



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Phone: 614-267-2502 • Fax: 614-267-1677 • [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

Last Updated 10/11/23

## OHSAA Emerging Sport Checklist

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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<b>City:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
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<b>Other Key Organization/Association Contacts/Title:</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
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## OHSAA Emerging Sport Checklist

(Criteria the OHSAA will Consider for an Emerging Participation Opportunity\*)

Note: Please mark each of the following questions 'Yes' or 'No.' While all questions ask that you mark 'Yes' or 'No,' the more additional details you provide for many of the questions in a separate document(s), the better assistance it will give the OHSAA in making a more educated decision.

### General Considerations

Yes No

- Has sport/activity demonstrated a long-standing level of commitment of five years or more to provide competition?
- Is sport/activity recognized by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) or another governing body?
- Has the group that is making the request clearly identified to the OHSAA the organization's name and makeup and provided the OHSAA with detailed contact information?
- Will this new sport/activity impact equity opportunities for OHSAA student-athletes?
- Is the sport/activity currently only being played/participated in limited geographical areas of the state?
- Would adding the sport/activity allow for participation by schools in less affluent school districts?
- Would adding the sport/activity provide equal participation opportunities for students from all socio-economic backgrounds?
- Would adding the sport/activity serve a group of students that were previously not being served?
- Would adding the sport/activity impact other sports that are currently offered?
- Has feedback has been received from the OHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee on adding the sport/activity?
- Will costs for member schools increase?
  - Uniforms, equipment, facilities, coaches, travel, officiating, facility time, technology, entry fees, etc.
- Has sport/activity established a coaches association with bylaws, a constitution and procedures in place as a 501(c)(3) organization?
- Does the sport's/activity's coaches association have representation from all six OHSAA districts?
- Has the OHSAA received three (3) letters of commitment submitted from member schools?
  - This must include a proposed budget with specific line items for a program; a roster size; the number of full-time and part-time coaches; a description of the competition and practice facilities needed; a listing of local and regional competition opportunities; a timeline to varsity status of the sport, and a description of current relationships with any sport governing bodies.

## Compliance Considerations

Yes No

- Has the sport/activity demonstrated comparable compliance to OHSAA student eligibility regulations for a specified period of time (preferably two-to-three years)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on physical examinations (must be annual)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on age limitation (20 at high school level, 15 at 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on enrollment and attendance (must play sports where you go to school)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on scholastic requirements (five credits passed during previous grading period at high school level, four classes passed during previous grading period at 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on residence (parent living in Ohio)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on transfers (if transfer occurs, must meet exception or sit second half of season and tournament)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on international and exchange students (U.S. citizen or meet an exception)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on recruiting (not permitted)? **Note:** This could be a big cultural shift depending on the sport.
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on amateur status (students can't accept money for performance, etc.)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on coaching requirements (must have a Pupil Activity Permit per state law for all paid and volunteer coaches)?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on out-of-state travel (travel to non-boarding state one time only)?
- Do key stakeholders understand that taking the sport/activity under the OHSAA's umbrella means school teams will now need to abide by all OHSAA Bylaws and Sport Regulations, regardless of whether or not they call it "club?"
- If applicable, have you reviewed the sport's/activity's current divisional alignment and informed key stakeholders that OHSAA's current regulations may not permit for the same alignment?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on game contracts?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on decisions by officials being final?
- Has the sport/activity developed sports regulations that closely model the OHSAA's and has it followed them for a two-to-three-year period?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on mandatory coaches' rules meetings?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on mandatory pre-season meetings?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on the start of coaching/team tryouts?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on the sport's/activity's length of season?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on out-of-season instruction?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on summer coaching days?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on participation not being permitted on club teams in the same sport during the school's team's season?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on no contact periods?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on coaches and players ejections?

- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on participants leaving the playing area?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on concussion and sudden cardiac arrest coaches training and awareness?
- Does the sport/activity have similar regulations as the OHSAA's on tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs and steroids?
- Does the sport/activity have a similar regulation as the OHSAA's on lightning and inclement weather?

### **General Sport and Tournament Considerations**

**Yes No**

- Has the sport/activity developed and followed a tournament format similar to the OHSAA's format?
- Does the sport/activity have a tournament reimbursement policy similar to the OHSAA's?
- Does the sport/activity have a tournament fee structure for officials similar to the OHSAA's?
- Does the sport/activity have tournament ticket prices similar to the OHSAA's?
- Does the sport/activity have policies for officials' certification/requirements, training and registration similar to the OHSAA's?
- Does the sport/activity have a tournament officials' selection procedures/assignment process similar to the OHSAA's?
- Does the sport/activity have a rating and voting system for tournament officials similar to the OHSAA's?
- Is the proposed tournament a team sport?
- Is the proposed tournament an individual sport?
- Does the sport/activity have a minimum number of participants a school may enter in an event?
- If the sport/activity is an individual sport, does the sport/activity have a team score element as part of the sport/activity rules?
- If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, is there a minimum number of participants needed to produce a team score?

### **Finance Considerations**

**Yes No**

- Is adding the sport/activity going to add significant expenses for the OHSAA?
- Is there any financial history to lean on (sport/activity must provide the OHSAA Office a three-year statement of revenues and expenses)?
- Does the sport/activity have current participation/entry fees? If yes, please share that amount.

How many OHSAA schools currently offer this sport/activity?

- Less than 50
- 51 to 100
- 101 to 200
- 201 to 300
- 301 to 400
- 401 to 500
- 501 to 600
- 600 or more
- Is there data available that indicates the number of schools that would be interested in starting a program if the OHSAA sanctioned sport/activity?
- If the OHSAA sanctioned sport/activity, is there data available that shows the number of schools that would have a program in one year, three years, five years?

- Is there data available that shows the number of participants in Ohio at the 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade level and the youth level?
- Are tournament contests currently held at a higher seeded team's site?
- Are tournament contests currently held at a neutral site?
- Are tournament contests currently held at a combination of higher seeded team's and neutral sites?
- Is data available that shows the number of contests permitted; number of teams, and number of athletes?
- Is data available that shows tournament attendance from the past three years?
- Is data available that shows the number of workers required for tournament contests at each level?
- Will equipment rental be required to host tournament contests?
- Have any equipment costs been included in the financial evaluation of this proposed sport's/ activity's tournament?
- Are programs currently sold for tournament contests?
- Is merchandise/apparel sold for tournament contests?
- Is there a cost for parking at tournament contests?
- Are fees charged for radio, tv and/or streaming at tournament contests?
- Will this sport/activity require our schools or the OHSAA to use non-school facilities to hold contests?
- Does the OHSAA have enough facilities to conduct a tournament series for this sport/activity?
- Has the cost of the facilities been included in the financial analysis of this proposed tournament?
- Does the sport/activity require a minimum number of seats for spectators in order to host a tournament contest? If yes, please indicate that number in a separate document.
- Does the sport/activity charge admission for tournament contests? If admission is charged, please provide those charges in a separate document.
- Does this sport/activity require specific technology or software to conduct a tournament contest? If so, please provide those costs in a separate document.
  - If you answered 'yes,' is this technology or software available statewide?
  - If you answered 'yes,' will this technology or software seamlessly accommodate the movement of data to the next tournament level?
  - If you answered 'yes,' does this proposed technology or software require special training?
  - If you answered 'yes,' are there adequately trained persons to operate this technology and software for all tournament sites at every level?
- Have any technology/software costs been included in the financial evaluation of this proposed sport's tournament?
- Other than contest officials, does the sport/activity require additional personnel to conduct the tournament (examples: line to gain crew, hurdle block crew, clock or score operator, announcer)?
- Do these additional positions require specific training?
- Are there enough trained individuals to operate our tournaments statewide? Please indicate costs associated with these additional personnel in a separate document.
- Have these costs been included in the financial evaluation of this proposed sport's/activity's tournament?
- Are there supporting organizations that OHSAA would have to align with in which there may be additional costs or revenue opportunities?
- Does the sport/activity align with obvious corporate sponsorship opportunities?
- Do corporate underwriting programs currently exist that can be leveraged to assist with sport/activity start-up costs or ongoing costs?

- Are there additional OHSAA costs related to tournament results and publicity?
- Are there additional OHSAA costs related to its web site and publications?

### **Sports Administration Considerations**

**Yes No**

- Is there growth in participation in the state (and/or nationwide)? Sport/activity must provide the OHSAA with trend data (current schools and number of individuals participating; youth participation data and trends).
- Would a participating school need to build additional facilities to conduct this sport/activity?
- Would a participating school need to purchase additional equipment to conduct this sport/activity?
- Are NFHS or another governing body's playing rules used?
- Are the typical participants multi-sport athletes?
- Would the typical participants likely give up a sport/activity in the current season and move to this new sport/activity?

### **Officiating Technology Considerations (If Officials Required)**

#### **• Officials in *DragonFly***

**Yes No**

- Does the sport/activity require officials?
- Will the sport/activity use the same pool of officials from an already OHSAA recognized sport/activity?
- Is there a system in place for the OHSAA to determine existing officials' interest in certifying in the new sport/activity?
- Are officials already certified by another sport/activity association officiating program?
  - Will there be additional requirements to become OHSAA certified?
- Are there any additional training requirements to become OHSAA certified that we would need time to implement?

**Notes:** Officials should have a DragonFly account with the new sport permit a minimum of two years prior to adopting a sport/activity. This would allow the OHSAA office to track officiating numbers and monitor any requirements determined by OHSAA (state and local rules meeting attendance and concussion training).

#### **• Other Considerations for Officiating**

What is the minimum number of officials required for success? (For example, if a sport/activity requires two officials per contest, and there are 20 schools competing in a district, there should be 40 officials in that district . . . twice the amount of officials for the number of schools in each athletic district to account for unavailable officials.)

- 1 to 2
- 3 to 4
- 4 to 6
- More than 6

**Notes:** Rule books will need to be included in the OHSAA's NFHS order, which is submitted the spring before the sport/activity becomes recognized. The OHSAA should also determine a timeline for uniform requirements, taking cost to officials into consideration.

#### **• Director of Officiating Development (DOD) Considerations**

**Yes No**

- Will there be additional work needed in the selection, training and onboarding of officials?
- Will the sport/activity have someone available to assist in creating sport/activity requirements listed in the OHSAA Handbook for Officials; regular season officiating requirements, tournament official minimum requirements, required uniform?

Will the sport/activity have someone available to assist in test development for courses?

• **Instructor, Assigners and Onboarding Considerations**

**Yes No**

Will the sport/activity have someone available to assist in training/onboarding?

Will the sport/activity have someone available to assist in course requirements? This needs to be determined if different than existing before sport/activity is recognized.

Will the sport/activity have someone available to assist in testing? Tests and quizzes need to be developed for any new sports/activities before sport/activity is recognized.

**Other Requirements**

The items in the section below are required, and any deviation from current practices must be fully implemented in all affected areas prior to the approval of the OHSAA sponsoring tournament competition.

**Yes No**

The proposed tournament is for member high schools only.

All member high schools, in good standing, are eligible for this tournament.

No qualifying standards, marks, scores, records, etc. will be used to determine tournament eligibility of teams or individuals.

The OHSAA's current tournament entry structure will be used for schools to indicate their intent to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

Tournament Entry/Withdraw dates will be established using current practices.

The proposed tournament will be single elimination unless otherwise determined by playing rules (ex: wrestle-backs).

There will be no round robin, pool play or other deviation of current tournament play.

The names of the proposed tournament levels will not deviate from current names (sectional, district, regional, state).

The proposed tournament sequence will follow one of the current practices.

**Yes No**

Sectional, District, Regional, State

District, Regional, State

Sectional, District, State

Regional, State

Current ODE EMIS base enrollments are used for tournament division calculations.

Current methods of determining Tournament Representation and Divisions will be used.

Tournament Brackets (Team Sport) – current bracket structures, levels and sizes will be used.

If tournament seeding is required, this seeding will occur at the first level of tournament play only.

State Rules Meeting requirements for schools will follow current practices.

Pre-Season Parent Meetings will follow current OHSAA-required practices.

Tournament officials balloting if needed will follow current practices.

Officials Game Rating if required will follow current practices.

\* ***Meeting the criteria does not guarantee that the OHSAA will automatically adopt or sanction a sport/activity as an emerging opportunity.***