



# Welcome & Introductions



**COACHES'**  
TOOL CHEST

**THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS & SPONSORS!**

This meeting will serve to communicate important matters involving educational-based athletics in Ohio, as well as matters specific to OHSAA member schools.



**BSN SPORTS™**



**FULLCHARGE**

MIND • BODY • SPIRIT

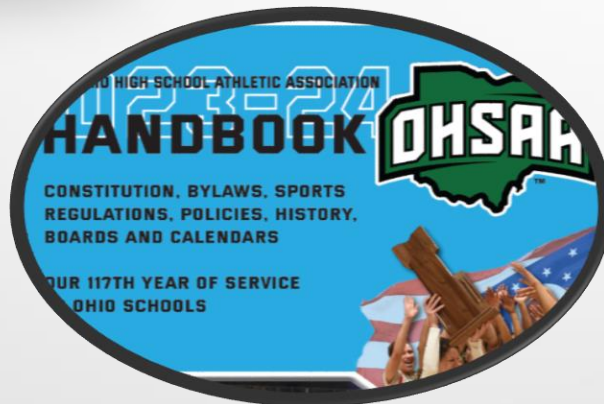
# Today's Discussion Items



Executive Director Update



Sport Administration Update



Compliance Update



Legal Update



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

- OHSAA Finance Committee- Serves as advisory group
- September 12 at 8:30 am, Spring Sport Financial Meeting
- Created the new Athletic Enrichment Fund which distributed over \$1,000,000 to high schools (\$1,250 each)
- We distributed 169 scholarships at \$1,000 each for a total of \$169,000 going to students
- We paid over \$1,000,000 in travel stipends for regionals and state soccer, basketball, lacrosse, baseball, softball, volleyball, football, ice hockey and field hockey
- We introduced a reduced ticket price for students at cost of \$1,500,000
- We finished 2023 ahead of budget by 4%
- 85% of OHSAA revenues goes directly into programming
- We currently have \$9 million in operating cash (4.8 months) plus \$8.9 million in the investment reserves/rainy day for a total of \$17.9 million (9.5 months)



# REQUIREMENT OF ACCEPTING CASH

- NOT an OHSAA mandate. OHSAA lobbied against it to keep it local control for regular season games (All cash, all online, or a combination of both, depending on what was working in your school)
- OHSAA still working through how postseason events will be handled. Decision will be released by early-mid September after August Board meeting.
- Four options of which we have become aware, which are solely at your local discretion to implement, include:
  - 1. Offering a discounted rate for individuals who purchase online tickets vs. paying cash at the gate [Note: the bill only references “on the date of the event” so that the “cash” option need not be made available prior to the day of the event]
  - 2. Keeping gate ticket prices set within multiples of 5’s for easy change
  - 3. For facilities with multiple entrances, having one entrance dedicated for “cash ticket sales”
  - 4. Offering the “cash” ticket immediately, notwithstanding the October effective date of this mandate, to avoid a midseason procedure change vs. maintaining all digital ticketing until October 3 to get the community into habit of purchasing tickets online



# Technology Update



## FINALFORMS

- Slowly sunseting myOHSAA over next 2-3 years
- For 23-24 school year, schools will input staff management and school information into FinalForms
- FinalForms Lite accounts for non-paying members/customers

## DRAGONFLY

- DragonFly replaced Arbiter as the system for game scheduling and assigning.
- From June 1 to early August, DragonFly has facilitated over 50 in-person training sessions across the State training over 2,000 school personnel and assigners. We have also held weekly virtual sessions specific to school treasurers and sessions specific to officials.
- DragonFly has deployed close to 30 customizations for Ohio and continue to deploy enhancements every 2-3 weeks to “ohio-ize” the system.
- 2024-25 school year should be open for scheduling and assigning now.
- Officials will/are be able to print their schedules, see contest fees before accepting, and be prevented from accepting two conflicting contests either today or in the next couple days.

## MAXPREPS

- Looking to use MaxPreps for seeding purposes only (sports still TBD)



# CONTEST ENVIRONMENTS

As an administrator, please ask yourself the following: **“What is my school doing to create a positive game day experience/positive environment at our contests and events?”** Then follow up with . . .

- What sporting behavior expectations and consequences does my school have in place for our student body?
- What is my school doing to ensure contest officials are safe and secure before, during and after our contests?
- What process does my school have in place for teaching and promoting sporting behavior with our parents and adult fans (preseason meetings)?
- What procedure does our school follow to remind our coaches and student-athletes of their sporting behavior expectations?
- What process does our school have in place to ensure only authorized personnel are on the sidelines, in bench/team areas or in team and officials’ lockerrooms?
- What process does our school have in place to remove individuals who disrupt a contest due to unsporting behavior?



# CONTEST ENVIRONMENTS



**We are Creating TOOLS That will Help You!**





# CONTEST ENVIRONMENTS

## Ideas That Work

- We want to hear from you on what's working at your school.
- What have you implemented that has been positive in creating a better environment for contests and events at your school?
  - 1.) Send those ideas to us.
  - 2.) If attending the OIAAA Conference in Columbus Nov. 12-14, share your ideas on camera to create short video vignettes.

Send ideas and/or willingness to participate in video vignettes to:

[bgoldring@ohsaa.org](mailto:bgoldring@ohsaa.org)



# PRESEASON PARENT MEETING REMINDER

- Best option is In-Person, if possible
- Bylaw 3-1-4 requires overview of certain aspects of OHSAA regulations to be covered, including sportsmanship expectations!
- Template and Resources on [OHSAA.org/School-Resources](https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources)

*3-1-4 No later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season, the principal, through his/her athletic administrator, coaches and such other personnel as deemed advisable by said principal, shall conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officer(s). The meeting shall consist of (a) a review of the student-eligibility bulletin and key essential eligibility requirements; (b) a review of the school's Athletic Code of Conduct; (c) a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity component, and (d) a review of issues concerning concussions and steroids.*



# PBIS/ MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR COACHES

- PBIS Training (requirement of ODE)
- Mental health training for school athletic coaches now required by law (Sec. 3313.5318)
- Prohibits an individual from coaching an athletic activity UNLESS the individual has completed a student mental health training course approved by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Individuals may complete the training at any time within the duration of the individual's new or renewed permit.
- The new law also changes the frequency of trainings required to renew a pupil-activity program permit as follows:
  - For sudden cardiac arrest training, from annually to sometime within the duration of an individual's previous permit; and
  - For brain trauma and brain injury management (concussion) training, from within the previous three years to within the duration of an individual's previous permit.



# Sport Administration Update



# STATE RULES MEETINGS

- Make sure coach information is correct in myOHSAA.
- **2. Mandatory Attendance at or Participation in OHSAA-Sponsored Rules Interpretation Meetings**
- 2.1) Any school sponsoring a sport recognized by the OHSAA in which a state tournament is held must have the head varsity coach, assistant varsity coach or athletic administrator attend or participate (online) in an OHSAA-sponsored state rules interpretation meeting in that sport by the communicated deadline date.
- 2.2) A late fee will be assessed to access an online meeting or to participate in an in-person meeting after the first day a regular season contest is permitted in the respective sport.
- ***2.3) Failure to attend or participate in the sport's state rules interpretation meeting by the established deadline shall result in ineligibility to participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament in that sport.***



# General Sport Regulation 7

## *Non-Interscholastic Rule*

- Spells out what players and coaches can and cannot do *during* the season!
  - Players can NOT workout, tryout, practice or play with any AAU/travel/club/church/etc. team!
- Players can NOT workout, tryout, practice or play in any type of college ID camp\* or showcase!
  - *\*with the exception of soccer*

- If a student athlete violates Sport Regulation 7, they are immediately

**INELIGIBLE**

# SUMMER CONTACT DAYS

## GSR 7.5.1 Permits 13 “Instructional Days”

- *Permitted between May 15 and July 31*
- *Permitted per staff, not individual coaches*
- *Junior High days are separate from High School days*
- *ANYTIME more than “X” individuals are present*
- *Use in team play or individual instruction*



# Sport Regulation 7.3

## Non-Interscholastic Play

- **EXCEPT DURING MAY 15– JULY 31**
- There is a limit of 50% of the members of a team that played together on the same school team on any non-interscholastic team (*legion, AAU, travel, rec league, etc.*)

- **SUMMARY:**

- Limit of X that played from the same school
  - Any out of season team
  - Not in effect from May 15– July 31
  - Not in effect from end of school season through July 31 for baseball, lacrosse and softball
  - Graduating seniors not counted
  - If they did not play for their school team last season, not counted
- Grades 7-8 are separate from grades 9-12

Limitation on Sport	Number of team members
Baseball	6
Basketball	3
Field Hockey	6
Ice Hockey	5
Boys Lacrosse	6
Girls Lacrosse	6
Soccer	6
Softball	6
Volleyball	3





# General Sport Regulation 7.5

## *Coaching Outside the Season*

- Coaching players from your school in team play outside the season
  - You CAN coach players from your school teams on non-school teams (“travel”, legion, etc.)
  - You CANNOT coach them during the No-Contact Period (GSR 11)
    - 28 days after season or August 1 – August 31 for spring sports, Basketball & Ice Hockey
  - **Limitation of X players** from your school team on the non-school team roster



# Sport Regulation 7.8

## *Individual Skill Instruction*

- **EXCEPT DURING NO CONTACT PERIOD**
- It is considered to be providing individual skill/coaching instruction by a school coach when the techniques and skills of the sport are taught in a one-on-one or individual setting. or instructor.
- **SUMMARY:**
  - School coach may provide individual skill instruction to X number of athletes at one time
  - Limit of X applies to all school facilities
  - May occur any time inside or outside of school season, with the exception of the No Contact Period
  - Includes watching video/film

Limitation on Sport	Number of team members
Baseball	6
Basketball	3
Field Hockey	6
Ice Hockey	5
Boys Lacrosse	6
Girls Lacrosse	6
Soccer	6
Softball	6
Volleyball	3



# EJECTIONS: VIDEO REVIEW

- There are no appeals for ejections per OHSAA Bylaws and NFHS Rules
- There are 2 instances where the **suspension length** of the ejection may be reduced
  1. Flagrant Personal Fouls in Football
  2. Fighting in any sport
- The disqualification for these fouls may be reduced by the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee.
- Video of these fouls is required to be sent (preferably via an email) to the OHSAA Football Administrator or his/her designee within 48 hours of the contest.



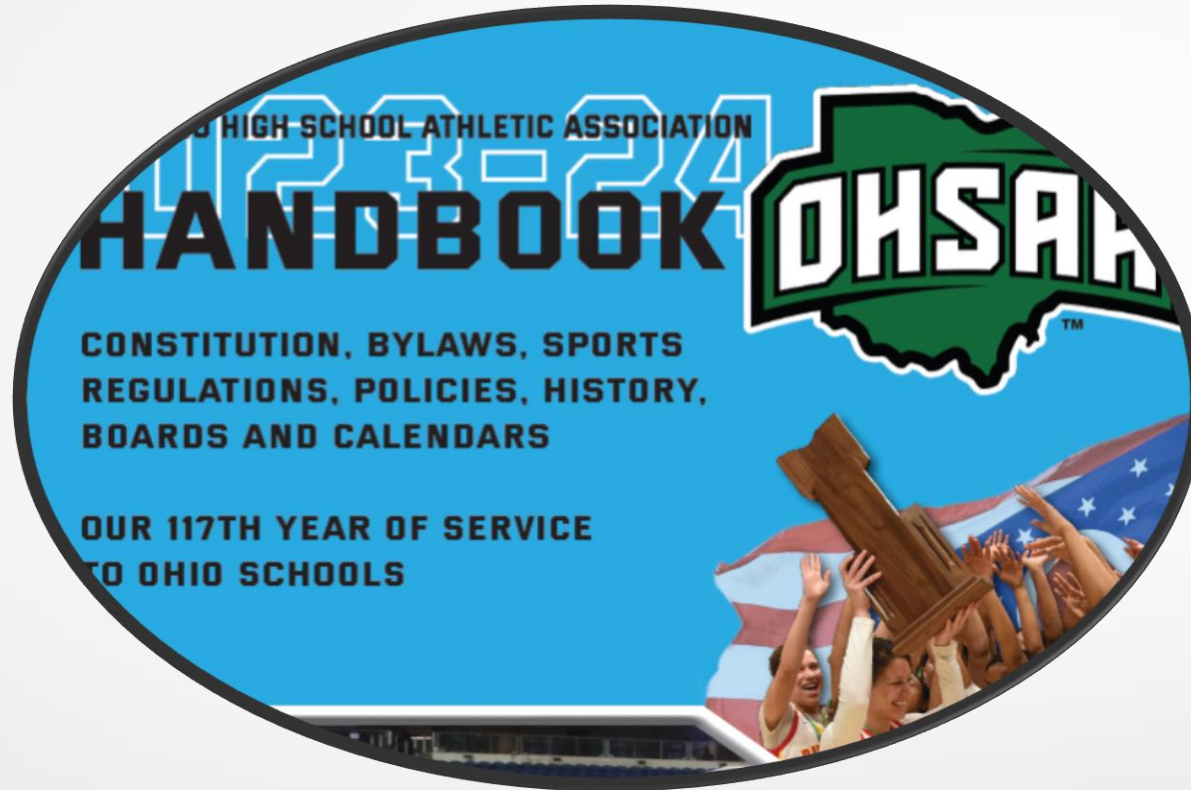
# 2023 STATE PLAYOFFS



- All games weeks 11-15 will be played Friday Night (Coaches Recommendation)
  - Media considerations & athlete considerations
- Higher seed will host weeks 11 and 12
- State Finals: Div I-III and VI on Thursday or Friday. Div IV, V and VII on Saturday



# Compliance Update



*Kristin Ronai, Director of Compliance*



# REFERENDUM VOTE REVIEW

- 12 of 13 referendum issues passed
- New highlights for 2023-24:
  - Definition of Transfer for Home Educated
  - Midseason Transfer
    - (keep playing for same team)
  - Intra-district & Intra-system Changes
  - CCP Changes

**OHSAA** 2023 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
**818 OHSAA HIGH SCHOOLS – 814 HIGH SCHOOLS VOTED**  
 BALLOT FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE OHSAA CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS (GRADES 9-12)  
 NOTE: ALL ISSUES HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR REFERENDUM BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**HIGH SCHOOL – RESULTS – As of 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2023**

FAVOR	OPPOSE	ABSTAIN	ISSUE	DESCRIPTION
744	54	16	1 C	<p><b>Constitution Article 6-1-9 – Suspension of Strict Compliance</b>                      This Constitution Article (6-1-9) was implemented during the spring of 2020 to address the COVID 19 pandemic and is set to expire at the start of the 2023-24 school year unless an additional extension is approved by the membership. While this Article has been used very sparingly over the course of the past 2 1/2 years (waiver of the scholarship bylaw for the 2020-21 school year and reuse of tournament divisions from the 2020-21 school year for the 2021-22 school year), the Executive Director's Office believes there is value in retaining this concept of "suspending strict compliance" with certain regulations but only if 1) the suspension remains consistent with the underlying purpose of the rule being suspended and 2) the suspension is a result of a natural disaster, a national/state emergency, or a force majeure. New additional language would also clarify that the authority granted within this Article is only available for application for an entire district and/or an entire school, not on an individual student basis.</p> <p><b>Issue 1 C Passed, effective date August 1, 2023.</b></p>
374	427	13	1 B	<p><b>New Exception to Bylaw 4-3-1 – Students Attending Member Public School Playing Sports at Neighboring District School</b>                      This proposed new exception would permit a student enrolled at a member public high school that does not sponsor a team sport in which the student desires to participate to petition to play that sport at a public school located in a bordering public school district but only if the bordering district's Board of Education adopts a resolution permitting such participation, and if the Superintendent of the school the student attends agrees to allow the participation. Reciprocal language has been developed for students in a multiple high school district.</p> <p>An OHSAA form would need to be utilized and, if approved by a Board of Education, must be on file at the OHSAA District intentions about whether or not to permit the participation by non-enrolled, neighboring public school students for the next school year must be received by the OHSAA Office by June 30 each year, and no student may participate at another school until a request is submitted and approved by the Executive Director's Office.</p> <p><b>Issue 1 B Failed</b></p>
741	52	21	2 B	<p><b>Clarify Bylaw 4-4-1 &amp; Modify Exception 1 – High School Academic Standards</b>                      This proposed modification removes redundancy and simply requires engagement in coursework during the preceding grading period, with a new reference to Bylaw 4-3-1 for enrollment requirements. Exception 1 is being changed to remove the assessment of the top 10% class rank and would allow any senior meeting other requirements to utilize this exception. Criteria c is also being modified to clearly articulate for whom this bylaw is intended (students with good behavior records, attendance, and no failing grades). Exception 2 is being editorially changed to reflect a newer review process used by the E.D.'s Office.</p> <p><b>Issue 2 B Passed, effective date May 16, 2023.</b></p>
776	30	8	3 B	<p><b>New Exception to Bylaw 4-3-1 – Students Attending Member Public School Playing Sports at Neighboring District School</b>                      The proposed changes in Issue 3B address the matter of CCP (College Credit Plus) students taking shorter "sprint" or "A/B" courses who don't engage in coursework in that class during the grading period in question. The first proposed change removes the obligation of school administrators to conduct grade checks for CCP courses that are not concluded before the grading period ends. Students are assumed to be passing the course until they receive a failing grade or drop the class, and they must inform their school of any enrollment changes in CCP courses. The new Exception 4 allows "sprint" or "A/B" courses to count towards the 5-credit standard if they occur during the same semester and the student was enrolled in the course at the beginning of the semester in order for it to count, and CCP courses taken during summer or a different semester cannot be used. If a student drops a CCP course after using it to meet the 5-credit requirement, they will become ineligible for the remainder of the grading period unless the CCP course was not necessary to meet the 5-credit requirement.</p> <p><b>Issue 3 B Passed, effective date May 16, 2023.</b></p>



# REFERENDUM VOTE REVIEW

## New “Exception 4” Examples:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Grading Period Ends October 28</li><li>• Student signed up for CCP class by August 10 (i.e. start of semester)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCP class starts October 30</li><li>• Student only passed 3 credits at end of 1<sup>st</sup> grading period</li></ul>	ELIGIBLE for 2 <sup>nd</sup> grading period under Exception 4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Grading Period Ends October 28</li><li>• Student realized they were short credits, signed up for CCP class Oct. 1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CCP class starts October 30</li><li>• Student only passed 3 credits at end of 1<sup>st</sup> grading period</li></ul>	INELIGIBLE for 2 <sup>nd</sup> grading period under Exception 4.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1<sup>st</sup> Grading Period Ends October 28</li><li>• Student signed up for CCP class by August 10 (i.e. start of semester)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student only passed 3 other credits at end of 1st grading period</li><li>• CCP class starts October 30 but they drop it November 13</li></ul>	Initially eligible, then INELIGIBLE for REMAINDER of 2 <sup>nd</sup> grading period once school discovers drop

# REFERENDUM VOTE REVIEW

- ***Issue 1B, Students Attending Member Public School Playing Sports at Neighboring District School***
  - Failed 427-374 (53 vote difference)
  - In 2022 it failed, 406-393 (13 vote difference)
  - Most frequently heard concerns:
    - Fear of recruiting
    - Powerhouse teams
    - Too hard to track





# Bylaw 4-3-1

- Bylaw 4-3-1 essentially says students must play sports where they go to school
- Currently seven exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1
- Exceptions 4 and 6 are the most confused exceptions...
  - Exception 4 (Non-traditional/specialty school students within a district)
  - Exception 6 (Home educated students, Community school students, STEM school students and Non-public school students)



# Non-enrolled student options



*Non-public school students*

- Can play at local residential school, if school doesn't offer sport
- Can also play at public school where non-public school is physically located subject to applicable Superintendent agreement



*Community/STEM school students*

- Can play at local residential school, if school doesn't offer sport (only option)



*Home educated students*

- Can play at local residential school
- If local school doesn't offer sport, may also petition to play at non-residential public school subject to Superintendent approval
  - If residential school offers sport, that is where they must play. Student may be subject to transfer consequence if they go back



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## Biannual Budget Bill

- Requiring Cash (Sec. 3313.5319 (A))
  - 3 paragraphs on page 1,025 of the 6,198-page document of HB 33.
- Changes to Home Education Notification Requirements (Sec. 3321.042)...and note pushback for grade collections
- Mental Health Training Required for Coaches (Sec. 3313.5318)
- Expansion of EdChoice Scholarship Program
- Pay-to-Participate Fee Assistance (Removed)

## Standalone Bills

- SB 104- College Credit Plus Notification Changes
- HB 47- Requiring AED's in Schools
- HB 6/HB 68- Transgender Female Athlete Participation
- HB 139- Increase Assault Penalties in Certain Circumstances



# Legal Update



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# Prevention is the best medicine...

- **Academic Check- January 8, 2024 (set reminder!)**
- Great job last year as scholarship appeals were down
- No major disasters with eligibility
- As promised, committee studied issues and made recommendations (CCP Changes)
- Recommendations were incorporated in referendum and adopted
- Should make the CCP part of this issue easier to manage but still need grade checked.



# Prevention continued...

- HB 47 – Requiring AED's in Schools
- ORC 3313.6023 requires AED training in schools
- Emergency Action Plans
- Only 1 crisis away from legislative mandates
  - Damar Hamlin
  - Bronny James
- TAKE THE TIME TO PRACTICE YOUR EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN WITH EACH SPORT TEAM AT START OF EACH SPORT SEASON



# Speaking of “Crisis” and legislative intervention...

- **NIL**
  - It ain't going away . . .
  - What if Bronny James returned to Ohio
  - Trouble waiting for the right plaintiff to come along
- **“Amateurism”**
  - Amateur for one sport but not another
  - Ability to “regain” amateur status
  - Social media carve-out



# CONTRACTS

- **Every year 6+ “cases” of schools involved in “contract dispute”**
  - i.e. one school wants out of the contract
  - Biggest problem is football but “disputes” not limited to that sport
- **Bylaw 7, an entire Bylaw designated to Contract**
  - “All disputes ... that cannot be resolved between the member schools themselves shall be referred to the Executive Director’s Office for binding resolution.”
- **Bylaw 7-1-1 anticipates that schools attempt to resolve these contract disputes**
  - Seems you are leaving your own attorneys out of this process





# CONTRACTS

- *If and when you involve your attorney*
  - The attorney is going to give YOU the same legal analysis I give E.D.
- **Legal Analysis**
  - Is there a breach? Anticipatory Breach?
  - Can the non-breaching party mitigate its damages
  - What are the sum total of the “foreseeable” damages
- \*\*\* Filling in the liquidated damages paragraph of the game contract goes a long way towards answering these last 2 questions\*\*\*
- “Foreseeable” damages may include:
  - Concessions
  - Lost revenues
  - (Nets and averages)



# TITLE IX AND SAVE WOMEN'S SPORTS

- Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights
  - April 6, 2023 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Save Women's Sport HB 6/HB 68
  - Annual bill introduced into legislature (although HB 68 is more comprehensive)
  - Gender identity



# U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights Proposed New Rule

- **The proposed regulation's text:**
- The proposed regulation would be in the Title IX regulations at section 106.41(b)(2):
- *If a recipient adopts or applies sex-related criteria that would limit or deny a student's eligibility to participate on a male or female team consistent with their gender identity, such criteria must, for each sport, level of competition, and grade or education level: (i) be substantially related to the achievement of an important educational objective, and (ii) minimize harms to students whose opportunity to participate on a male or female team consistent with their gender identity would be limited or denied.*
- **OHSAA Transgender Participation Policy**
  - Does weigh these factors
  - Is not the blanket rule
  - Former iterations of HB 6 would violate “new rule” but . . .



# MENTAL HEALTH...

- **ORC 3313.539 – Concussion Protocols codified**
  - Shall be removed by... the individual who is serving as the student's coach...
  - Willful or wanton misconduct
- **ORC 3313.5318 – Mental Health Training**
  - Part of PAPP requirements
  - Silent as to liabilities
  - Enforcement



# Questions?

