their order. 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.

Anyone with questions should contact Dennis Sabo [densabo@gmail.com](mailto:densabo@gmail.com).

### **Statewide Virtual Local Meetings**

We will be providing two statewide local meeting options again this season. The first one should be available to officials very soon and will include a detailed review of the new tournament regulations as well a training on Continuing Flights AKA 5 Alive. The second meeting will be a combination of a NFHS sportsmanship training video and a quiz.

### **BJ Duckworth**

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