

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

2020-2021

Welcome Booklet

Important information for Athletic Directors



Mission Statement

“To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students”

**Bob Goldring
Interim Executive Director**

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214
(614) 267-2502; Fax: (614) 267-1677; www.ohsaa.org

Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OHSAA Mission Statement

To serve our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.

The OHSAA Believes That . . .

- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is a privilege, not a right.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs complements a student's school experience and teaches lifelong lessons of hard work, teamwork and self-discipline.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs promotes citizenship and sporting behavior, instills a sense of community and promotes a lifetime appreciation for sports and healthy lifestyles.
- All students, regardless of ethnicity, race or gender, should have an equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Sporting and ethical behavior are expectations in interscholastic athletics by all participants, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators.
- Coaches, administrators and contest officials should serve as positive role models who are critical to a student's development and success.
- In order to minimize health and safety risks and maintain ethical standards, it is mandatory that interscholastic athletics participants are free from use of anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- All rules, regulations and facilities for and supervision of interscholastic athletics programs should ensure maximum protection of the health, safety and well-being of each participant.
- Limitations should be placed upon the length of sport seasons and the number of interscholastic contests played by participants.
- Students should engage in a well-rounded experience that encourages participation in a multitude of extracurricular activities.
- All attempts should be made to accommodate students with disabilities in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Compliance with all school, OHSAA and state regulations along with contest playing rules is essential for everyone involved in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Student academic achievement and success take priority over athletics achievement and success.
- The success of a team is more important than individual awards.
- Interscholastic athletics programs exist to prepare students for the next level of life, not the next level of sports.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and create memories that will last forever.

The OHSAA Is Committed To . . .

- Establishing and regulating regular season and tournament standards in order for competition to be fair and equitable.
- Administering exceptional interscholastic athletics tournaments.
- Promoting that interscholastic athletics participation complements a student's educational experience.
- Providing unparalleled leadership and customer service to our various constituents that is objective, responsive and inclusive.
- Providing rulings that are swift, fair, consistent and impartial.
- Operating with openness and demonstrating fiscal accountability.
- Honoring our tradition of excellence, which has served our member schools for the past 100-plus years.
- Honoring our ultimate purpose, which is to promote lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in safe and sporting environments.

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!

We are so pleased your school has elected to be a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) for the 2020-21 school year. Please know we are here to serve you! Included in this packet are various items we believe you will need in order to have a successful start to the school year. Included in this packet are:

- ✓ OHSAA Athletic Director Booklet
- ✓ OHSAA Wall Calendar (2)
- ✓ OHSAA "Who to Contact" Directory
- ✓ Directory of Member School Phone Numbers
- ✓ Mercy Health Youth Resiliency & Prevention Coalition

In addition to these documents, you will also be receiving two copies of the 2020-21 OHSAA Handbook within the next couple days. Please continue reading this booklet for some additional important information.

Thank you for your attention to this information, and best wishes for a successful 2020-21 school year!



Bob Goldring, Interim Executive Director
Ohio High School Athletic
Association

Contests with Out-Of-State Schools

Bylaw 9 was recently revised to permit a school to travel to a non-contiguous state one time per season irrespective of whether school time will be missed. The decision regarding missed school time will be at the discretion of the district. Please check your athletic schedules as the penalty is ineligibility for the OHSAA tournament. Please see the OHSAA Handbook for changes to this bylaw.

Rules Interpretation Meetings

General Sports Regulation 2 requires high schools to complete the OHSAA State Rules Interpretation Meeting to participate in the OHSAA tournament. The meeting must be completed by either the head coach, assistant coach or athletic director prior to the final deadline of the meeting. A late fee of \$50 will be charged to each school that does not complete the meeting prior to the first day a contest is allowed in that sport.

All state rules interpretation meetings are available through myOHSAA. Make sure your coaches myOHSAA accounts are linked to the school's account through the Staff Management link. **Beginning with the 2020 season, Cross Country tournament participation required completion of the state rules meeting for cross country.**

Did You Know?

- Students who do not attend your school are not eligible to participate in an OHSAA recognized sport at your school unless the student meets one of the exceptions to the enrollment and attendance bylaw or is permitted a participation opportunity in accordance with state law.
- State law mandates students that attend a non-OHSAA member school that is designated as a STEM school by the Ohio Department of Education have athletic participation opportunities at a school within their district of residence only.
- Each student participating in the school's athletic programs must meet all OHSAA eligibility requirements.
- Students in grades 6 or lower may not practice or participate in sports programs with 7th & 8th grade students.
- Students in grades 7 & 8 may not participate in sporting contests with 9-12 grade students.
- A signed copy of the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement, in conjunction with a current Pre-Participation Physical Examination Evaluation, must be on file at the school for each student participating in the school's athletic programs.
- The Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Revised Code requires all interscholastic coaches (paid or unpaid) to obtain and hold a current Pupil Activity Coaching Permit and complete training in Sudden Cardiac Arrest – Lindsay's Law.
- All coaches (paid or unpaid) shall be approved by your Board of Education or similar governing body.
- The building principal at each school is required to submit ballots for annual District Board Elections and Referendum Voting.
- Each member school must sponsor a minimum of two OHSAA recognized sports each sport season and participate in at least 50% of the maximum allowed regular season contests in team sports.
- If a student or coach is ejected from a contest, they are immediately ineligible to participate/coach until the penalty for the ejection has been served.
- OHSAA tournament divisions are determined by sport and the school's base enrollment for grades 9-11, as provided by the Ohio Department of Education biannually, is used in determining the tournament divisions. Additional enrollment may be added for competitive balance sports based on the roster of students submitted by the school.

Welcome to the 2020-21 School Year!

Non-Interscholastic Competition

A student is considered a member of a school team once he/she participates in an interscholastic contest. Once a student's status as a team member has been established, the student may NOT participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices (including open gyms/fields) with a non-school team in that same sport during the school team's season. There are waivers, which must be applied for in advance, to allow for certain non-interscholastic participation during a specific sport's season. The penalty for a violation of this non-interscholastic rule will result in a period of ineligibility for the athlete, and potentially require forfeitures for your school's team. Additionally, each sport has a non-interscholastic date by which all non-interscholastic competition must cease in order for the student to be eligible for the postseason tournament. So, if a student decides to join a team late (common in gymnastics, tennis, etc.), please ensure they have not participated in a non-interscholastic activity past the non-Interscholastic date. Please familiarize yourself with these non-interscholastic dates, which are also outlined in the Ready Reference Sports Calendar referenced later. Please contact our sports administrators should you have questions.

Competitive Balance

Competitive Balance is the process the OHSAA uses to place schools into tournament divisions in the team sports of football, volleyball, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball. Your obligation as the school administrator is to input your respective rosters for the aforementioned sports into your school's ArbiterGame account. We want to make sure you are receiving help with this process if it is needed. The OHSAA website has a comprehensive Competitive Balance Resource Center that includes help for a variety of situations (www.ohsaa.org/CompetitiveBalance.htm).

For specific answers to questions that you could not find within the Competitive Balance Resource Center, please contact the following staff members in the OHSAA Office:

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Public Schools:

Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Non-Public Schools:

Bob Goldring (bgoldring@ohsaa.org)

Technical Questions on Using ArbiterGame for Rostering:

Ron Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

Ready Reference Sports Calendar

The Ready Reference Sports Calendar, which is simply a summary of information for each sports' first practice date, first contest date, the number of regular season contests permitted, the tournament draw/seed date, etc., is located toward the front of the OHSAA Handbook and posted online. If you would like to print an 8 1/2 x 11 copy for your office, the High School and 7th & 8th Grade .pdfs are located at:

<https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Calendar/ReadyRefDates/ReadyReferenceHS.pdf>

<https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Calendar/ReadyRefDates/ReadyReferenceMS.pdf>

Mandatory Preseason Meetings

Bylaw 3-1-4 indicates that your school is required to conduct a mandatory, preseason meeting with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officer(s) no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. The OHSAA has developed sample agendas, PowerPoints, cover letters, etc. which can be used to assist you with developing your meeting. These samples are located under the OHSAA Preseason Meeting Information" section at: <https://ohsaa.org/School-Resources>

After you have completed your school's preseason meeting, you are required to enter the completion date into your school's myOHSAA account, so you are not subject to a \$500 penalty (General Sports Regulation 5). Instructions on how and where to enter your preseason meeting date can be located here: <https://ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/PreSeasonMeetings/PreseasonParentMeetingInstructions.pdf>

Additional OHSAA Publications

If you would like to order additional OHSAA handbooks (\$10) or wall calendars (\$9), please send a check or money order made payable to the OHSAA to:

OHSAA Membership Services
4080 Roselea Place
Columbus, OH 43214

Your two complimentary copies of the handbook and wall calendar are recommended to be distributed to your school athletic administrator and principal.

The OHSAA Magazine is published two times per year by the OHSAA. A complimentary copy is mailed to superintendents, principals and athletic administrators of all member schools. Annual subscriptions may be purchased for \$15 and single copies are available for \$10.

The OHSAA also produces an annual Year in Review publication. School administrators can expect to receive the Year in Review on or around October 15. An online school directory is always available through your school's myOHSAA account, or the public directory is available at:

officials.myohsaa.org/Outside/SearchSchool.

Your Guide to myOHSAA

What is myOHSAA?

myOHSAA is the shared database through which each member school provides the OHSAA with required information to ensure compliance with the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws and Sport Regulations. Each member high school, grades 9-12 and each member 7th & 8th grade school has a separate myOHSAA account even if the 7-12 grades share the same building.

Each member school's account can be accessed and maintained by the school principal, athletic administrator(s), and athletic secretary. In addition, sport coaches have access to view and complete information required of them for the school.

The school's myOHSAA account must be accurate at all times. The information you provide allows us to effectively communicate with your school and the correct persons at your school. It allows your school to receive the proper sport mailings, covers your athletes with the OHSAA catastrophic insurance and participate in our tournaments. Therefore we suggest that you check the school's account at least twice a month using the myOHSAA MONTHLY Checklist printed on the back of this card. Frequent checks of these important links on the school's myOHSAA account will allow you to stay current on all communications and easily meet required deadlines.

Who, What, When, Where?

Who is your school's building principal, athletic administrator(s), and Superintendent/Head of School? What sports do you offer and who are your coaches? Do you want to participate in the OHSAA tournaments? Has your school held the required pre-season parent meetings, completed the required state rules meetings or completed the required tournament official's process? Has your principal submitted the school's ballots for referendum voting and board elections? All of these items are maintained through the school's myOHSAA account. Therefore access to the account is essential for the athletic administrator(s) and school principal. Don't have access to your school's account. Contact OHSAA Membership Services today!

Need Help?

NO WORRIES!

How to videos are available. Just click the "How To myOHSAA" link at the bottom of the left column. In addition, OHSAA Membership Services is always ready to help with any question you have contact us at: membershipservices@ohsaa.org.

Please Turn Over for Monthly my OHSAA Checklists for High Schools and 7th-8th Grade Schools

myOHSAA Monthly Checklists

Athletic Administrators or Principals are strongly encouraged to login to their school's myOHSAA account regularly to ensure the following items are set accurately.

MYOHSAA MONTHLY CHECKLIST 2020-21 School Year

Sports Offered (2020-21)

- ☐ All sports approved by my Board of Education or governing body are checked.
- ☐ Non-Competitive Cheer is checked under Non-Recognized Sports if my school has uniformed cheerleaders participating at OHSAA recognized or emerging sporting events.

Tournament Entry (2020-21)

- ☐ Tournament Entry is accurately set for all OHSAA Tournaments.

Staff Management

- ☐ The Building Principal is correctly listed under Staff and has a myOHSAA account.
- ☐ The HEAD coach of each OHSAA tournament sport is correctly listed under Staff and has a myOHSAA account.

View State Meeting Attendance

- ☐ There are NO "red flagged" sports which indicates my school has NOT received credit for the required state rules meeting.

Pre-Season Parent Meeting

- ☐ The dates of our school's pre-season parent meetings are entered in myOHSAA for all sports.

My School

- ☐ The addresses, phone numbers and other information listed is accurate.

My District

- ☐ The name, email and phone numbers of our Superintendent or Head of School is accurate.
NOTE: Email corrections/updates to membershipservices@ohsaa.org.

My Facilities

- ☐ The address of my school's home facilities are accurately listed. NOTE: This information will be used to direct fans and officials for OHSAA tournaments.

Emergency Contact Form (2020-21)

- ☐ The Emergency Contact form for each OHSAA tournament sport has been submitted. NOTE: This information will be used by OHSAA Tournament managers.

Tournament Officials Voting

- ☐ I have submitted the tournament officials voting ballot for my 9-12 grade school. One ballot per school per required sport.
Fall Sports deadline without penalty is December 1. (FH, FT, SO, VB)
Winter Sports deadline without penalty is April 1. (BK, IH, WR)
Spring Sports deadline without penalty is June 1. (BB, BLAX, GLAX, SB)

MYOHSAA MONTHLY CHECKLIST – 7th & 8th Grade 2020-21 School Year

Sports Offered (2020-21)

- ☐ All sports approved by my Board of Education or governing body are checked.
- ☐ Non-Competitive Cheer is checked under Non-Recognized Sports if my school has uniformed cheerleaders participating at OHSAA recognized or emerging sporting events.

Tournament Entry (2020-21)

- ☐ Tournament Entry is accurately set for the OHSAA state track and field tournaments

Staff Management

- ☐ The Building Principal is correctly listed under Staff and has a myOHSAA account.
- ☐ The 8th grade coach of each OHSAA sport is correctly listed under Staff and has a myOHSAA account.

Pre-Season Parent Meeting

- ☐ The dates of our school's pre-season parent meetings are entered in myOHSAA for all sports.

My School

- ☐ The addresses, phone numbers and other information listed is accurate.

My District

- ☐ The name, email and phone numbers of our Superintendent or Head of School is accurate.
NOTE: Email corrections/updates to membershipservices@ohsaa.org.

My Facilities

- ☐ The address of my school's home facilities are accurately listed. NOTE: This information will be used to direct fans and officials for OHSAA tournaments.

Emergency Contact Form (2020-21)

- ☐ The Emergency Contact form for each OHSAA tournament sport has been submitted. NOTE: This information will be used by OHSAA Tournament managers.

Competitive Balance 101 - High School Only

Last Updated 7-3-20

The Basics

Voted in place by OHSAA member schools in May 2014, Competitive Balance is a process which makes modifications to how schools are placed into tournament divisions in the team sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. The modifications are based on which students are actually on each respective roster. The roster data collection takes place in ArbiterGame within the 'Students' tab, and the data is entered by each respective athletic administrator or his/her designee. There is a window after the conclusion of each season when roster data is required to be entered and a deadline date when all roster data must be received. Failure to submit roster data may result in penalties as determined by the OHSAA. Refusal to submit roster data or falsification of roster data may result in removal from the OHSAA tournament.

The Formula

Initial Enrollment (from EMIS - all students in grades 9 through 11 in a school)

+ **Competitive Balance Enrollment** (the students on a respective team, which is determined by multiplying each student on the Initial Roster Count by either Tier 0, Tier 1 or Tier 2 Sport Specific Factor {which is explained below} and adding them together)

= **(Final) Tournament Enrollment** (count used for tournament division placement; calculated by the Executive Director's Office)

Basic Principles of Tiering

Tier 0 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, is multiplied by 0 (so that number will always be 0).

Tier 1 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by 1 (so that number will always be 1).

Tier 2 = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor, multiplied by the sport specific factor (Football = 3; Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, & Softball = 7).

Tier 1 Non-Enrolled = each student on a particular team's roster meeting the criteria of this factor (so that number will always be 1).

Non-Competitive Balance Student (IMPORTANT!) = each student on your Arbiter roster **WHO SHOULD NOT** be counted for Competitive Balance purposes (soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball: the student was NOT on the tournament roster and did NOT play in a varsity regular season contest; football: the student is a freshman and did NOT appear in a varsity regular season contest).

How to Determine Tiers

There is a fundamental difference in how public schools and non-public schools determine Tiers. For a **public school**, begin with "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district (or within your attendance zone for multiple high school districts)?" For a **non-public school**, begin with "Has the student been continuously enrolled in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?" A more detailed explanation for each of the three scenarios follows.

Public Schools – Determining Tiers (Single H.S. District)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. ** (Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students)

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Public Schools – Determining Tiers (Multiple H.S. District)

Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your attendance zone?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0. ** (Visit www.ohsaa.org for non-enrolled students)

If No, Ask: "Does the student and at least one parent currently reside within your school district?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No, Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment at a school inside your district since the start of 7th grade (likely via open enrollment)?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

Non-Public Schools – Determining Tiers

Note: For non-public schools, it **does not matter** where the student and his/her parents currently reside.

Ask: "Has the student maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education since the start of 7th grade?"

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 2.

If Yes, Ask: "Did the student attend your designated feeder school since the start of 7th grade and, if he/she did not enter the high school at the beginning of 9th grade, has he/she maintained continuous enrollment in the same system of education?"

If Yes: Enter this student as a Tier 0.

If No: Enter this student as a Tier 1.

Reminder: Recent Changes to Competitive Balance

In May 2019 and December 2019, respectively, the membership approved four referendum issues related to Competitive Balance and the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a change to the Competitive Balance Business Rules. While understanding that athletic administrators have had a multitude of issues with which to deal during the pandemic and also realizing that many administrators are in their first year at their respective schools, we wanted to provide you with a few reminders on Competitive Balance:

- 1.) The biggest change from the 2019 referendum issue is that in the sports of **soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball** and **softball**, all students shall be annually assigned a specific tier who were on your school's tournament roster (including those who were moved onto the roster as your school advanced in the tournament and those students who never played in a varsity regular season contest), along with students who were not on the tournament roster but played in a varsity regular season contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit, became injured or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence).
- 2.) Also approved in the 2019 referendum voting is that in the sport of **football**, all students shall be annually assigned a specific tier who are in grades 10 through 12 and are listed on **ANY** roster (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit, became injured or are now sitting out due to the OHSAA transfer consequence), along with any ninth-grade student who played in a varsity regular season contest (including those who DID play but later transferred, became ineligible, quit or became injured).
Note: Counting whether a freshman played in a contest for Competitive Balance purposes in football is different than the football regulation on counting whether a student played in a quarter.
- 3.) The change to the Competitive Balance Business Rules is that a second option will permit non-public schools to utilize any school within the same system of education that is physically located within a 12.5-mile radius of the high school as a feeder school. The 12.5-mile radius shall be the most direct path between the high school and the elementary school(s). **Additional information on the process for non-public schools to select their feeder schools for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years will be sent to those schools SOON!**

Use of EMIS Data vs. Competitive Balance Data

A few common questions posed to the Executive Director's Office are 'How often does my school submit its Competitive Balance Data' and 'Is EMIS data utilized annually?'

A1.: Administrators are to submit their Competitive Balance data for the eight Competitive Balance sports ANNUALLY. This data is used in arrears (e.g. roster data submitted during the 2020-21 school year will be used in the 2021-22 school year).

A2.: The OHSAA utilizes EMIS data for a two-year period. It is collected from the Ohio Department of Education the fall of an even-numbered year and utilized for a two-year period beginning with the next odd-numbered year (e.g. collected in fall 2020; utilized for both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years).

Roster Submission Deadlines*

• FALL SPORTS •

(Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball)

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 - Friday, Dec. 18, 2020

• WINTER SPORTS •

(Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball)

Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 – Thursday, Apr. 1, 2021

• SPRING SPORTS •

(Baseball, Softball)

Saturday, May 1, 2021 – Tuesday, June 1, 2021

* Schools are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to begin entering roster data when the roster submission date begins and only save the ending date for making any updates. See **Reminder: Recent Changes to Competitive Balance** for specifics on which students to roster (do **NOT** assign a tier to all students in grades 9 through 12).

Additional Competitive Balance Assistance

We want to make sure you are receiving help if it is needed. The OHSAA website has a comprehensive Competitive Balance Resource Center that includes help for a variety of situations. So be sure to visit:

www.ohsaa.org/CompetitiveBalance.htm

For specific answers to questions that could not be found with- in the Competitive Balance Resource Center, please contact the following OHSAA staff members:

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Public Schools:

*Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org)

Rostering/Tiering Questions – Non-Public Schools:

Bob Goldring (bgoldring@ohsaa.org)

Technical Questions on Using ArbiterGame for Rostering:

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org)

***Note:** Kristin is on maternity leave until late September. Prior to her return, please contact Bob or Ronald with your specific questions.

Overview of Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility, For Participation in High School Athletics

Bylaw 4-1, Eligibility

Each student shall meet all requirements in Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility, in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at an OHSA member school.

Bylaw 4-2, Age Limitation

When a high school student (grades 9-12) turns 20 years of age, he/she becomes ineligible for interscholastic athletics. There is an exception to this bylaw for a "child with a disability."

Bylaw 4-3, Enrollment & Attendance

For a student to be eligible at your school, he/she must be enrolled and attending your school fulltime. There are six exceptions to this bylaw. Exception 6, which is in accordance with state law, permits certain non-enrolled students (home educated, non-public, community school, STEM students) to have participation opportunities at the public high school located in the parents' residential district or attendance zone for multiple high school districts. There is an additional option for home-educated and non-public school students. Please contact the OHSA if you have any questions about which non-enrolled students can play at your school. Furthermore, after establishing ninth-grade eligibility, a student is permitted only eight semesters of athletic eligibility taken in order of attendance regardless of whether the student participates in interscholastic athletics or not. There are exceptions to this bylaw.

Bylaw 4-4, Scholarship

In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) of the classes in the immediately preceding grading period. Thereafter, in order to maintain eligibility, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In addition, summer school, College Credit Plus and other educational options (e.g. work permitted after the conclusion of the grading period) may not be used to bring a student into compliance with scholarship bylaws, nor can they be used to compensate for lack of courses taken in the preceding grading period. Those taking postsecondary school courses, including College Credit Plus, must comply with OHSA scholarship regulations. The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective.

Bylaw 4-5, Conduct, Character, Discipline

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics. In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and the Executive Director's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether the student may participate in athletics. Any student under a conduct penalty shall be remain accountable to that penalty upon transfer.

Bylaw 4-6, Residence

If a student's parent(s) (biological or adoptive) live outside of Ohio, then he/she is ineligible for interscholastic athletics. There are several exceptions to this bylaw.

Bylaw 4-7, Transfers

If a student transfers at any time after the fifth day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/tournament contest), the student shall be subject to the transfer consequence of sitting out beginning with the second half of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests, including the OHSA tournament, in any sport in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding his/her transfer. There are numerous exceptions to this bylaw. Additionally, if a student transfers in the middle of a season after having already participated in a regular season contest in a specific sport at his/her former school, the student will likely not be permitted to resume participation in the same sport during that same sports season.

Bylaw 4-8, International and Exchange Students

If a student is not a United States citizen, then he/she may be ineligible for interscholastic athletics unless a biological or adoptive parent lives in Ohio. There are several exceptions to this bylaw.

Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting

A student may be declared ineligible if he/she is recruited by a person or group of persons to transfer to or enroll in a high school for athletic purposes. This may include a student transferring to a school at which one of his/her former school coaches has been hired. In addition, any attempt by a student to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes is also prohibited. A violation may also affect the eligibility of the school team.

Bylaw 4-10, Amateurism

A student must be an amateur in the sport in which he/she desires to participate in interscholastic athletics. However, an athlete may receive awards valued at \$400 or less from any source as a result from participation in any sport in which he/she is an interscholastic athlete, but a cash award may never be accepted. A form is available at www.ohsaa.org for a student to maintain his/her amateur status if he/she competes in an event where expenses for travel, meals and lodging are provided if these reimbursements are available to all participants and they are not contingent upon the student's finish.

Please contact any member of the compliance staff if you have any questions about student eligibility or about the exception(s) to each bylaw:

OHSA Office Phone: 614-267-2502

Dr. Deborah Moore (dmoore@ohsaa.org), x115

Ms. Roxanne Price (rprice@ohsaa.org), x114

Ms. Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org), x132

Ohio High School Athletic Association Eligibility Checklist

For High School Students Enrolled and/or Participating at an OHSAA Member School (Updated 7/1/20)

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes may mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- ☐ I am officially enrolled in an OHSAA member high school or participating in accordance with state law.
- ☐ I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- ☐ I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count toward graduation, during the immediately preceding grading period.
- ☐ I have a biological and/or adoptive parent who lives in Ohio.
- ☐ I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation.
- ☐ If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with my new school to ensure that all proper forms (if applicable) have been submitted to the OHSAA Office.
- ☐ I understand I am permitted only eight semesters of eligibility taken in order of attendance, whether I play or not, once I have become eligible for athletics at the high school level by entering grade 9 or playing as a 15 year-old.
- ☐ I understand I will become ineligible once I turn 20 years old.
- ☐ I have not received an award, equipment or prize in a sport in which I compete interscholastically valued at greater than \$400 per item per source.
- ☐ I was born in the United States, or I have been approved for eligibility under Bylaw 4-8, International Students.
- ☐ I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- ☐ I have not competed in a **mandatory** open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program outside the school season.
- ☐ I have not been coached or provided instruction **by a school coach** in a team sport in which I participate other than during my sport season, during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA outside the season observing the 50% roster limitation, or between June 1 and July 31.
- ☐ I am not competing on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual **during my school team's season** in the same sport.
- ☐ I have not been recruited for athletic purposes to attend this school.
- ☐ I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- ☐ I have had a physical examination within the past 13 months, and it is on file at my school.
- ☐ My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at my school which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- ☐ My school also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at www.nfhslearn.com.
- ☐ My school also reviewed with my parents and me the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video, and we reviewed and have signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- ☐ My parents and I have signed the OHSAA HIPAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement, and they are on file at my school.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Date

Parent/Guardian Date

NOTE: This form has been provided as a service to the OHSAA membership for schools to utilize with student-athletes and their parents/guardians. Use of this form is at the sole discretion of each member school.

Overview of Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility, For Participation In 7th and 8th Grade Athletics

Bylaw 4-1, Eligibility

Each student shall meet all requirements in Bylaw 4, Student Eligibility, in order to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at an OHSAA member school.

Bylaw 4-2, Age Limitation

A student who turns 15 before August 1 of the school year in which he/she desires to participate is not eligible for seventh and eighth grade athletics. There are two exceptions to this bylaw (see Bylaw 4-2-2), so please review these and contact the OHSAA if you have any questions.

Bylaw 4-3, Enrollment & Attendance

For a student to be eligible at your school, he/she must be enrolled and attending your school fulltime. There are six exceptions to this bylaw. Exception 6, which is in accordance with state law, permits certain non-enrolled students (home educated, non-public, community school, STEM students) to have participation opportunities at the public high school located in the parents' residential district or attendance zone for multiple high school districts. There is an additional option for home-educated and non-public school students. Please contact the OHSAA if you have any questions about which non-enrolled students can play at your school.

Furthermore, after a student completes the sixth grade and before entering ninth grade, he/she is permitted athletic eligibility for a period not to exceed four semesters taken in the order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. This relates in concept to the eight-semester limit regulation (high school). There is one exception to this bylaw, so please review it and contact the OHSAA if you have any questions.

Bylaw 4-4, Scholarship

In order to maintain eligibility for grades 7 and 8, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes in the immediately preceding grading period. There are exceptions to this bylaw, so please review these and contact the OHSAA if you have any questions. Additionally, summer school and other educational options may not be used to bring a student into compliance with scholarship bylaws, nor can they be used to compensate for lack of courses taken in the preceding grading period. In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes in the immediately preceding grading period.

Bylaw 4-5, Conduct, Character, Discipline

In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics. In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and

the Executive Director's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether the student may participate in athletics.

Bylaw 4-6, Residence

A student must have a parent, biological or adoptive, live within the state of Ohio to be eligible for interscholastic athletics. There are several exceptions to this bylaw, so please review these and contact the OHSAA if you have any questions.

Bylaw 4-7, Transfers

The transfer bylaw only applies to students in grades 9-12. There is no transfer consequence for students at the 7th and 8th grade level.

Bylaw 4-8, International and Exchange Students

If a student is not a United States citizen, then he/she is ineligible for interscholastic athletics unless a parent (biological or adoptive) resides in OH. There are several exceptions to this bylaw, so please review these and contact the OHSAA if you have any questions.

Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting

A student may be declared ineligible if he/she is recruited by a person or group of persons to transfer to or enroll in a high school for athletic purposes. This may include a student transferring to a school at which one of his/her former school coaches has been hired. In addition, any attempt by a student to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes is also prohibited. A violation may also affect the eligibility of the school team.

Bylaw 4-10, Amateurism

A student must be an amateur in the sport in which he/she desires to participate in interscholastic athletics. However, an athlete may receive awards valued at \$400 or less from any source as a result from participation in any sport in which he/she is an interscholastic athlete, but a cash award may never be accepted. A form is available at www.ohsaa.org for a student to maintain his/her amateur status if he/she competes in an event where expenses for travel, meals and lodging are provided as long as these reimbursements are available to all participants and they are not contingent upon the student's finish.

Please contact any member of the compliance staff if you have any questions about student eligibility:

OHSAA Office Phone: 614-267-2502

Dr. Deborah Moore (dmoore@ohsaa.org), x115
Ms. Roxanne Price (rprice@ohsaa.org), x114
Ms. Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org), x132

Ohio High School Athletic Association Eligibility Checklist

For 7th-8th Grade Students Enrolled and/or Participating at an OHSAA Member School (Updated 7/1/20)

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes may mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- ☐ I am officially enrolled in an OHSAA member high school or participating in accordance with state law.
- ☐ I received passing grades in at least four subjects during the immediately preceding grading period.
- ☐ I have a biological and/or adoptive parent who lives in Ohio.
- ☐ I did not turn 15 before August 1 of the school year in which I desire to participate.
- ☐ I understand I am only permitted four semesters of eligibility whether I play or not once I have enrolled in grade seven and before entering grade 9.
- ☐ I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$400 per item per source.
- ☐ I was born in the United States, or I have been approved for eligibility under Bylaw 4-8, International Students.
- ☐ I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- ☐ I have not competed in a **mandatory** open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program outside the school season.
- ☐ I have not been coached or provided instruction **by a school coach** in a team sport in which I participate other than during my sport season, during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA outside the season observing the 50% roster limitation, or between June 1 and July 31.
- ☐ I am not competing on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual **during my school team's season** in the same sport.
- ☐ I have not been recruited for athletic purposes to attend this school.
- ☐ I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- ☐ I have had a physical examination within the past 13 months and it is on file at my school.
- ☐ My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at my school which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- ☐ My school also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation, and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at nfhslearn.com.
- ☐ My school also reviewed with my parents and me the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video, and we reviewed and have signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
- ☐ My parents and I have signed the OHSAA HIPAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement, and they are on file at my school.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Date

Parent/Guardian Date

NOTE: This form has been provided as a service to the OHSAA membership for schools to utilize with student-athletes and their parents/guardians. Use of this form is at the sole discretion of each member school.

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced by The Ohio High School Athletic Association

For School Counselors – 2020-2021

Revised 4/2/2020



Virtually every scholarship appeal that comes to the OHSAA office places **sole responsibility on you**, the school counselor, **for a student's failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws** found in 4-4. Even though that notion is fundamentally flawed and incorrect and OHSAA rules make reference to the fact that scholastic success is a shared responsibility with parents and students expected to shoulder most of the load, the Executive Director's Office has prepared this document to inform you of the crucial information that you need to know in order to advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. All high school students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of five one-credit courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five credits unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
5. The required Physical Education Course is not a full credit course. It usually counts as only $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
6. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
7. The OHSAA has **no** minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and **not** an OHSAA matter

Grades 7-8

1. All 7-8th grade students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **four** courses each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility. (Change from 2019-20)
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **four** courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Advise the student not to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below **four** courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator, a template of which can be accessed here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>
5. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods," and restoration of eligibility is **NOT** permitted after such evaluations.

In addition, **students who have not met the high school or 7-8th scholarship requirement are not "substantively eligible;" and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the "due solely to an administrative error" category. Therefore; the administrative error bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.**

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

Passing grades must be received in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Social Studies	C	$\frac{1}{2}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
History	B	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
P.E.	B	$\frac{1}{4}$ - semester	2	$\frac{1}{4} \times 2 = \frac{1}{2}$
Keyboarding	C	$\frac{1}{4}$ - 4th 9 weeks	4	$\frac{1}{4} \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				$4 \frac{1}{2}$ = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Option – College Credit Plus

Note: If a student is taking all course work at the post-secondary institution under the College Credit Plus program, the calculation of equivalency has changed. Please note that in order for a CCP class to be used for determining eligibility for Bylaw 4-4-1, the class must count toward HS graduation.

In addition, students electing to enroll in CCP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. **College courses for which three or more semester hours of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately. This means that courses which are four, five, six or even seven hours of credit receive just one Carnegie unit.** Examples of CCP options:

-1-

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$.67 \times 2 = 1.34$
Geology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7.34 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Spanish 2	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Health	B	1/4 - 1st 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
French	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Phys. Ed	A	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades are required in a minimum of four subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses, regardless of how many times per week the course meets, in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	F
Music	C
Health	F
Subjects Passed	3 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Social Studies	C
Science	B
Physical Education	B
Subjects Passed	4 of 5 classes = eligible for 4th grading period

NOTE:
For additional information, contact:

Ohio High School Athletic Association

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (614) 267-2502 • **Fax:** (614) 267-1677 • **Website:** ohsaa.org

The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA website.

2020-21 OHSAA Ready Reference Calendar - High Schools

Updated July 1, 2020. Dates and locations are subject to change.



FALL	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Cross Country	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 24	16	Sept. 28	Oct. 11	Nov. 7-Fortess Obetz and Memorial Park, Obetz
Field Hockey	Aug. 1	5 scrimmages after practice begins	Aug. 21	16	Sept. 7	Oct. 11	Nov. 5-State Semis/Upper Arlington High School Nov. 7-State Final/Upper Arlington High School
Football	Aug. 1	2 scrimmages (or 1 scrimmage/1 preview) plus 1 Jamboree Game between Aug. 8-22	Aug. 24	10	Aug. 24	Playoff Qualifiers Announced Nov. 1	Nov. 6-7-Regional Quarterfinals Nov. 13-14-Regional Semifinals Nov. 20-21-Regional Finals Nov. 27-28-State Semifinals Dec. 3-5-State Finals/Location TBA
Golf	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage and 1 exhibition match any time during the season	Aug. 5	20	Sept. 21	Sept. 20	Oct. 16-17-Boys Div. II & Girls Div. II at OSU, Boys Div. III at North Star) Oct. 23-24-Boys Div. I & Girls Div. I at OSU
Soccer	Aug. 1	4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 21	16	Aug. 21	Oct. 11	Nov. 10-Girls State Semifinals Nov. 11-Boys State Semifinals Nov. 13-Girls State Finals/MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus Nov. 14-Boys State Finals/MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus
Tennis (Girls)	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Aug. 7	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Sept. 8	Sept. 27	Oct. 23-1st. & 2nd. rounds/Lindner Tennis Center, Mason Oct. 24-Semis & Finals rounds/Lindner Tennis Center, Mason
Volleyball	Aug. 1	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 21	22	Sept. 7	Oct. 11	Nov. 12-State Semis/Nutter Center, Wright St. (Div. II & I) Nov. 13-State Semis/Nutter Center, Wright St. (Div. IV & III) Nov. 14-State Finals/Nutter Center, Wright St. (all 4 divs.)
WINTER	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Basketball (Boys)	Oct. 30	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Nov. 25	22	Nov. 25	Feb. 7	March 18-State Semis/St. John Arena, OSU (Div. IV & III) March 19-State Semis/St. John Arena, OSU (Div. II & I) March 20-State Finals/St. John Arena, OSU (all 4 divs.)
Basketball (Girls)	Oct. 23	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Nov. 20	22	Nov. 20	Jan. 31	March 11-State Semis/University of Dayton (Div. IV & III) March 12-State Semis/University of Dayton (Div. II & I) March 13-State Finals/University of Dayton (all 4 divs.)
Bowling	Oct. 30	None permitted	Nov. 13	24	Jan. 18	Jan. 31	Feb. 26-27-Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl (Div. II) March 5-6-Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl (Div. I)
Gymnastics	Nov. 6	None permitted	Dec. 7	14	Jan. 18	Feb. 7	March 5-Hilliard Bradley High School (Team) March 6-Hilliard Bradley High School (Individual)
Ice Hockey	Oct. 30	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Nov. 20	35	Nov. 20	Feb. 10	March 13-State Semis/Nationwide Arena, Columbus March 14-State Final/Nationwide Arena, Columbus
Swimming & Diving	Oct. 30	None permitted	Nov. 30	16	Jan. 25	Jan. 31	Feb. 24-27-C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton
Wrestling (Dual Team & Individual)	Nov. 13	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Dec. 3	20 (see Handbook for event points)	Jan. 11	Dual Team: Jan. 28 Individual: Jan. 31	Feb. 13 or 14-St. John Arena, OSU (Dual Team) March 12-14-Schottenstein Center, OSU (Individual)
SPRING	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Baseball	Feb. 22	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 27	27	Mar. 27	May 9	June 10-State Semis/Location TBA (Div. III & II) June 11-State Semis/Location TBA (Div. IV & I) June 12-State Finals/Location TBA (all 4 divs.)
Lacrosse (Girls and Boys)	Feb. 22	3 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 19	18	Mar. 19	May 9	June 1-3-State Semifinals June 5-State Finals/Ohio Wesleyan University
Softball	Feb. 22	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 27	27	Mar. 27	May 2	June 3-State Semis/Firestone Stadium, Akron (Div. I & IV) June 4-State Semis/Firestone Stadium, Akron (Div. III & II) June 5-State Finals/Firestone Stadium, Akron (all 4 divs.)
Tennis	Mar. 8	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Mar. 26	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Apr. 12	May 2	May 28-Lindner Tennis Center, Mason (1st & 2nd rounds) May 29-Lindner Tennis Center, Mason (Semis & Finals)
Track & Field	Feb. 22	None permitted	Mar. 27	16	May 3	May 2	June 4-5-OSU Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, OSU

2020-21 OHSAA Ready Reference Calendar - 7th & 8th Grade

Updated July 1, 2020. Dates are subject to change



FALL	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Regular-Season Contests and Postseason
Cross Country	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 24	12 plus 1 league championship meet. OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Invitational on Oct. 24
Field Hockey	Aug. 1	1 permitted	Aug. 21	14
Football	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage after 10 days of practice and before 1st contest, or 2 scrimmages if only playing 7 games	After 15 practices, but not before Aug.	8 (or 7 if playing 2 scrimmages)
Golf	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 5	16
Soccer	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage or 1 preview after practice begins	Aug. 21	14 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Tennis (Girls)	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 7	16 (see OHSAA Handbook for match type)
Volleyball	Aug. 1	2 scrimmages after practice begins, or 1 scrimmage and 1 preview	Aug. 21	20 (on 16 dates) plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
WINTER	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Regular-Season Contests and Postseason
Basketball (Boys)	Oct. 30	2 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview.	Nov. 27	16 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Basketball (Girls)	Oct. 23	2 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview.	Nov. 20	16 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Bowling	Oct. 30	None permitted	Nov. 13	24
Gymnastics	Nov. 6	None permitted	Dec. 7	12
Ice Hockey	Oct. 30	None permitted	Nov. 20	15 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 3 contests
Swimming & Diving	Oct. 30	None permitted	Nov. 30	12
Wrestling	Nov. 13	2 scrimmages after practice begins or 1 scrimmage and 1 preview	Dec. 3	17 points (see OHSAA Handbook for event points)
SPRING	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Regular-Season Contests and Postseason
Baseball	Feb. 22	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 27	17 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Lacrosse (Girls and Boys)	Feb. 22	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 29	14 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Softball	Feb. 22	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 27	17 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Tennis (Boys)	Mar. 8	None permitted	Mar. 26	16 (see OHSAA Handbook for match type)
Track & Field	Feb. 22	None permitted	Mar. 27	12 plus 1 league championship meet, plus OHSAA state meet May 16

Production & Mailing

Important information for Athletic Directors

The Production Department at the OHSAA is responsible for all printing & mailing of important information & materials to member schools. All materials will be mailed to the athletic director's attention for review and then the athletic director, if instructed, should forward those materials to the head coach.

IMPORTANT: The fall, winter, and spring preseason mailings contain an NFHS Rule Book & any other pertinent information as determined by the Director of Sport Management for that sport. Each school will receive their rule book on a rotating basis every other year *except* football which receives a rule book yearly.

You *should* receive the following packets of preseason materials on or before the dates indicated for 2020-2021:

August 1- Football, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer

October 21- Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Ice Hockey

February 8- Baseball, Softball, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse

*Please note: The NFHS is not printing a 2021 edition of spring rule books due to the Covid19 pandemic that cancelled the 2020 spring season. All rules will be based on the 2020 Rule Book, which you will receive.

Contact Chris Walker, Director of Production, if for whatever reason you do not receive your packet. cwalker@ohsaa.org

In addition, if you ever need additional NFHS materials, you may contact www.nfhs.org , click on Resources & then Publications.

Did you know.....

The OHSAA has a library of state tournament DVDS for sale. Visit our web site at www.ohsaa.org/fanguide/dvds

OHSAA Board of Directors Pass

This pass was approved at the September 15, 1961 OHSAA Board Meeting. It allows admission of the bearer and one guest to all athletic events sponsored by member schools of the OHSAA. This year, the pass is **GRAY** with 2020-2021 in **RED**.

Please provide the following information to your admission/pass gate personnel.

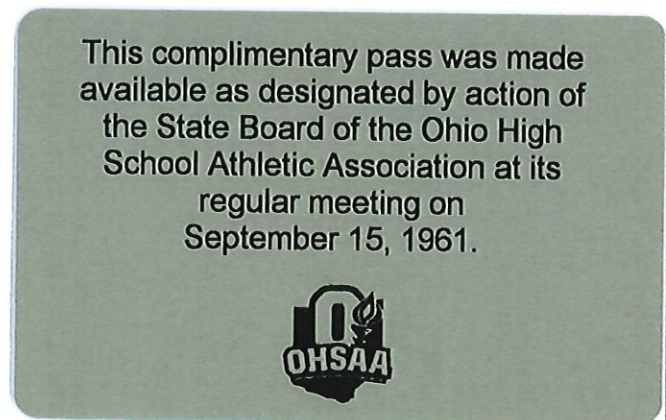
Below is a sample of both sides of the card.

This pass admits the bearer and one guest to all athletic events sponsored by member schools of the OHSAA

FRONT



BACK



Flash Photography

Authorized news media representatives, who have been approved for credentials by contest managers or the OHSAA, shall be permitted to use electronic lighting equipment (includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras) throughout the course of a given activity in all sports **EXCEPT** bowling, gymnastics and diving (including warm-ups). In addition, electronic lighting is NOT permitted to be used in the following situations: in basketball in the free throw lane area (behind the background); in golf during and a few seconds before the swing; and in swimming immediately before the start of a race so as to not interfere with the starter's signal.

Additional Photography Note: In the sport of volleyball, electronic lighting is not permitted at any time during OHSAA tournament contests, and electronic lighting is only allowed during regular-season contests in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of f2.8. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season volleyball contests, photographers must work with school administrators anytime prior to the start of a match to test equipment and have the light meter reading verified. The reading can then be used for future matches in the same facility in the same season without retesting.

Photographer Positioning

In **basketball**, photographers and videographers are prohibited to position themselves behind the backboard (within the free-throw lane area) unless approved by the OHSAA.

1. The first violation of this policy shall result in a warning from contest managers or the OHSAA, and the second violation of this policy shall result in the removal of the photographer from the contest facility by contest managers or the OHSAA.
2. Photographers may position themselves along the baseline outside the lane area of the court (and are permitted to use electronic lighting as specified in Section 6-c).
3. The use of remote-operated cameras behind a basket is permitted (without flash) so long as the guidelines listed above are followed.
4. In soccer, photographers are permitted between the team benches only if approved by the head official (who may consult with both head coaches, if needed).

Photographers for other sports shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of **football, field hockey and soccer**, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In **volleyball**, photographers shall not be positioned in an area that could be "in play." When a soccer match goes to penalty kicks (after overtime), photographers may position themselves on the field in the midfield area if approved by the site manager or media coordinator. In addition, photographers shall not be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. In **baseball and softball**, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas unless a photographer's area (typically with a paint or chalk line) has been established by the game manager and approved by the officials before the game. The OHSAA requests that at least one area be designated for photographers that provides an unobstructed view of the field.

Officials have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in or keeping their equipment in designated dead ball areas. In the sport of **golf**, photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the

Photography Regulations Continued on Back Page

player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. In the sports of **volleyball, bowling, track and field, swimming and tennis**, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

Special Access and Photo Sales

1. Individual credentialed media personnel and spectators may not sell photos from OHSAA state tournaments. Furthermore, credentialed media may not give photos to current student-athletes (or their parents or legal guardians) or post galleries of their photos from state tournaments. (A gallery is defined as more than five photos displayed on one webpage.) If a credentialed media photographer posts a photo on his/her personal webpage, it may not be made available for high-resolution download.
2. In team sports (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, team wrestling, ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse), one school-designated photographer (student or adult) may be credentialed for OHSAA tournament contests if approved by the school's athletic administrator. The school-designated photographer may only give his/her photos to the school (athletic director, principal or head coach) for the school's use. Photos may not be sold or posted online in galleries (see previous note) and may not be posted so they are available for high-resolution download.
3. Bona fide newspapers, as determined by the OHSAA, may sell photos from OHSAA tournament contests via the newspaper's office or official website. Permission is granted because newspapers have always been permitted to fill the photo requests of their readership, and photo sales is not their primary purpose for covering a contest.
4. School officials have the authority to permit or deny freelance photographers (including parents) from having special access at their regular-season athletic contests.
5. School officials have the authority to permit or deny the sale of photos from their regular-season contests.
6. Freelance photographers who are granted a media credential for sectional, district and regional tournament games (and state semi-final games in the sports of football, soccer and lacrosse) may sell photos from the contest as long as the photographer is affiliated with a specific school and can produce a written or on-site verbal show of support from that school's athletic director. However, said photographers may not set up booths or tables, distribute promotional material or request that public address announcements be read that advertise their services.
7. Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet will not be credentialed for state tournament contests. Photos taken from spectator viewing area at state tournament contests are for personal use only and may not be sold.

Use of Drones

The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), most commonly referred to as drones, is not permitted anywhere within the entire athletic facility during any OHSAA tournament contest, beginning one hour before the contest is scheduled to begin. This includes both indoor and outdoor contests. The facility includes both the area above the playing surface itself, and the areas above the surrounding surfaces that are a part of the facility, including, but not limited to, bleachers and other seating areas, parking lots, sidewalks, running/walking track, adjacent athletic fields, etc.

1. The use of UAS at regular-season contests is permitted pending approval from the host institution, which accepts all liability and confirms that the UAS complies with local, state and federal regulations.

2020-21 OHSAA

Working with the Media

The OHSAA's Guide for Coaches, Student-Athletes, Administrators and Tournament Managers



Ohio High School Athletic Association
Phone 614-267-2502 | Fax 614-267-1677
www.OHSAA.org

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CHOCOLATE MILK
American Dairy Association Midwest

Edited and Endorsed by the OHSAA Media Advisory Committee,
the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association and the
Ohio Newspaper Photographers Association



The Value of Working with the Media

Positive exposure in the news media is not simply a by-product of having a winning program. It is often the result of preparation, good communication and providing the media with the information they need to do their jobs. That is true in any sport, any time of year, win or lose, sectional or state.

When an interscholastic athletic program or tournament site has positive relationships with the media, the value is immeasurable, both in terms of “positive press” and building relationships with the media that could last for years. It also plays an integral role in influencing public opinion.

Tips for Working with the Media

1. Be available via email and telephone to correspond with media to answer their questions, including credential requests, parking suggestions, media seating and work spaces, your specific policies, etc.
2. Establish a seating area for media members, as well as an overflow area if the area is full. Assign specific seats with name cards, if needed, giving priority to media that have followed a team for all or the majority of its season, along with larger regional or statewide media outlets.
3. **BROADCAST CONNECTIONS** (especially for football press boxes and basketball gymnasiums): Having internet connections or phone lines available is crucial for radio stations and is greatly appreciated. A nominal fee can be assessed (typically less than \$50).
4. Be sure that electrical outlets are available. Set out power strips, if needed.
5. Explain what wireless internet signals are available. Wireless internet access is very important for media, especially for those required to provide game updates on social media.
6. If possible, provide media with rosters, programs, statistics, etc., and any other information you have been able to assemble prior to the game.
7. Explain to photographers where they may shoot from. In baseball and softball, this includes any “dead ball” areas inside the playing field fence, pending approved by the head umpire. The umpire has authority in this area. See the full photography regulations in this brochure.
8. Explain postgame interview procedures to coaches and media before the game.

For football playoff games, host sites shall use the OHSAA press box priority seating memo posted on the OHSAA's football webpage.

Broadcast Fees

During OHSAA tournament contests, game managers collect broadcast rights fees, when applicable. The broadcast fees chart is posted on the OHSAA's “News & Media” page at OHSAA.org. Special video restrictions apply for tournament contests and when the OHSAA's official television partners are covering a game. Also, some radio stations have been approved to pay fees directly to the OHSAA, or have fees waived as OHSAA Radio Network affiliates. Contact the OHSAA Communications Department to check the status of a station.



Tips for Effective Media Relations

Cooperation and a positive attitude are the cornerstones of developing relationships with the media and getting good exposure for athletic programs and tournament sites. Being prompt, following through on scheduled interview times, providing statistics or access to coaches and/or student-athletes all go a long way to having a positive relationship with the media. In return, that should result in cooperation from the media when their help is needed for making public announcements or getting exposure for a good story.

Media Needs — Understanding deadlines and specific needs of the media will go a long way toward creating good relationships.

Consistency in Results Reporting — Coaches and tournament managers (or an assigned person) should contact the media report the final score immediately after the game.

Availability — Let media know when you're available, such as in your voicemail greeting or email auto-reply.

Uniforms and Jersey Numbers — Media (and fans) rely on clearly visible jersey numbers. When ordering new uniforms, please have numerals be a contrasting color to the jersey.

Mailings/School Website — When schedules are finalized, alert your local media or let them know it is posted on school website. Rosters and statistics are also a tremendous help. Sending stats to the local media or posting them on the school's web site can cut down on the number of requests for that information.

Photo/Media Days — Publicizing your team picture day can help the media with photos and interview opportunities.

Advance Notice Helps — When possible, give reporters as much advance notice about events and be sure to notify when there are postponements and cancellations.

Negative News — Deception, denial or dishonesty will never help ease negative news. It is much better to deal with it right away. Never say “no comment,” as that implies a negative situation. It's always better to cooperate with the media and give your side of the story then be silent and let the media speculate. You can also use an interview as a chance to educate the media or explain the situation. In addition, assume that everything you say will be quoted. At no time is any statement “off the record.”

Reporting OHSAA Tournament Scores and Postponements

It is essential that tournament managers (or their assigned person) report the final result of each tournament contest as soon as possible. In some sports, that involves entering the score online into the myOHSAA bracket and/or contacting the Associated Press.

Contact the Associated Press for Football, Basketball, Softball and Baseball

During the tournament, the Associated Press compiles nightly score lists in these sports. The AP also requests regular-season results in football and basketball. Results can be reported to the Associated Press using several methods:

Toll Free: 800-300-8340 E-mail: apscores@ap.org

Fax: 888-832-0338 Text: 801-252-6046

Please be sure to say or type the sport, the gender and “Ohio” in the subject line of your information.

Update Brackets in myOHSAA for Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Basketball, Lacrosse, Softball and Baseball

For instructions on entering scores into myOHSAA, please contact Brenda Murray at the OHSAA office at 614-267-2502, ext. 120, or bmurray@ohsaa.org

Additional Postgame Responsibilities

1. Ensure that interviews take place per the procedures you explained prior to the game.
2. Allow media members a minimum of 60 minutes after the game to work at press row or the designated media work area.
3. If inclement weather is an issue and you have an indoor space available for media to work, explain where it is located and any important details associated with that space.

Utilizing Social Media for Scores

Schools are encouraged to use their social media accounts to report scores. When reporting a score, please be sure to include the sport, gender, opponent and level of competition (varsity, JV, freshman, etc.).

OHSAA Tournament Policy/Public Address Announcement on Spectators Taking Photos and Videos

Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this contest by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats that have been purchased. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at this event are for personal use only. The use of photographs for commercial or scouting purposes is strictly prohibited.

For more information or questions, please contact Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Communications, at tstried@ohsaa.org or 614-267-2502, ext. 124.

Your Guide to the Ohio Department of Education Pupil Activity Coaching Permit

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Licensure/Audiences/Coaching-Permits>

Ohio law requires coaching or pupil activity permits for individuals (paid or unpaid) who will direct, supervise or coach a student activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity or activities with health and safety considerations. School districts determine which staff members need to have a permit. Those who wish to apply for a permit through the Ohio Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure must complete the requirements outlined here.

Types of Pupil Activity Coaching Permits

1. A **three-year permit** is for persons with no other educator credential or an educator credential other than one of those listed below.
2. A **four-year permit** is for persons with either a four-year resident or alternative resident educator license
3. A **five-year permit** is for persons with either a five-year professional, senior professional or lead professional license.

Prior to applying for the Coaching Permit through the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), all the requirements below will need to be met:

1. **Contact the school district for which you are employed.**
Your first step is to complete the hiring process for serving as a coach at the school or district where you wish to coach. Be sure to notify the school or district as the superintendent or a credentialed e-signer will need to electronically sign your application.
2. **Background check** - Make sure you have an up-to-date background check on file.
3. **Complete the training requirements below.**
There are five categories of training below. Applicants are to: a) check with their school districts about preferences and procedures related to each category; and b) provide documentation to their districts that they met requirements. Coaches are encouraged to keep record of any expiration dates for their training sessions so that they can re-take them before they expire (dates vary).
 1. **Fundamentals of Coaching** (<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/61113/fundamentals-of-coaching>) - The National Federation of State High School Associations presents this series of online modules. (One-time training)
 2. **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training** - Fulfill this requirement through a course approved by the school district.
 3. **First Aid for Coaches** - Fulfill this requirement through **one of the four** categories of options outlined below:
 - A. **Ohio Department of Education-approved pupil activity program.** A full list of approved programs is available through the link posted at the top of this document.
 - B. **Nationally approved programs listed below** (Select one):
 - Red Cross (First Aid Health and Safety for Coaches): <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>;
 - Human Kinetics Coach Education Center: http://www.asep.com/asep_content/org/OHSAA.cfm;
 - National Federation of State High School Associations: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/26/first-aid-health-and-safety>
 - C. **College or university courses:** Courses must be completed within the past three years and be related to first aid or athletic training.
 - D. **Medical licenses:** The licenses MD, DO, DC, PA, RN, EMT, ATC and SCS fulfill the first aid training requirement.
 4. **Concussion Training** - Complete one of the hour-long courses that are free if you follow directions on the Ohio Department of Health website: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury/youthconcussions/youthconcussions>. The online courses are each valid for three years. Other related resources are located on the ODE's web site.
 5. **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training** - Each year, coaches must review the Ohio Department of Health's new video and related fact sheet: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/Lindsays-Law/Lindsays-Law>. Although districts may choose how they will verify completion, the Department encourages use of its Learning Management System (LMS): <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Teaching/Professional-Development/Learning-Management-System-LMS>. See the ODE's website for complete information.



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