

Welcome to the

2024 OHSAA Fall Regional Update Meeting

Doug Ute, Executive Director



Welcome and Introductions

- Thank you to our hosts and sponsors!
- Introductions
 - Special welcome to all school and athletic administrators, as well as any school board members, state legislators, media and/or professional organization members
 - OHSAA Staff in attendance
 - State Board of Directors and District Athletic Board members in attendance

FINAL FORMS

MAXPREPS



Today's Discussion Items



Executive Director/Sport Update



Compliance Update



Legal Update



Financial Update



OHSAA Financial Objectives



Budget
\$1.9M Profit



Goal is
9 months
cash on hand



Student Scholarships
Athletic Enrichment
Donation to Schools
Division Expansion

Unaudited Results - July 31, 2024

OHSAA Financials	Actual	Budget	Favorable/(Unfavorable)	
Fall Sports	\$3,907,995	\$3,002,442	\$905,554	30%
Winter Sports	\$1,590,725	\$1,922,498	(\$331,773)	-17%
Spring Sports	(\$289,598)	\$56,422	(\$346,020)	-613%
Tournament Net Profits	\$5,209,123	\$4,981,362	\$227,761	5%
Other Operating Revenues	\$4,216,318	\$3,846,350	\$369,968	10%
Other Operating Expenses	\$7,004,965	\$6,913,308	(\$91,657)	-1%
Operating Profit	\$2,420,476	\$1,914,404	\$506,072	26%
Athletic Enrichment Donation	(\$1,632,000)	\$0	(\$1,632,000)	-100%
Investments/Other	\$862,997	\$114,900	\$748,097	651%
Total Profit/(Loss)	\$1,651,473	\$2,029,304	(\$377,831)	-19%

Cash & Investments	Jul 31 2024	Jul 31 2023
Operating Cash	\$7,717,111	\$9,089,952
Invested Reserves	\$9,464,022	\$8,881,409
Total Cash & Investments	\$17,181,133	\$17,971,361
Total Months on Hand	8.9	10.0

Investing in Students and Schools

	Actual	Projected			
	2023-24	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Catastrophic Insurance to cover high school athletes	465,000	465,000	485,000	465,000	500,000
Arbiter software license fees for schools	-	-	265,525	265,525	265,525
Scholarships paid to student athletes	200,000	169,000	169,000	159,000	-
Greens fees, lineage fees, weight mgmt for tournaments	425,000	425,000	350,000	325,000	-
Student Leadership Conference	14,000	14,000	-	-	-
Student ticket prices	2,500,000	2,500,000	1,500,000	-	-
Travel Stipends to offset travel to select Regional/State events	{ 1,700,000 }	1,200,000	1,078,000	523,000	-
Athletic Enrichment Fund distribution	{ 1,632,000 }	> 1,017,500	1,017,500	-	-
Total Investment in Students and Schools	\$6,936,000	\$5.8 - \$6.5 M	\$4,865,025	\$1,737,525	\$765,525

Sporting Behavior



Let's Make It a Priority!

LOTS of resources available at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/Respect-the-Game>

- Sporting behavior scripts for one or two students to read live prior to home games
- Ideas to assist administrators in creating a positive school environment
- Ideas to assist administrators in setting expectations for parents
- Ideas to assist administrators in engaging with student fans
- Ideas to assist administrators in protecting officials
- Ideas to assist administrators in supporting coaches and student-athletes
- Printable sporting behavior posters and banners

It's Our Game (Students)!

- Sporting behavior scripts for public address announcers
- Guidelines for public address announcers
- And more!!!

-
- Public address announcers play a key role in promoting sporting behavior
 - NFHS Learning Center free course on public address announcing:
nfhslearn.com/courses/p-a-announcing
 - Plan to take part in Officials and Coaches Appreciation Weeks:
 - Fall: October 6-12, 2024
 - Winter: January 12-18, 2025
 - Spring: April 6-12, 2025
 - OHSAA to provide P.A. scripts on website

Online Ticketing- Updated State Law

- Effective October 22 /24, 2024
- A school cannot establish different prices for tickets for a school-affiliated event based on whether those tickets are purchased using cash or any other payment method, except that the school may charge a processing fee for any ticket purchased online or by credit card.
- A school must offer a student enrolled in any school participating in a school-affiliated event a ticket price that is less than the ticket price the school charges for an adult for the same event. This includes middle school events, though a mandated difference in the price amount is not specified in the bill.
- Neither requirement within this law applies to any “school-affiliated event” held in a privately-owned facility.

Requiring AED's in Schools

- New law requires the placement of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in a) each public and chartered nonpublic school and b) each municipal sports and recreation location, except in townships and villages with populations of less than 5,000.
- It also requires schools to train teachers, administrators, coaches, athletic trainers, and anyone else supervising student-athletes on how and when to use AEDs, and requires the Department of Health to develop a model emergency action plan for the use of AEDs by public and chartered nonpublic schools, youth sports organizations, and municipal sports and recreation locations.
- All public and chartered nonpublic schools will be required to adopt their own emergency action plans and practice them at least quarterly.

New EMIS #'s & Divisions

- **January-March 2024-** OHSAA Office collected EMIS data from ODE (DEW) and allowed schools opportunity to appeal base EMIS counts
 - Board approved final base counts on April 1
- **April 2024 BOD meeting-** Approval of Fall and Winter sports divisions for 2024-25
 - Posted at <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Divisional-Breakdowns-2024-25-School-Year>
- **August 29, 2024 BOD meeting-** Approval of Spring sports divisions for 2024-25
 - Tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball, Baseball, & Softball Divisions released

Divisional Expansion Update

- Currently applies to:
 - B/G soccer (5 divisions)
 - G volleyball, B/G basketball, baseball, softball (7 divisions)
- Does not apply to football, but that will be considered in the future (*i.e. changing D2 to 64 teams like other impacted sports*).
- State tournament structure
 - D1/D2 vs. all other divisions (starting later)
 - Regionalized sites (state semi-basketball) vs. bringing all teams to single area (multiple sites-volleyball)
 - Playing at small universities vs. playing at large high schools closer to participating schools
- Board continues to meet to discuss potential expansion of XC and T&F. Working with Coaches Association to hear their proposal.

For the good of the order...

- Technology Update
- Shot Clock Discussions for Basketball

Questions?



2024 Compliance Update

Kristin Ronai,
Associate Executive Director



Referendum Review

All six issues passed

- New highlights for 2024-25:
 - Schools permitted to apply to play up to Division 1
 - 11 schools requested to play up in 14 sports
 - Girls Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball and Soccer; Boys Soccer, Basketball and Football
 - Spring sports request deadline will be September 13, 2024
 - Calamity Days no longer count as “school days” for transition of athletic eligibility
 - Midseason transfer modifications
 - Schools now permitted to travel out of state for practice purposes only

Bylaw 4-4-3

Start of 5th school day of next grading period

Example #1:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6	Nov. 7	Nov. 8	Nov. 9 Grading Period Ends	Nov. 10
Nov. 11	Nov. 12 Regular School Day (1)	Nov. 13 Regular School Day (2)	Nov. 14 Regular School Day (3)	Nov. 15 Regular School Day (4)	Nov. 16 Regular School Day (5)**	Nov. 17

** Immediately Preceding Grading Period Grades become effective at the start of this day

**Faculty In-Service Days & Regular School Days

Bylaw 4-4-3 Examples: Not Counting Calamity Days

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 1	Nov. 2	Nov. 3	Nov. 4	Nov. 5	Nov. 6 Grading Period Ends	Nov. 7
Nov. 8	Nov. 9 First Day of 2 nd G/P Regular School Day (1)	Nov. 10 Regular School Day (2)	Nov. 11 Regular School Day (3)	Nov. 12 Calamity Day	Nov. 13 Calamity Day	Nov. 14
Nov. 15	Nov. 16 Regular School Day (4)	Nov. 17 Regular School Day (5)	Nov. 18	Nov. 19	Nov. 20	Nov. 21

Bylaw 4-4-3 Examples: Not Counting Calamity Days

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 16.	Dec. 17	Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20 Grading Period Ends	Dec. 21 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 22
Dec. 23	Dec. 24 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 25 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 26 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 27 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 28 Winter Break (Holiday)	Dec. 29
Dec. 30	Dec. 31 Winter Break (Holiday)	Jan. 1 Winter Break (Holiday)	Jan. 2 Calamity Day	Jan. 3 Calamity Day	Jan. 4 Regular School Day (1)	Jan. 5
Jan 6.	Jan. 7 Regular School Day (2)	Jan. 8 Regular School Day (3)	Jan. 9 Regular School Day (4)	Jan. 10 Regular School Day (5)	Jan. 11	Jan. 12

Bylaw 4-7-3

Midseason Transfers- 50 Mile Rule Modification



1. Removes the 50-mile requirement between schools **if there is a student who is forced to transfer midseason due to the death or incarceration of the student's parent(s) or the intervention of Children's Services or a similar government agency.**
2. This new language DOES NOT include standard custody (Exception 2) transfers and would only be reserved for situations involving foster children, etc.

Bylaw 4-7-3

Sub-varsity Midseason Transfers

1. The change allows for ONLY sub varsity transfers to restore their full athletic eligibility at the new school after a midseason transfer **if they meet the requirements of an exception, regardless of the distance** between the two schools involved
 - a) In order for this to apply, the student must have only played the sport in question at the sub varsity at the former school, and would only be permitted to play sub varsity at the new school.
 - b) The intent of this change is to potentially restore eligibility for a sub-varsity player ONLY, if they qualify for an exception. It will not be used for a student who played varsity at their former school but who wants to be approved for JV at the new school.
 - c) Language was also added to explain that if there is no distinction between varsity and sub varsity teams at either of the respective schools then this option to restore eligibility at the sub varsity level shall not apply.

Schools would be safeguarded for proper application because all transfer eligibility require rulings from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office.

Further Legislative Updates

- *Overview memo sent to schools on August 13, 2024*
- Online Ticketing (addressed previously)
- AED's in Schools (addressed previously)
- Additional Participation Opportunities
 - For any student, allegations of bullying/intimidation/harassment
- Religious Accommodations
 - Though the OHSAA does not have any daily attendance policy rules, we know that many school districts do. Under this law, it would be illegal to hold a student out of athletic competition if they missed school that day for a "religious expression day."
- Transgender Female Participation
 - Transgender Females no longer permitted to play on girls sports teams (more on that later)

2024 Legal Update

Steve Craig, Joe Fraley & Josh Fraley
Legal Counsel



Steve's Schtick

- **Calendars/scholarship- January 6, 2025**
- Great job again last year as scholarship appeals were down second year in a row!
- In fact, no appeals before Panel on "under-scheduled students.
- Still an occasional CCP/drop issue here and there but. . .
- Recommendation some form of disclaimer for students who take CCP coursed about the consequences of a drop!

Appeals & Litigation

- Appeals consistent from year to year
- Litigation – returned to pre-pandemic levels – but with better results!
- Transfer cases again represent the majority of appeals and litigation
- Ejections right behind transfers

Transfers

- Exceptions are not loopholes
- Not merely a matter of “checking the boxes”
 - *“If it is determined that one or more of the exceptions that follow represents **an event** which **creates the need to transfer** i.e., creates a cause and effect relationship, then one of the following exceptions may apply:”*
 - *“If a student is compelled to transfer . . .”*
 - *Cleveland case*

Ejections/Finality of Official's Decisions

- Actually had 3 lawsuits involving officials' decisions and/or ejections/ejection policy
- Bylaw 8-3-1 states "protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the playing rules by officials will not be considered and those decisions are those decisions shall be final. . ."
- Only look at reliable, probation and substantial evidence for the misidentification of an ejected player. Review for the reduction of suspensions are permitted for "fighting," but the ejections themselves are NOT reviewable.
- Second ejections

Litigation- Final Comment

- Parties to the litigation
- Necessary and indispensable parties
 - Failure to join school as party defendant
 - Ineligible player
 - Bylaw 10-2-1 Forfeitures
 - Bylaw 11 Penalties

Title IX vs. Ohio's Save Women's Sports

- U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Final Rule
 - Released April 19, 2024
 - Effective August 1, 2024
- Save Women's Sport n.k.a Interscholastic single-sex teams
 - Effective April 24, 2024

Ohio's Interscholastic Single-Sex Teams

- Language from H.B 68 is now codified at ORC 3313.5320
- ACLU legal challenge: injunction denied
- ORC 3313.5320 (B) "No school, interscholastic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic athletics shall knowingly permit individuals of the male sex to participate on athletic teams or in athletic competitions designated only for the participants of the female sex."

Single-Sex Teams

- Private cause of action for injunctive relief, damages and such other relief . . .
- Any participant who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers a direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation
- Any participant who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, school district . . . As a result of reporting a violation
- Any school or school district that suffers any direct or indirect harm
- Prevailing party on claim brought under this section “shall be entitled to monetary damages, including for any psychological, emotional or physical harm suffered, reasonable attorney’s fees and costs and any other appropriate such other relief.

U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Final Rule

- FACT SHEET:
- **“Protect people from harm when they are separated or treated differently based on sex in school**
- The final regulations clarify that a school must not separate or treat people differently based on sex in a manner that subjects them to more than de minimus harm, except in limited circumstances permitted by Title IX. The final regulations further recognize that preventing someone from participating in school (including in sex-separate activities) consistent with their gender identity causes that person more than de minimus harm.”

U.S. Department of Education's 2024 Title IX Final Rule

- FACT SHEET: BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE
- *"This general no discrimination principle applies except in the limited circumstances specified by statute, such as in the context of sex-separate living facilities and sex-separate athletic teams."*
- *"The final regulations do not include new rules governing eligibility criteria for athletic teams."*

Student-Athlete Name, Imagine & Likeness

- Previously presented in Ohio
 - Proposal Failed May 2022
 - 538-254 vote
- Currently – 39 states allow in some fashion
- Recently passed in South Dakota, Florida
- Rules vary greatly
- For instance- In North Carolina, allows students in private schools to participate, but not public schools.

NIL Landscape

- Potential Work Around- Violation?
- NIL Clubs, such as Yoke, provide an online portal which students can post content to and made available to “supporters” who pay to view content.
- Contacting schools in other states who do not have NIL. Be wary.
- Legislative Action
- Some states, only allow because legislature enacted law to do so.
- Arkansas- Passed through legislature allowing only students to enter NIL deals once they have been accepted into an Arkansas college or university
- Not all the same

Final Questions?

Thank you for
attending!

Good luck as you start
the school year!

