

DATE: May 3, 2024

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth
Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development
OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: May Officials Update

Use of Recording Devices By Officials - Prohibited

Officials around the country, in multiple sports, have been using recording devices (body cameras, GoPro cameras, etc.) attached to their uniforms or bodies as a deterrent to poor sportsmanship as well as for future training purposes. The OHSAA has determined that the use of these devices is **PROHIBITED** by officials; officials may **NOT** wear or utilize them in any way or record during their officiating duties.

This does not prohibit officials from taking photos with student-athletes or coaches when it does not interfere with their officiating duties or competition and the coach or athlete consents to the photo.

Roster Information Regarding Ohio House Bill 68

Ohio House Bill 68 became law earlier this year and was planned to take effect in April; it relates to a ban on transgender participation in sports as well as some other items. The law is currently blocked by a temporary court order; however, regardless of the outcome of the court action or the implementation of the new law, your role as an official does not change. Officials must continue to follow the direction that has been previously given; **If the athlete is on the roster, they compete.**

It is not the responsibility of contest officials to determine who should be on or is allowed on a roster; those are compliance issues that are handled at the office. **Officials must continue to allow participants listed on a roster to compete regardless of our personal feelings on whether they belong on said roster.** If you or a coach have an issue or suspect there may be an issue with a participant on a roster, those issues should be sent to me via email, and I will involve the appropriate staff to look into the issue after the fact. **Contest officials cannot and must not prevent a participant listed on a roster from competing due to suspected eligibility issues.**

The above not only relates to House Bill 68 but applies to all eligibility issues (age, grades, grade, etc.).

Is It OK to Only Allow Three Attempts In Horizontal Field Events?

Allowing three attempts without finals is NEVER acceptable at any meet (high school or middle school) and is prohibited under NFHS rules. NFHS Rules 6-2-10 and 6-3-17 state that the only allowable options are three attempts with three additional in the finals, or everyone gets four attempts. The choice between the two options is a games committee decision per NFHS Rule 3-2. An official or meet only allowing three attempts with no finals would be like a baseball umpire only allowing two strikes or a football referee only allowing three downs; it simply is not acceptable.

The above does not change the referee's/games committee's ability to suspend or cancel an event due to weather or darkness.

Contest Contract Issues

- It has been reported by some officials that they are receiving contracts for meets with a pay of \$0. While the acceptance of contracts is each of your decisions, be aware that once you accept a contract for \$0, you have agreed to work for \$0 and would have no recourse if you do not get paid. It is my recommendation (again, it's your decision) that you decline any contracts for \$0 and have the contract issuer resend the contract with the appropriate pay amount to protect yourself.
- If you are receiving contracts through Arbiter or any other assigning software other than DragonFly, please send me (bjduckworth@ohsaa.org) and Keaton Jones (kjones@ohsaa.org), OHSAA Manager of Officiating Technology, an email notifying us of this and include what school/conference has issued the assignment. Thanks in advance for your help.

Recruitment Help Needed For State Meet

We need additional officials to volunteer at the officials recruitment table at the state meet May 30-June 1. Volunteers receive a parking pass, credential, and lunch. Those interested should contact Jeff Polhemus at jbpscuba@yahoo.com.

Clarification on Crocs

In general, **the vast majority** of these styles of “shoes” cannot be securely attached to the foot and, therefore, are not legal. The small movable strap on the back does not attach the shoe firmly to the foot. However, as Crocs is a brand name and not a style of shoe, it is possible that they do/will produce a style that would be legal or that there is another similar brand that can be securely attached. There is no universal one-size-fits-all answer; each official must make a judgment call based on what is worn at that particular meet.

NFHS Officials Survey

You have been invited to take part in the NFHS rules-writing process by taking the annual track & field rules questionnaire. This questionnaire is provided so the opinions of a national sampling of registered officials and coaches will be considered by the NFHS Track & Field Rules Committee(s). **THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL CLOSE ON MAY 14, 2024.**

To participate in the questionnaire process, please follow the link below.

<http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/nfhs-sport-questionnaires/>

Contact nfhswebmaster@nfhs.org if you have any questions.

NFHS Official Of The Year

Congratulations to the NFHS Officials of The Year, who will receive their awards at the OHSAA Celebration of Officiating Banquet in June. These officials were nominated by their local association and selected based on their career achievements, specifically their work recruiting and mentoring new officials and their commitment to preventative officiating.

Boys Track and Field Penny Zuber
Boys Cross Country Ron Weaver

Girls Track and Field Rodney Russell
Girls Cross Country Gail Bowers

50 Year Officials Awards

Congratulations to the below officials who will receive half century awards at the OHSAA Celebration of Officiating Banquet in June.

50 year Officials: Rodney Russell, Paula Coder, Mark Klopfenstein, Lee Sternberg, Diane McClellan, Roger Hosler, Robert Karl and Thane Hecox

Tournament Assignments

Congratulations to the officials who have been assigned to officiate the 7th & 8th Grade State Championship, the High School State Championship, and were assigned to one of the key positions for the Regional Tournaments. Lists of who has been assigned can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

OTF&CCOA Fred Dafler & Rick Haddix Scholarships – Due May 1

Scholarship applications were due on May 1; if your family member wishes to apply and has not done so already, please remind them to do it ASAP. Anyone with questions should contact Harold Grice at grices1981@gmail.com

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](#)
- [Electronic Starting Guide](#)
- [Regional Meet Sites & Schedules](#)
- 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](#)

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