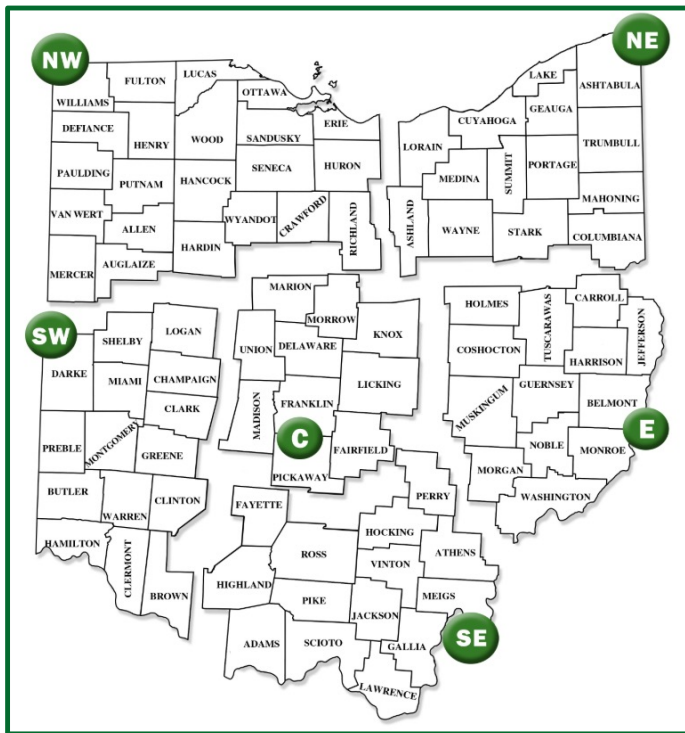

WELCOME TO THE 2026 FALL REGIONAL UPDATE MEETING

DOUG UTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The logo for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) is displayed in a bold, green, blocky font with a black outline. The letters are 'OHSAA' followed by a small 'TM' trademark symbol. The logo is centered within a white rectangular area, which is flanked by two solid green vertical bars of equal width.

OHSAA™

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:
 - Updates & Introduction of those in attendance
 - State Board of Directors and District Athletic Board members in attendance

SCAN:
OHSAA Who To Contact





DOLLARS TO SCHOOLS

- **Travel Stipends:**

- Paid to schools to assist with regional and state travel in select sports
- Total Paid in 2025-26: \$1,543,000
- Past 5 Years of Payouts: \$6.5 Million

- **Athletic Enrichment Fund:**

- 2025-26 Payout: \$1,250 to member high schools regardless of success in any given tournament
- Past 4 Years of Payouts: \$4.7 Million
- Travel support to continue with this school year at similar level
- Athletic Enrichment Fund donation dependent on financial results



OHSAA FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2025-2026

OHSAA Financials	2025-26	Last Year	Increase/(Decrease)	
Fall Sports	\$2,225,155	\$1,565,998	\$659,157	42%
Winter Sports	\$1,179,256	\$1,214,574	(\$35,318)	-3%
Spring Sports	(\$732,849)	(\$911,002)	\$178,153	20%
Tournament Net Profits	\$2,671,562	\$1,869,570	\$801,992	43%
Other Operating Revenues	\$4,779,250	\$4,589,350	\$189,900	4%
Other Operating Expenses	(\$7,468,947)	(\$7,055,475)	\$413,472	-6%
Investments/Other	\$946,603	\$813,868	\$132,735	16%
Profit before Donation	\$928,468	\$217,313	\$711,155	327%
Athletic Enrichment Donation	(\$1,016,500)	(\$1,012,500)	(\$4,000)	0%
Total Profit/(Loss)	(\$88,032)	(\$795,187)	\$707,155	-89%

Total Cash & Investments	\$17,694,574	\$17,252,197
Months on Hand	8.6	8.5

Snapshot: Successes & Updates

45,000

Ohio coaches trained since 2021

27

State Team partners — 17 school districts & 10 youth sport organizations

3

states replicating Ohio's model — Maryland, Indiana & Kansas

Funding renewed by the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health & Susan Crown Exchange — online trainings stay **free through 2029**

AVAILABLE NOW

Ohio Coach Survey Dashboard

Free, public survey results from 6,350 coaches — browse by region or county.

[Explore the dashboard →](#)



LAUNCHING IN SEPTEMBER

1. Ohio Statewide Student-Athlete Survey

First-ever to hear how sport impacts young people and schools in Ohio

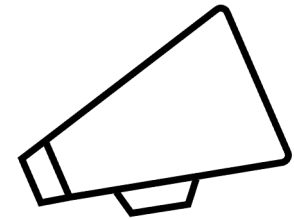
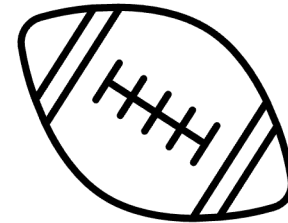
2. U.S. National Coach Survey



2026-27 REMINDERS – SPORT ADDITIONS

■ Girls Flag Football – Fully Recognized Sport

- Sport Regs Published in OHSAA Handbook
 - **NEW for 26-27:** No contact period; Non-Interscholastic Limitations
- 5v5, Maximum allowable contests: 12
- Tournament Schedule:
 - Regional Tournament Begins – Sunday April 25
 - Regional Finals – Sunday May 2
 - State Finals – Saturday May 8, Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium



■ Cheerleading* – Sponsored EVENT, in partnership with OASSA

- Fall State Championships (Game Day) – December 12-13, Licking Heights HS
- Winter State Championships (Building, Non-Building, Non-Tumbling/Non-Building, Hype) – February 20-21, Big Walnut HS
- Continued Discussions Surrounding Fully Recognizing the Sport

*Not a fully
recognized sport



HIGH SCHOOL DRONE SAFETY: A GUIDE FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

This guide outlines safety standards and federal regulations for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to ensure safety and compliance at high school athletic events. All drones must consider airspace restrictions, collision avoidance, and the safety of people on the ground.



GAME DAY BEST PRACTICES



PRE-FLIGHT & SITE ASSESSMENT
Inspect your drone for airworthiness (props, battery, body) and identify obstacles like light masts, electrical lines, and trees before takeoff.



DESIGNATE THE AREA OF OPERATIONS
Use cones or barriers to mark the takeoff and landing zones and prevent unauthorized personnel



INFORM THE PUBLIC
Use the PA system or entrance signage to notify spectators that a UAS is in operation; always obtain school permission in advance.



UTILIZE A VISUAL OBSERVER (VO)
Use an additional person to help maintain visual line of sight and scan the area for hazards while the pilot focuses on the controls.

TYPES OF OPERATIONS: 14 CFR PART 107 VS. 49 U.S.C. § 44809



COMMERCIAL & GENERAL USE (14 CFR PART 107)

Requires a Remote Pilot Certificate. Mandates registration and Remote ID (RID) for all drones, regardless of weight.



THE REMOTE PILOT CERTIFICATE
To be eligible, an operator must be at least 16 years old, proficient in English, and pass the FAA UAG written test



RECREATIONAL USE ONLY (49 U.S.C. § 44809)

Operators must pass the TRUST (The Recreational UAS Safety Test) and follow Community Based Organization (CBO) guidelines. Registration and RID only required for drones weighing over 0.55 lbs.



OPERATIONAL RULES & SAFETY ESSENTIALS



PROHIBITION OF OPERATING OVER PEOPLE

Operations over people are strictly limited under Part 107 and require specific compliance or waivers to ensure the safety of spectators and athletes.



AIRSPACE & COLLISION AVOIDANCE

Operators must consider surrounding airspace for potential obstacles and maintain a primary focus on avoiding collisions with manned aircraft or structures.



PART 107 CAPABILITIES

All school-related drone (UAS) operations, including any unpaid or volunteer event documentation or video capture, are considered Part 107 Commercial Operations.

Q&A FORUM



Q: CAN I HIRE A STUDENT TO FLY A DRONE AT OUR FOOTBALL GAMES?

A: YES, but the student MUST have a valid Part 107 Remote Pilot Certificate to perform this service for the school as this is considered a "Commercial Drone Operation."

OFFICIAL PARTNERS



Contact the Cleveland FSDO FAA Safety Team for more information - Phone: (440) 686-2001; Email: 7-agl-cle-fsdo@faa.gov

BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATING AT SPORTING EVENTS

Here are some best practices you can follow before operating at your next sporting event:

- Ensure your UAS is registered for Part 107 Use.
- Ensure the pilot in command has a valid Part 107 certificate and can prove recency of knowledge.
 - Ask to see operators' Part 107 certificate
 - Recency of knowledge certificate required every 24 calendar months. You can ask to see this as well, but if newly certificated, they will not have this available.
- Designate a "Responsible Person" for UAS operations within your district. This person is the point of contact for all UAS-related operations.
- Create a checklist to follow prior to, during and after operations.
(Manned aircraft pilots use checklists to operate their aircraft)
- Ensure your UAS is airworthy. "Preflight" your UAS by inspecting its condition (propeller blades, body, battery, etc.) to ensure that the UAS can fly safely prior to taking off.



BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATING AT SPORTING EVENTS



- Obtain permission to operate at another school in advance of operations.
- Inform spectators of UAS use. This can be done using the PA system at the start of the event or using signs at the entrance.
- Perform a site assessment before operating. Locate various obstacles such as light masts, electrical lines, trees, etc.
- Take additional safety measures:
 - Use a Visual Observer (VO)
 - Place barriers or barricades around where the UAS is operating.
 - Develop an Emergency Action Plan to follow when something abnormal occurs.
- Be mindful of the weather! Strong winds, precipitation, temperatures, etc. can affect drone operations. Check the weather prior to operating and consider suspending operations when certain weather is present or expected.
- Part 107 allows for Night Operations. Ensure your UAS is properly lighted for night operations and that the lights are functional.



2026-27 REMINDERS – SPORT REGS. & MORE

■ Offseason Regulations

- Be aware of sport specific permissions and start dates
- Several penalties issued due to schools beginning practices and scrimmages too early
- 6th graders are not permitted to participate with your 7th & 8th grade teams during season

■ Tournament Entry Deadlines

- Ensure your entries are up to date so the DAB can accurately plan for sectional/district tournaments
- Deadlines listed online on ohsaa.org and through myOHSAA

■ Return to myOHSAA as of July 1, 2026

- Staff Sync through FinalForms is still available
- New look coming in mid-September



MEMBER SCHOOL PETITION UPDATE

- “Reflection of our member schools”
- Article 8-1-5, amendment considerations
 - *An amendment may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by petition signed by the **principals** of no less than 75 member schools with a minimum of five signatures required from each district*
- The following petitioners, Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors representing Aurora, Barberton, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Copley, Highland, Hudson, Kenston, North Royalton, Nardon, Mayfield, Medina, Revere, Solon, Stow-Monroe Falls, Twinsburg, and Wadsworth (collectively the Suburban League), desire to place the following amendment(s) on the referendum ballot in May 2027.

2-2-1 For OHSAA tournament competition, all member schools shall be classified into one of two categories based on the following criteria:

Public School: To include any school operated by or under the authority of an Ohio public school district or established under Ohio law as part of the state’s system of public education, including but not limited to traditional district schools, community (charter) schools, and STEM schools.

Non-Public School: To include any school not operated as part of Ohio’s public education system and instead operated by a private entity, including both chartered nonpublic schools and nonchartered nonpublic schools as recognized under Ohio law.



CHANGING RULES

KRISTIN RONAI,
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





HOW OHSAA RULES CHANGE

Constitution Article 8, Section 1 - Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws

- Article 8-1-1, legislative action or court order
- Article 8-1-2, membership vote via referendum (Board approved items)
- Article 8-1-5, amendment considerations
 - *An amendment may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by petition signed by the principals of no less than 75 member schools with a minimum of five signatures required from each district.*
 - Article 8-1-7 requires petitions to be submitted to the Executive Director's Office between August 1st and December 1st



PETITION: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPLIT

- Petition attempts to separate historically occur approx. every 15 years
 - 1978, secured signatures for vote, defeated by a wide margin (83.9% to 16.1%)
 - 1993, secured signatures for vote, defeated in by a lesser margin (66.8% to 33.2%)
 - Discussions to propose separation in late 2000's, which led to formation of Competitive Balance Committee in January 2010. Group recommended proposals in 2011, 2012 and 2013, which all failed, before the membership adopted current CB plan in 2014.
 - 2026, current petition to secure signatures for referendum vote in May 2027



PETITION: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPLIT

Rationale Provided for 2026 Petition:

- *The purpose of the referendum is to provide equal opportunities for all schools throughout the state of Ohio to compete for a state championship. The referendum seeks to work within the current divisional framework established by the OHSAA and its member schools. While Competitive Balance was adopted a number of years ago to keep the playing field equal, the current system has only pushed the inequities up into different divisions. The Suburban League's view is that public schools have been placed at a competitive disadvantage when competing in OHSAA tournaments.*
- Currently 121 non-public schools, 691 public schools (812 total member schools)
- Only 4-5 other states in country separate.
- Not going to do deep dive into language or speculate on logistics at this point, but wanted to make membership aware.

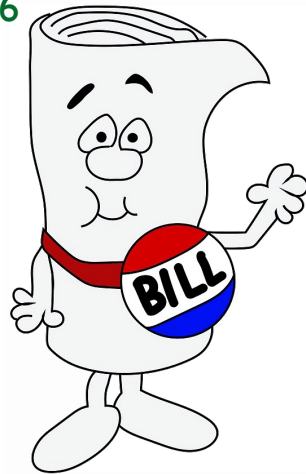


PETITION: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPLIT

- Only principals may sign
- If 75 signatures, with five from each district, are secured, petition language will be placed on May 2027 ballot for full membership vote.
- If passed via referendum, full implementation would take place during the 2028-29 school year to align with the new two-year EMIS cycle. Competitive Balance process would end after 2027-28 school year.
- The actual number of divisions in each sport would continue to be governed within General Sports Regulation 17, and left to the discretion of the OHSAA Board of Directors to annually address fluctuations to the number of teams, the logistics surrounding tournament site availability, etc.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- Summer 2027 is a budget bill year
- November through December 2026 could be interested depending on outcome of governor race
- HB 634 – Removal of All Transfer Regulations
 - Tracking, but no recent conversations or hearings since sponsor testimony in March 2026
- HB 687 – Broadcast Bill
 - Tracking, but no recent conversations or hearings since March 2026
- HB 661 & HB 745 – Opposing NIL Bills
 - 661 looks to ban NIL while 745 looks to codify NIL permissions into state law
 - Expecting conversations and activity to pick up after election season





SAM ACT – ORC 3313.5321

- Allows students attending public high schools to play sports at bordering school district if school of attendance does not offer sport
- Both Superintendents must agree to allow participation
- Students within a multi-HS district must petition to play at another school within district first
- Law relates solely based on where student attends school. District of residence does not matter
- Only applies to member high schools, not 7/8 grade schools
- SAM Act Students are Tier I

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HOME | ABOUT THE OHSAA | NEWS & MEDIA | CONTACT US MY OHSAA DRAGONFLY Search...

SPORTS & TOURNAMENTS SCHOOL RESOURCES ELIGIBILITY SPORTS MEDICINE OFFICIATING

SCHOOL DIRECTORY STATE RULES MEETINGS COACHES CORNER TICKETS & FAN GUIDE CALENDAR

Home | Eligibility | Enrollment & Attendance Bylaw Resource Center

Enrollment & Attendance Bylaw Resource Center

Enrollment & Attendance Guidance

- Bylaw 4-3-1 – Exceptions 1-7
- Bylaws 4-3-2, 4-3-3, 4-3-4, 4-3-5- Semesters
 - Semester Exception Form
- Bylaws 4-3-6 and 4-3-7 – Graduate
- Directory of Community Schools in Ohio as recognized by the ODE

NEW 2026-27 Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act Guidance

- Memo to Schools About Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act
- SAM Act Form for Superintendent Use
- SAM Act Form for Superintendent Use in Multi-HS District
- Guidance and Business Rules for SAM Act
- Chart Outlining All Non-Enrolled Participation Opportunities
- Ohio School District Map

Understanding the OHSAA Enrollment and Attendance Bylaws



SAM ACT – RESOURCES

A student sport(s) m directly bc agreement superinte develop

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and ORC 33 enrolled an

This agree

*NOTE 1: TI

*NOTE 2: SI

Superinte

Signature: _

Print Name

School Dist

*Must be sa

Date: _

		OHSAA Non-Enrolled Participation Opportunities Bylaw 4-3-1 Exceptions 4 & 6					
	Traditional Public School - Single HS District	Traditional Public School - Multi-HS District	Specialty School - Multi-HS District	Non-Public High School	Ohio Community School	Traditionally Home Schooled	
Primary Participation Opportunity	School of Enrollment	School of Enrollment	School of Enrollment	School of Enrollment	School of Enrollment	Public School Located in Student's District of Residence	
Alternative Participation Opportunity 1 ~	Public School Located in Neighboring School District* ^	A Different School Sponsored by the Same Multi-HS District* ^ #	A Different School Sponsored by the Same Multi-HS District* ^ #	Public School Located in Student's District of Residence ^	Public School Located in Student's District of Residence	Any Other Public School* (<i>Only if district of residence does not offer sport</i>)	
Alternative Participation Opportunity 2 ~		Public School Located in Neighboring School District* ^ #	Public School Located in Neighboring School District* ^ #	Public School Located in District in which the Non- Public School is Located* ^	1) Public School Located in District where Community school is Physically Located OR 2) Public School that Neighbors the District in which the Community School is Physically Located* ^	Any Other Public School+ (ORC 3313.5313)	

NOTES

~ All options beyond the "Primary Participation Opportunity" require the student's school of enrollment to not offer the sport in which the student would like to participate.

* Subject to superintendent's agreement.

^ Participation in a multi-HS district is subject to the OHSAA Business Rules for Non-Enrolled Participation in a Multi-HS District.

Students enrolled in a public, multi-HS district must first petition to participate at a different school within the same district.
Students may only petition to play in a neighboring district if their participation within the multi-HS is denied or if no school within the multi-HS district offers the sport. However, that participation remains subject to a superintendent's agreement.

\$ Students enrolled in public schools that do not offer ice hockey are permitted participation opportunities through ORC 3313.536

+ Subject to superintendent of other district determining that student was bullied in district of residence in accordance with ORC 3313.666(A)(2).



County



Questions on rule changes or
legislative issues?





COMPLIANCE UPDATES

RONALD SAYERS,
DIRECTOR OF ELIGIBILITY & TECHNOLOGY





2026-27 REMINDERS – BYLAWS

- **2026-27 is start of new EMIS Cycle**

- Enrollments as of October 2025 approved in March 2026
- Utilized for Divisional Assignments during 2026-27 & 2027-28 school years
- Please double check CB rosters!

- **Eligibility Requests**

- Fall is the busy time for the eligibility department – 700+ rulings already completed
- Submit **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**
- Requests are handled in the order they are received
- Waiting until the halfway point in the season to submit may result in students sitting out contests



2026 REFERENDUM REVIEW

- 8 of 9 High School Issues Pass (2B Failed 358-416, with 27 abstaining)
 - 803 of 815 High Schools Cast a Ballot
- All 3 7th & 8th Grade Issues Pass
 - 562 of 741 7th & 8th Grade Schools Cast a Ballot
- 7th & 8th Grade Reminders:
 - Modification to Scholarship Hardship Exception
 - Removed requirement for students to have been removed or withdrawn
 - Modification to Age & Semester Exceptions
 - Changed language from “any impact” to “significant impact”



2026 REFERENDUM REVIEW

- High School Reminders:
 - School is considered to have offered the sport when they participate in a regular season contest (*Important for SAM Act consideration*)
 - Modification to Scholarship Hardship Exception
 - Removed requirement for students to have been removed or withdrawn
 - Modification to Residency Exceptions 4 & 6
 - Continuous enrollment starting in 6th grade for HS athletics, 4th grade for 7th & 8th grade athletics



2026 REFERENDUM REVIEW: TRANSFER CHANGES

- New note within Bylaw 4-7-2
 - Student who transfers and does not compete in any sports at new school may return to previous school without penalty
- Definition of Bona Fide Change of Residence
 - Requires family to relinquish any and all responsibilities of previous home in order for exception to fully apply (sale, rent to non-family member, terminate lease, move to LLC)
- Bylaw 4-7-8, Superintendents MOU
 - 95 processed as of August 27



NIL UPDATE

- New Bylaw 4-11-8 permits students to engage with athlete agents
 - **MUST** be registered with Ohio Athletic Commission and follow ORC 4771
- As of August 28:
 - 68 students engaged in deals
 - Only two with “eye popping” deals
 - Vast majority receiving commissions through referral codes
 - Supplements, clothing, equipment, food, beverage are common compensation items
 - Very little cash being provided directly to students
 - Public School Students: 55 Private School Students: 13



Questions?





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

HAVE A GREAT 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR!

