

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

2024-25

Welcome Booklet

Important information for Athletic Administrators



Mission Statement

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

**Doug Ute
Executive Director**

Welcome to the 2024-25 School Year!

On behalf of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and staff, I would like to welcome you to the start of the 2024-25 school year and thank your school for being a member of the OHSAA. We can't thank you enough for all of your efforts and work in providing interscholastic athletic participation opportunities for our student-athletes year in and year out. Your efforts go a long way in enriching the academic careers and creating lifelong memories for each of the student-athletes throughout the state of Ohio.

As a service organization, the OHSAA works with over 300,000 student-athletes in grades 7 through 12 at 817 member high schools and 747 member 7th-8th grade schools. It is through the combined efforts of our boards and staff, our coaches, our registered contest officials and our administrators that we have the privilege of working in educational athletics, where we can help prepare our young people for the next phase of their lives and to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Included in this packet are various items we believe you will need in order to have a successful school year. While the beginning of the school year is a time of organized chaos and excitement, we ask that you please take some time to review and familiarize yourself with the items in this packet and share the appropriate information with your fellow staff members, coaches, student-athletes, and parents. Most of the general questions you may have about the OHSAA are answered within this packet. Please know, however, that our staff is here to serve, so do not hesitate to contact us with questions should they arise.

Thank you in advance for the work you will be performing and the service you will be providing our student-athletes. We wish you nothing but success in 2024-25 and I look forward to connecting with many of you personally throughout the year.



Doug Ute, Executive Director
Ohio High School Athletic Association



SPORTSMANSHIP – It's OUR Game

PURPOSE

As we begin the 2024-25 school year, the need today is greater than ever for us to work together to ensure everyone is displaying proper and appropriate sporting behavior during all contests, including scrimmages. Too many unsporting incidents are occurring, so the OHSAA is making it a major emphasis this year for all of us to improve our sporting event environments. We all contribute greatly to the lifelong lessons our student-athletes learn during interscholastic athletics participation, so we need to raise everyone's expectations on how we treat the officials, participants, coaches, administrators and fellow fans at all times. As our student-athletes say, they're not on the field or court playing for their parents or adult fans...they participate because "It's OUR Game!"

CURRENT OHSAA REGULATIONS

OHSAA Bylaws and Sport Regulations already place an emphasis on proper sporting behavior, so here are some key reminders for administrators:

- Host schools have the responsibility to remove any individual(s) who disrupts the contest or event.
- Host schools shall appoint a site director/manager or administrator-in-charge for every contest or event. This person shall be aware of the school's emergency action plan and how to adjust it according to the specific contest's needs.
- Host schools shall ensure that unauthorized personnel are kept from the playing field/court; shall provide safety and security for the visiting team(s), their spectators and the contest officials, and shall provide safety and security for parking areas related to the contest or event.
- Schools shall conduct a mandatory preseason meeting with all student-athletes and their parents. Among the items required to review are the school's athletic code of conduct and sportsmanship, ethics and integrity expectations.
- All paid and unpaid coaches approved by a school's board of education or governing board shall be a proper role model for their athletes as it relates to citizenship, ethics, integrity and sporting conduct.

GENERAL IDEAS TO PROMOTE SPORTING BEHAVIOR

- Have a student read behavior expectations live on the P.A. system before a contest. Consider using the theme "It's OUR Game!" to emphasize that participants are playing for each other, not the adults in the stands.
- Conduct training for site directors/managers or administrators-in-charge and make sure they understand their specific game duties.
- Assign a staff member or retired administrator/coach to shadow officials when they arrive and depart a contest and ensure upon arrival that they review your contest's communication plan. Officials' locker rooms are strictly off limits.
- Designate close, reserved parking for officials and ensure they are safe upon arrival and departure.
- Administrators should attend as many contests as possible and stand in front of student groups as a deterrent.
- Have a uniformed officer(s) present at contests.
- Develop punitive consequences for adult and student fans ejected from a contest and work with your league and/or conference to ensure penalties are enforced at away or neutral site contests.
- Appoint leaders of student spirit groups and emphasize that there shall be no profanity, no singling out anyone from the opposing team and cheers shall be for your school and not against the opponent.
- Emphasize with all coaches, including the 7th-8th grade level, the need to demonstrate positive sporting behavior.
- Print sporting behavior reminders and expectations on tickets, whether digital or paper.
- Develop a rewards system for students and/or student groups that display exemplary behavior.

Noteworthy Items for the 2024-25 School Year

New Tournament Divisions Released

In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 2, new EMIS data was collected this past spring, and combined with competitive balance roster data in all applicable sports, to place teams into tournament divisions for the 2024-25 school year. The Board of Directors also took action in spring 2024 to expand the number of divisions in all competitive balance sports, except football.

Information on a school's current tournament divisions can be found through the school's myOHSAA account under Tournament Entry (2024-25).

HB 147 – Same Cash/Online Ticket Prices, Required Student Ticket Price

On July 15, 2024, Governor DeWine received HB 147 as passed by the General Assembly, for which he had 10 days to consider signing into law. Within HB 147, a new law was proposed to **require the same cash and online ticket sale prices, as well as to require a reduced student ticket price.** As of the printing of this Welcome Packet, the bill had not yet been signed into law but we have every expectation for that to occur. If it does, the law would become effective 90 days after the Governor's signature. Messaging will continue to be sent to member schools with updates, as well as suggestions and recommendations on how to handle this issue for schools who are not currently offering a discounted student ticket price, or who previously had different cash and online ticket prices.

For questions, please contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff.

Bylaw 4-4 (Scholarship) Important Reminders

Athletes need to be certain they are scheduled for at least five (5) credits at the high school level or four (4) classes at the 7th-8th grade level.

If an athlete does not pass the five-credit/four-class standard in the first grading period this coming fall, then he/she will become ineligible at the start of the fifth school day of the second grading period. For schools on quarters, this likely will fall toward the end of your fall season, rendering these athletes ineligible for the rest of the season. Check your student-athlete schedules and work with your guidance counselor to ensure this does not happen!

For questions, please contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) of our compliance staff.

2024-25 Pre-Participation Physical Exam (PPE) Form Available

The Pre-Participation Physical Exam form for the 2024-25 school year is now available on the OHSAA website at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/physicalexamform>

The 2024-25 PPE form has been authorized by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine (JACSM). This physical form was developed for youth student-athletes by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is in its fifth edition. Like last year's form, our JACSM has chosen to retain all of the questions within the history section. A Spanish version of the history portion of the form is also included on the website.

The medical clearance must be completed once every 13 months and kept on file indefinitely. Although use of this OHSAA-adopted PPE is not required (for example, a school via its Board policy could accept another type of physical exam), signing all four consent forms is required before a student may commence any athletic participation in a member school. In Ohio, a physician (MD, DO), a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC), a physician's assistant (PA) and an advanced practice nurse (ANP) are eligible to complete the exam and sign the form.

No Contact Period in August

The mandatory no-contact period for coaches in the sports of baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse and softball begins August 1, 2024, and lasts through August 31. Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach in those sports is prohibited from providing coaching or instruction. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.



Noteworthy Items for the 2024-25 School Year

Take Advantage of the NFHS Learning Center

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Learning Center is an education tool that offers online courses for coaches, contest officials, administrators, students and parents, many of which are free. Examples of courses include:

- Protecting Students from Abuse
- First Aid, Health and Safety
- Fundamentals of Coaching
- Concussion in Sport
- Title IX
- Implicit Bias
- The Collapsed Athlete (a “must” for coaches as they begin their fall sports seasons). To view the list of approximately 80 courses offered, go to: <https://www.nfhslearn.com>

Coaches Required to Receive Mental Health and PBIS Training

Within the previously mentioned budge bill, HB 33, a requirement was also passed regarding coaches receiving mental health training in order to receive their Pupil Activity Permit (PAP). This training can be completed in the context of an already existing course or can be completed as a standalone course. Proof of completion must be provided to the school at which the coach is/will be employed prior to the district signing off on the coach’s PAP.

Additionally, the Ohio State Board of Education modified rule 3301-35-15 to require **all** individuals who interact with directly with students to receive PBIS training through their district of employment. The PBIS training is not required in order for a coach to receive their PAP, but must be completed in order to remain compliance with the Ohio State Board of Education rule. A school’s Superintendent is responsible for deciding which PBIS training shall be utilized.

Please Update Items in *FinalForms* & *myOHSAA*

Member school athletic administrators are highly encouraged to login to your *FinalForms* account as soon as possible to update their **school and sports staff information**, along with any changes to the school’s information (address, phone, etc.). Additionally, administrators should log into *myOHSAA* to provide updates in **Pre-Season Meetings** (have you entered all sport meetings that have already been held?), **Sports Offered**, **Tournament Entry**, and the **Emergency Contact Form**. Additionally, a recent sync function was implemented to share data between *FinalForms* and *myOHSAA* to reduce the number of places data must be entered. For more information on the OHSAA technology initiatives and memos with instructions, please visit the additional links section at <https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>.

Contests with Out-Of-State Schools

During the 2024 Spring Referendum cycle, the membership of the OHSAA approved several modifications to the bylaw addressing contests with out-of-state schools. The current regulations can be summarized as follows:

- Schools may play any team from outside of Ohio at their own discretion, but travel is limited as described below.
- Schools may travel to any bordering state an unlimited number of times to compete. When doing so, they may miss school time at their own discretion.
- Schools must obtain approval from the OHSAA Executive Director’s Office prior to traveling to any non-bordering state for competition.
- Schools are permitted to miss school time at their discretion when they exercise their one-time travel to a non-bordering state or province.
- Schools may travel to bordering states or provinces an unlimited number of times strictly to practice without prior approval from the OHSAA Executive Director’s Office (NEW)
- Schools may travel to a non-bordering state for practice purposes only one time per sports season with prior approval from the OHSAA Executive Director’s Office. Such a trip would constitute the team’s one-time travel to a non-bordering state opportunity. (NEW- *The previous language only permitted teams to practice while out-of-state if they were also participating in a contest(s) during that trip.*)

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 the head coach of the sport or the athletic administrator. Please contact the appropriate sport administrator for more information.



Noteworthy Items for the 2024-25 School Year

Quick Reminders

- 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 designated 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 practice or participate in sports programs 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.
- 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 data may be added for competitive balance sports based on the roster of students submitted by the school.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Student Eligibility Guide for Interscholastic Athletic Participation in High School

Overview

Participating in your school's interscholastic athletics program will provide some of the most memorable and enjoyable moments of your life. Since your school is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, there are standards that must be met in order to be eligible to compete.

The essential eligibility requirements in this publication are **only a summary** of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. OHSAA eligibility requirements are published in the *OHSAA Handbook*, which can be found in the offices of your principal, your athletic administrator and on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org). Your school district also has the authority to establish additional eligibility standards, including academic and codes of student or athletic conduct.

Any questions you have concerning OHSAA standards or your athletic eligibility should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator. **You should also meet with these administrators EVERY TIME before you change your course schedule or drop a course.** If you are a transfer student, you must ensure that you and your school administrators have submitted all forms, if applicable, to the OHSAA Office in Columbus.

The bylaws and regulations, including the eligibility standards, of the OHSAA are annually adopted by each member school as a required condition of membership within the Association. You are urged, as a student-athlete, to review these standards since you are equally responsible for compliance with these standards. Best wishes as you learn the valuable lessons that come with your participation in interscholastic athletics!

PLEASE NOTE: Student-athletes and parents have the opportunity to ask school administrators questions on OHSAA and school eligibility requirements, the school's Athletic Code of Conduct policy and other issues during preseason meetings that the OHSAA requires schools to hold no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Meetings should include showing a presentation prepared by the OHSAA that reviews key student eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles, sporting behavior, concussion management and sudden cardiac arrest.

OHSAA Eligibility – Falsified Information (Bylaw 4-1)

If you compete under a name other than your own or provide false information in an attempt to establish athletic eligibility you will be subject to a period of ineligibility.

OHSAA Eligibility – Age (Bylaw 4-2)

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, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review this exception within Bylaw 4-2-1.

OHSAA Eligibility – Enrollment & Attendance (Bylaw 4-3)

After establishing ninth-grade eligibility, you are permitted only eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility. The semesters are taken in order of attendance once ninth-grade eligibility has been established. Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not. There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

Furthermore, students are only permitted to participate in sports at the school where they are enrolled and attending fulltime (Bylaw 4-3-1). State law permits certain classifications of non-enrolled students (home educated, non-public, community school, STEM students) to have participation opportunities at the public high school that the student would be entitled to attend under the tuition statute, (i.e., the 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. If you are participating via this legislation, note that the language says you shall be given the "same opportunities" to participate – not greater opportunities — and that you must meet the same eligibility requirements as other students. For more information on participation opportunities for non-enrolled students, go to the Eligibility section of the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Enrollment>).



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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OHSAA Eligibility – Scholarship (Bylaw 4-4)

In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes in the immediately preceding grading period. In order to maintain eligibility for grades 9-12, you 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 taken in the summer 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.
- Your semester or yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility (although they could, depending upon your school's official grading periods). OHSAA eligibility is dependent upon grades received in the immediately preceding grading period.
- Those taking postsecondary school courses, including College Credit Plus, must comply with OHSAA 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. **Note:** Check with your principal or athletic administrator for the exact date that eligibility will be determined.

OHSAA Eligibility – Conduct, Character & Discipline (Bylaw 4-5)

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 OHSAA office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics. Further, any student who is subject to a penalty or consequences for violations of a school's Board adopted Code of Conduct (Student, Athletic) shall be declared ineligible in the event the student transfers to another school before the penalty or consequence has been fully served.

OHSAA Eligibility – Residency (Bylaw 4-6)

If your parent(s) or legal guardian live outside of Ohio, you are ineligible unless one of the exceptions to the residency bylaw is met. The exceptions for out-of-state residency are found within Bylaw 4-6.

OHSAA Eligibility – Transfers (Bylaw 4-7)

Once your eligibility is established at a high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school. For the specifics on the period of ineligibility, visit <https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer>.

- If you are new to this school as a transfer student, all required paperwork must be submitted to the OHSAA by your school administrator, if applicable, and, depending on your situation, the state office may have to grant approval for eligibility. Full eligibility, insofar as transfer is concerned, may be granted only if one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer bylaw has been met or if you have not participated in the sport at any high school in the 12 months immediately preceding your transfer.
- To determine if you qualify for an exception or you have other questions on these regulations, arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator. If questions remain, ask them to contact the OHSAA.

OHSAA Eligibility – International & Exchange Students (Bylaw 4-8)

If you are an International Student, you are ineligible unless you live in Ohio with your parent(s) or unless you meet one of the exceptions to the International & Exchange student bylaw (Bylaw 4-8). Please schedule a meeting with your school administrator to discuss the different exceptions.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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OHSAA Eligibility – Recruiting (Bylaw 4-9)

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

OHSAA Eligibility – Amateurism/Awards (Bylaw 4-10/Bylaw 5)

You may receive awards valued at \$500 or less from any source as a result from participation in any sport in which you are an interscholastic athlete, per event, as long as the award is not money/cash. Additionally, you will lose your amateur status in a sport and forfeit your eligibility if you:

- Compete for money or other compensation.
- Promote products on a social media account using the notoriety you receive from being an athlete in exchange for money, merchandise or services of value. (i.e. NO NIL DEALS)
- Receive money, merchandise or services of value based in whole, or in part, on the notoriety you receive from being an athlete.
- Sign a contract or make a commitment to play professional athletics.
- Receive services, merchandise or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
- Compete with a professional athletics team even if no pay is received.

Expenses for travel, meals and lodging may be accepted provided they are available to all participants and they are not contingent upon your team's and/or your finish. A form is available at www.ohsaa.org to maintain amateur status and must be submitted to the OHSAA.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Open Gyms/Facilities

School officials may designate open gyms/facilities, the sport to be played, the grade levels involved and may also limit participants to those from your school. You may participate in open gyms/facilities, but remember:

- No one from the respective school may be excluded from participating;
- No one shall be required to attend;
- No school officials may invite selected students or determine the teams;
- No school officials may transport students to or from either school or non-school facilities;
- No coaching or instruction may be provided.

The OHSAA may impose penalties against you, your school and/or your coach for violating these regulations.

OHSAA Sport Regulation –Instruction

There are restrictions on the instruction a student-athlete can receive from school coaches outside of the season. Some of these regulations are also different for team sports vs. individual sports. Before receiving instruction outside the season from school coaches, visit <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf> and review General Sports Regulation 7 to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- Besides during the season of your sport, school coaches may also provide team instruction between May 15 and July 31 for a total of 13 days. This would include such activities as volleyball, field hockey, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse, baseball or softball teams competing in tournaments or 'shootouts,' football teams participating in 7-on-7's, or coaches conducting or taking teams to instructional camps from May 15-July 31 only.
- Between August 1 and May 14 and outside defined "no contact periods," school coaches may also provide individual instruction outside the season of play. There are restrictions for team sports, so review the OHSAA's Individual Skill Instruction regulations to ensure all standards are being followed.
- Individual skill instruction from non-school coaches may be received in any sport by a squad member at any time in individual or group lessons *provided* that these individual skill instructions do not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies.
- It is a violation if a coach suggests a student-athlete's participation in instructional programs is mandatory outside the school season.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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OHSAA Sport Regulation – Non-School Teams

If you compete on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual in the same sport during your school team's season (example: non-school soccer during the school's soccer season), you may lose eligibility. There are also certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after your school season. Before participating with a non-school team, visit <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf> and review General Sports Regulation 7 to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-school squad in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season once you become a member of the school team. **This would include college teams and/or college tryouts.**
- In the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling, however, you may practice and try out for a non-school team but **may not compete in a contest during your school season.**
- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may try out, practice and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season from August 1 to May 14 (there are exceptions for baseball and softball) provided:

The OHSAA's non-interscholastic team limitation is maintained, meaning the number of students from the same school team on the roster of the non-school team is limited to seven (7) students in the sport of football; six (6) students in the sports of baseball, field hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, soccer, and softball; five (5) students in the sport of ice hockey; and three (3) students in the sports of basketball and volleyball. **All football activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment permitted are helmets and cleats.** Note: Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport season.

- There is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-interscholastic team from May 15 to July 31 provided that non-interscholastic team is being coached by a non-school coach.

Check the OHSAA Sport-by-Sport Regulations (available at www.ohsaa.org) for the date you must cease participation on non-school teams in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition, along with penalties for non-compliance with this date.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Preparticipation Evaluation & Consent Forms

Before the student's first practice (or prior to the student's first participation should he/she join the team after the season has started), each student must have had a physical examination within the past year and an examination form signed by a medical examiner must be on file at your school. Physical examinations are valid for participation for 13 months from the date of the exam except for those that take place from May 1-June 1. Those exams are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring sports season.

In addition, no student will be eligible unless that student and his or her parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form, the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement, the Concussion Form and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, all of which must be on file at your school.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs & Steroids

The OHSAA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at the site of any interscholastic contests. Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in you being disqualified from contests and likely facing additional school and legal penalties. There are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance. If you use anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs of which the OHSAA is aware, you are ineligible for interscholastic competition until medical evidence indicates that your system is free of these drugs.

Another prominent issue is the use of supplements. The increased availability of these items allows student-athletes access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed in fitness and strength training magazines and websites. Often their marketing campaigns include promises, endorsed by faulty research claims, of extra-ordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains. It is important for coaches, athletic administrators and parents to educate themselves about what substances your student-athletes may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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OHSAA Sport Regulation – Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest Management

It is everyone's responsibility to take the necessary precautions to reduce the likelihood of brain injuries and sudden cardiac arrest.

In Ohio, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play that same day. Thereafter, the student shall not return to practice or competition until cleared with written authorization from a physician or health care provider approved by the local board in accordance with state law.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death among student-athletes, and dizziness, loss of breath and a racing heart are often symptoms that are overlooked. In many cases, recognizing the signs of cardiac trouble means student-athletes can continue their athletic participation.

Each school is required to review both its concussion and sudden cardiac arrest management protocols with students and their parents; each student and his or her parents must review and sign both the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" and a "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation, and parents and students are highly encouraged to review short video presentations on both concussions and sudden cardiac arrest. Check with your school administrators on where to find these videos.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Sporting Behavior

The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, teachers, coaches, students, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the values of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.

As a student-athlete, you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to:

- Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect, and
- Ensure your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

The OHSAA has established a policy for students ejected for unsporting behavior or flagrant fouls. If you are ejected:

- You will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and you will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until **two** regular season contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football).
- If you are ejected for **fighting** you will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and you will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until **FOUR** regular season contests are played at the same level as the ejection (two contests in football).

If you are ejected a second time in a season, you are subject to additional, more stringent penalties, including suspension from play for the remainder of the season in that sport.

As a participant in school sports, you are expected to act with dignity, speak with courtesy and play with pride. In short, Respect the Game!

See Eligibility Checklist on Page 6...



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

OHSAA Eligibility Checklist

For High School Students Enrolled and/or Participating at an OHSAA Member School

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, or as an incoming 9th grader, I have passed four classes.
- ☐ 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 grade 9.
- ☐ 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 \$500/item/source.
- ☐ I was either 1) born in the United States, 2) born outside the United States but am living here with a parent, or 3) 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.
- ☐ 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 year 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 & I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement. They are on file at my school.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

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.



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Student Eligibility Guide for Interscholastic Athletic Participation in 7/8 Grade Schools

Overview

The purpose of seventh and eighth grade education-based athletics is to provide rich and wholesome activities for as many students as possible who meet the eligibility standards that have been approved by OHSAA members schools. As a result, students will develop to the greatest degree talents and skills such as leadership, teamwork and discipline, which will enable them to become responsible citizens in our society while demonstrating good sporting conduct.

We believe in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school program reflecting the needs of the school, the community and the student. We believe the potential values to the student and coaches to be very essential. Competition under prescribed regulations and policies provides adolescents with the opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement, emotional control, good sporting conduct, social adaptability and good citizenship. Athletics foster team and school spirit and a sense of community.

We believe each coach should make every effort to provide an opportunity for participation for all eligible students involved in a sport. The students shall be taught the fundamental skills necessary for further growth and improvement in their respective sports. These skills are to be taught by an educated, trained and qualified coach. We believe that high quality skill development for students at the seventh and eighth grade level is of utmost importance.

PLEASE NOTE: Student-athletes and parents have the opportunity to ask school administrators questions on OHSAA and school eligibility requirements, the school's Athletic Code of Conduct policy and other issues during preseason meetings that the OHSAA requires schools to hold no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. Meetings should include showing a presentation prepared by the OHSAA that reviews key student eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles, sporting behavior, concussion management and sudden cardiac arrest.

OHSAA Eligibility – Falsified Information (Bylaw 4-1)

If you compete under a name other than your own or provide false information in an attempt to establish athletic eligibility you will be subject to a period of ineligibility.

OHSAA Eligibility – Age (Bylaw 4-2)

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 limited exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions within Bylaw 4-2-2.

OHSAA Eligibility – Enrollment & Attendance (Bylaw 4-3)

After establishing seventh-grade eligibility, you are permitted only four (4) semesters of athletic eligibility at the 7th & 8th grade level. The semesters are taken in order of attendance once seventh-grade eligibility has been established. Semesters are counted toward eligibility whether you participate in interscholastic athletics or not. There are exceptions to this regulation, so please arrange a meeting with your principal or athletic administrator to review these exceptions.

Furthermore, students are only permitted to participate in sports at the school where they are enrolled and attending fulltime (Bylaw 4-3-1). State law permits certain classifications of non-enrolled students (home educated, non-public, community school, STEM students) to have participation opportunities at the public high school that the student would be entitled to attend under the tuition statute, (i.e., the 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. If you are participating via this legislation, note that the language says you shall be given the "same opportunities" to participate – not greater opportunities — and that you must meet the same eligibility requirements as other students. For more information on participation opportunities for non-enrolled students, go to the Eligibility section of the OHSAA website (<https://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Enrollment>).



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

OHSAA Eligibility – Scholarship (Bylaw 4-4)

In order to maintain eligibility for grades 7 and 8, you must be currently enrolled in a member school or be participating in accordance with state law, and you must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes in the immediately preceding grading period.

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.

Your semester or yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility (although they could, depending upon your school's official grading periods). OHSAA eligibility is dependent upon grades received in the immediately preceding grading period.

In order to be eligible for the first grading period upon entrance into grade 9, you must have received passing grades in a minimum of four (4) classes in the immediately preceding grading period.

OHSAA Eligibility – Conduct, Character & Discipline (Bylaw 4-5)

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 OHSAA office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics. Further, any student who is subject to a penalty or consequences for violations of a school's Board adopted Code of Conduct (Student, Athletic) shall be declared ineligible in the event the student transfers to another school before the penalty or consequence has been fully served.

OHSAA Eligibility – Residency (Bylaw 4-6)

If your parent(s) or legal guardian live outside of Ohio, you will be ineligible unless one of the exceptions to the residency bylaw is met. The exceptions for out-of-state residency are found within Bylaw 4-6.

OHSAA Eligibility – Transfers (Bylaw 4-7)

The transfer bylaw is not applicable for seventh and eighth grade students. However, after completing eighth grade and/or establishing ninth-grade eligibility, a transfer to a different high school will mean you may lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics at your new school for a period of time. For the specifics on the period of ineligibility, visit www.ohsaa.org.

OHSAA Eligibility – International & Exchange Students (Bylaw 4-8)

If you are an International Student, you are ineligible unless you live in Ohio with your parent(s) or unless you meet one of the exceptions to the International & Exchange student bylaw (Bylaw 4-8). Please schedule a meeting with your school administrator to discuss the different exceptions.

OHSAA Eligibility – Recruiting (Bylaw 4-9)

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



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OHSAA Eligibility – Amateurism/Awards (Bylaw 4-10/Bylaw 5)

You may receive awards valued at \$500 or less from any source as a result from participation in any sport in which you are an interscholastic athlete, per event, as long as the award is not money/cash. Additionally, you will lose your amateur status in a sport and forfeit your eligibility if you:

- Compete for money or other compensation.
- Promote products on a social media account using the notoriety you receive from being an athlete in exchange for money, merchandise or services of value. (i.e. NO NIL DEALS)
- Receive money, merchandise or services of value based in whole, or in part, on the notoriety you receive from being an athlete.
- Sign a contract or make a commitment to play professional athletics.
- Receive services, merchandise or any form of financial assistance from a professional sports organization.
- Compete with a professional athletics team even if no pay is received.

Expenses for travel, meals and lodging may be accepted provided they are available to all participants and they are not contingent upon your team's and/or your finish. A form is available at www.ohsaa.org to maintain amateur status and must be submitted to the OHSAA.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Open Gyms/Facilities

School officials may designate open gyms/facilities, the sport to be played, the grade levels involved and may also limit participants to those from your school. You may participate in open gyms/facilities, but remember:

- No one from the respective school may be excluded from participating;
- No one shall be required to attend;
- No school officials may invite selected students or determine the teams;
- No school officials may transport students to or from either school or non-school facilities;
- No coaching or instruction may be provided.

The OHSAA may impose penalties against you, your school and/or your coach for violating these regulations.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Instruction

There are restrictions on the instruction a student-athlete can receive from school coaches outside of the season. Some of these regulations are also different for team sports vs. individual sports. Before receiving instruction outside the season from school coaches, visit <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf> and review General Sports Regulation 7 to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- Besides during the season of your sport, school coaches may also provide team instruction between May 15 and July 31 for a total of 13 days. This would include such activities as volleyball, field hockey, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse, baseball or softball teams competing in tournaments or 'shootouts,' football teams participating in 7-on-7's, or coaches conducting or taking teams to instructional camps from May 15-July 31 only.
- Between August 1 and May 14 and outside defined "no contact periods," school coaches may also provide individual instruction outside the season of play. There are restrictions for team sports, so review the OHSAA's Individual Skill Instruction regulations to ensure all standards are being followed.
- Individual skill instruction from non-school coaches may be received in any sport by a squad member at any time in individual or group lessons *provided* that these individual skill instructions do not violate any Board of Education, school administrators' or coaches' policies.
- It is a violation if a coach suggests a student-athlete's participation in instructional programs is mandatory outside the school season.



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Doug Ute, Executive Director

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Non-School Teams

If you compete on a non-school team or in non-school competition as an individual in the same sport during your school team's season (example: non-school soccer during the school's soccer season), you may lose eligibility. There are also certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after your school season. Before participating with a non-school team, visit <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf> and review General Sports Regulation 7 to ensure all regulations are being followed. Some other key notes on these regulations:

- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on or with a non-school squad in the same sport during the school's interscholastic season once you become a member of the school team. **This would include college teams and/or college tryouts.**
- In the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling, however, you may practice and try out for a non-school team but **may not compete in a contest during your school season.**
- A member of an interscholastic squad in a team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) may try out, practice and compete on non-school teams before and after the school season from August 1 to May 14 (there are exceptions for baseball and softball) provided:

The OHSAA's non-interscholastic team limitation is maintained, meaning the number of students from the same school team on the roster of the non-school team is limited to seven (7) students in the sport of football; six (6) students in the sports of baseball, field hockey, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, soccer, and softball; five (5) students in the sport of ice hockey; and three (3) students in the sports of basketball and volleyball. **All football activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment permitted are helmets and cleats.** Note: Seniors are exempt from these limitations after the conclusion of their sport season.

- There is no limit on the number of students from the same school team that may participate on the same non-interscholastic team from May 15 to July 31 provided that non-interscholastic team is being coached by a non-school coach.

Check the OHSAA Sport-by-Sport Regulations (available at www.ohsaa.org) for the date you must cease participation on non-school teams in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition, along with penalties for non-compliance with this date.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Preparticipation Evaluation & Consent Forms

Before the student's first practice (or prior to the student's first participation should he/she join the team after the season has started), each student must have had a physical examination within the past year and an examination form signed by a medical examiner must be on file at your school. Physical examinations are valid for participation for 13 months from the date of the exam except for those that take place from May 1-June 1. Those exams are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring sports season.

In addition, no student will be eligible unless that student and his or her parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form, the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement, the Concussion Form and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, all of which must be on file at your school.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs & Steroids

The OHSAA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at the site of any interscholastic contests. Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in you being disqualified from contests and likely facing additional school and legal penalties. There are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance. If you use anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs of which the OHSAA is aware, you are ineligible for interscholastic competition until medical evidence indicates that your system is free of these drugs.

Another prominent issue is the use of supplements. The increased availability of these items allows student-athletes access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed in fitness and strength training magazines and websites. Often their marketing campaigns include promises, endorsed by faulty research claims, of extra-ordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains. It is important for coaches, athletic administrators and parents to educate themselves about what substances your student-athletes may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.

OHSAA Sport Regulation –



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Concussion & Sudden Cardiac Arrest Management

It is everyone's responsibility to take the necessary pre-cautions to reduce the likelihood of brain injuries and sudden cardiac arrest.

In Ohio, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play that same day. Thereafter, the student shall not return to practice or competition until cleared with written authorization from a physician or health care provider approved by the local board in accordance with state law.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death among student-athletes, and dizziness, loss of breath and a racing heart are often symptoms that are overlooked. In many cases, recognizing the signs of cardiac trouble means student-athletes can continue their athletic participation.

Each school is required to review both its concussion and sudden cardiac arrest management protocols with students and their parents; each student and his or her parents must review and sign both the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" and a "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation, and parents and students are highly encouraged to review short video presentations on both concussions and sudden cardiac arrest. Check with your school administrators on where to find these videos.

OHSAA Sport Regulation – Sporting Behavior

The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, teachers, coaches, students, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the values of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.

As a student-athlete, you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect, and ensure your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.

The OHSAA has established a policy for students ejected for unsporting behavior or flagrant fouls. If you are ejected:

- You will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and you will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until **two** regular season contests are played at the same level as the ejection (one contest in football).
- If you are ejected for **fighting** you will be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day, and you will be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until **FOUR** regular season contests are played at the same level as the ejection (two contests in football).

If you are ejected a second time in a season, you are subject to additional, more stringent penalties, including suspension from play for the remainder of the season in that sport.

As a participant in school sports, you are expected to act with dignity, speak with courtesy and play with pride. In short, Respect the Game!

See Eligibility Checklist on Page 6...



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

OHSAA Eligibility Checklist

For 7/8 Grade Students Enrolled and/or Participating at an OHSAA Member School

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 permitted only four semesters of eligibility taken in order of attendance, 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 in a sport in which I compete interscholastically valued at greater than \$500/item/source.
- ☐ I was either 1) born in the United States, 2) born outside the United States but am living here with a parent, or 3) 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.
- ☐ 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 year 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 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 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

Date

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

Revised May 2024



Many student scholarship appeals that come to the OHSAA office place **sole responsibility on you**, the school counselor, **for their failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws** found in 4-4. The OHSAA recognizes that this notion is fundamentally flawed and incorrect and emphasizes that our 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 resource to help inform you of the crucial information that you need to know in order to best advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. Incoming 9th graders **MUST** earn passing grades in a minimum of **four courses in their final grading period of grade 8** in order to be eligible, with regard to scholarship, during their first grading period of 9th grade.
2. Thereafter, all high school students **MUST** earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
3. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** each grading period.
4. 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?
5. 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>
6. Physical Education Courses do count towards athletic eligibility but will **NEVER** count as a full credit course. It usually counts as only 1/4 or 1/2 credit. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
7. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
8. 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** during the immediately preceding grading period to have continuing eligibility.
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.

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.

FORMULA: CREDIT VALUE x FACTOR = EQUIVELANCY

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 9-12

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 x 1 = 1
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 2 = 1
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	1/2 x 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 x 1 = 1
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
History	B	1 - all year	1	1 x 1 = 1
P.E.	B	1/4 - semester	2	1/4 x 2 = 1/2
Keyboarding	C	1/4 - 4th 9 weeks	4	1/4 x 4 = 1
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Option – College Credit Plus

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.**

For the 2023-24 school year, the OHSAA membership made changes to how "sprint" and/or "A/B" courses can be counted. A student enrolled in a College Credit Plus (CCP) course or courses which credit hours would have counted towards the satisfaction of this Bylaw BUT FOR the fact that the actual course work did not commence in the grading period in question (but within the same semester), can nonetheless have the course credit/credits count towards satisfaction of this requirement PROVIDED the student was enrolled in the CCP course at the beginning of the semester in question. Likewise, if the CCP course work is successfully completed within the semester of the high school's calendar but before the high school's calendar's next grading period within the same semester starts, the CCP credits can count towards satisfaction of this requirement. **A student who is engaged in a CCP course has an added responsibility to immediately notify the school for which they participate when any changes with their enrollment status within the CCP course occurs, and it is the school's obligation to confirm the schedule change upon receipt of notification.**

Examples of CCP options:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period (College on SEMESTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
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.

The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period (College on QUARTERS)

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 4 = 4$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 4 = 4$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$.67 \times 4 = 2.68$
Total Credits			10.68 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 4 is used for post-secondary institutions that are using quarters as long as the class is completed during one quarter.

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



Competitive Balance 101 – High School Only

Last Updated 7-17-2024

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 FinalForms, 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 FinalForms 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.

Rostering Reminders

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).

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 2021-22 school year will be used in the 2022-23 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 odd-numbered year and utilized for a two-year period beginning with the next odd-numbered year (e.g. collected in fall 2021; utilized for both the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years).

Roster Submission Deadlines*

• FALL SPORTS •

(Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball)

Monday, Oct. 7, 2024 - Friday, Dec. 13, 2024

• WINTER SPORTS •

(Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball)

Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 – Friday, Apr. 4, 2025

• SPRING SPORTS •

(Baseball, Softball)

Monday, April 28, 2025 – Friday, June 6, 2025

* 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:

<https://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources/Competitive-Balance-Resource-Center>

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:

Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) &

Ronald Sayers (rsayer@ohsaa.org)

Technical Questions on Using FinalForms for Rostering:

Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org),

Alexis Holderman (aholderman@ohsaa.org), &

FinalForms (support@finalforms.com)

2024-25 OHSAA Team Sport Tournament Calendars

As of July 10

Dates are subject to change

Football

Regional First Round	Friday, November 1
Regional Quarterfinals	Friday, November 8
Regional Semifinals	Friday, November 15
Regional Finals	Friday, November 22
State Semifinals	Friday, November 29
State Finals	Thursday-Saturday, December 5-7

Soccer

Sectionals (DIII-V)	Monday-Saturday, October 14-19
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, October 21-26
Regionals	Tuesday-Sunday, October 29-November 3
State Semifinals	Tuesday-Wednesday, November 5-6
State Finals	Friday-Monday, November 8-11

Volleyball (G)

Sectionals (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, October 14-19
Districts (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, October 21-26
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, October 21-26
Regionals	Monday-Saturday, October 28-November 2
State Semifinals	Thursday-Friday, November 7-8
State Finals	Friday-Saturday, November 8-9

Basketball (G)

Sectionals (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, February 10-15
Districts (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, February 17-22
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, February 17-22
Regionals	Monday-Sunday, February 24-March 2
State Semifinals	Thursday-Sunday, March 7-9
State Finals	Friday-Saturday, March 14-15

Basketball (B)

Sectionals (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, February 17-22
Districts (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, February 24-March 1
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, February 24-March 1
Regionals	Monday-Sunday, March 3-9
State Semifinals	Thursday-Sunday, March 14-16
State Finals	Friday-Saturday, March 21-22

Softball

Sectionals (DIII-VII)	Saturday-Saturday, May 10-17
Districts (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, May 19-24
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, May 19-24
Regionals	Wednesday-Saturday, May 28-31
State Semifinals	Thursday-Friday, June 5-6
State Finals	Friday-Saturday, June 6-7

Baseball

Sectionals (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, May 19-24
Districts (DIII-VII)	Monday-Saturday, May 26-31
Districts (DI-II)	Monday-Saturday, May 26-31
Regionals	Wednesday-Thursday, June 4-5
State Semifinals	Friday-Saturday, June 13-14
State Finals	Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15





OHSAA Fall Checklist - High School

2024-25 School Year

Sports Offered (2024-25) - myOHSAA

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

Tournament Entry (2024-25) - myOHSAA

- ☐ Tournament Entry is accurately set for all OHSAA Tournaments

Staff Management - myOHSAA & FinalForms

- ☐ Is the sync in FinalForms turned on (optional)
- ☐ Ensure staff members are listed within FinalForms
- ☐ All staff members pushing through or are listed appropriately within myOHSAA

View State Rules Meeting Attendance - myOHSAA

- ☐ There are NO "red flagged" fall sports which indicates my school has NOT received credit for the required state rules meetings
NOTE: After the fall season, state rules meetings for coaches intend to be available through FinalForms

Pre-Season Parent Meeting - myOHSAA

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

My School - myOHSAA & FinalForms

- ☐ Ensure school information is updated within FinalForms

My District - myOHSAA & FinalForms

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

My Facilities - myOHSAA

- ☐ The address and seating capacities 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 - myOHSAA

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



OHSAA Fall Checklist - 7th & 8th Grade 2024-25 School Year

Sports Offered (2024-25) - myOHSAA

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

Staff Management - myOHSAA & FinalForms

- ☐ Is the sync in FinalForms turned on (optional)
- ☐ Ensure staff members are listed within FinalForms
- ☐ All staff members pushing through or are listed appropriately within myOHSAA

Pre-Season Parent Meeting - myOHSAA

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

My School - myOHSAA & FinalForms

- ☐ Ensure school information is updated within FinalForms

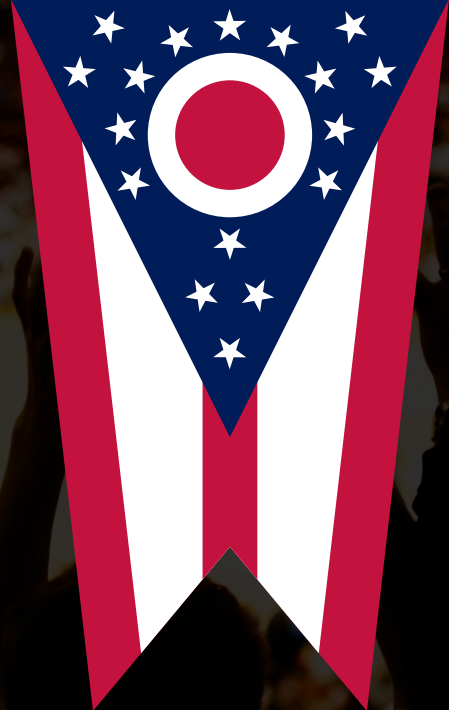
My District - myOHSAA & FinalForms

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

My Facilities - myOHSAA

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

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***HAVE QUESTIONS
OR NEED SUPPORT?***

***SCAN QR CODE FOR QUICK LINKS
OR VISIT [DRAGONFLYMAX.COM/OHSAA](https://dragonflymax.com/OHSAA)***



Your Guide to digital ticketing for OHSAA Tournament Events



Attending OHSAA Tournament Contests

To attend an OHSAA Tournament Tickets can be purchased from <https://www.ohsaa.org/tickets> or on the HomeTown Ticketing Fan App.

When your School is competing, you can redeem complimentary tickets to the games or contests. These tickets are for School Administrators, or to be used at your discretion. These tickets are made available so that you can support your Student-Athletes, but also to assist with managing fans.

To redeem the tickets, you will use a unique code that is provided to the Athletic Director at the beginning of each Tournament Season (Fall, Winter, and Spring). To use the code, you will go to the specific event, and look for "Have a Passcode?"—when that is clicked, a box will appear where the code can be entered and when done, a new "School Comp" ticket option will become available.

*Scan the QR Codes with your smartphone's camera app to pull up the HomeTown Ticketing **Fan App***



Easily buy and store your digital tickets
to school events.

Hosting OHSAA Tournament Contests

When your School is hosting an event, you will need to use the HomeTown Ticketing **Gate App** to scan or sell tickets. It is required that you scan tickets, and if you anticipate any issues, reach out to tickets@ohsaa.org.

All the information needed to successfully utilize HomeTown Ticketing for events will be sent out in the week before the contest. This includes the specific log-in code for your School/Venue and basic instructions that can be passed along to gate workers or whoever is scanning tickets.

If you have credit card readers that are compatible with the HomeTown Ticketing software, then you can also have the option to sell tickets at the gate for the convenience of your fans if you choose. Information on how to register this will be provided nearer to the start of the Tournament Season.

*Scan the QR Codes with your smartphone's camera app to pull up the HomeTown Ticketing **Gate App***



Scan digital or printed tickets from your
mobile device.

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

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).
 - A. **Fundamentals of Coaching** - One-time training through the [National Federation of State High School Associations](#) OR [Coaches' Tool Chest](#)
 - B. **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training** - Fulfill this requirement through a course approved by the school district.
 - C. **First Aid for Coaches** - Fulfill this requirement through **one of the four** categories of options outlined below:
 - i. [Ohio Department of Education-approved pupil activity program](#).
 - ii. **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/first-aid-health-and-safety>
 - iii. **College or university courses**: Courses must be completed within the past three years and be related to first aid or athletic training.
 - iv. **Medical licenses**: The licenses MD, DO, DC, PA, RN, EMT, ATC and SCS fulfill the first aid training requirement.
 - D. **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/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/welcome-to>. The online courses are each valid for three years. Other related resources are located on the ODE's web site.
 - E. **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/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): <https://safe.ode.state.oh.us/portal/>
 - F. **Mental Health Training** - Effective October 3, 2023, Ohio law requires all athletic coaches to complete a student mental health training course approved by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Any individual applying to renew their permit (or who held a permit and is applying for a different multi-year pupil activity permit, such as a 4-Year or 5-Year) on or after October 3, 2023, must submit a certificate of completion from an approved course list to the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness with their application. New athletic coaches have the duration of their permit to complete the training.

Please access the approved trainings through <https://mha.ohio.gov/supporting-providers/training-and-resources/mental-health-training-for-odes-coaching-permits>. Contact the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for questions regarding approved training programs.

- G. See the ODE's website for complete information.

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 MAILINGS to member schools are sent to the Athletic Directors attention. He/She should review/confirm receipt of the mailing and forward it to the appropriate coach.

There are three important mailings sent to member schools each year. The Fall Preseason Mailing (usually in June/July); The Winter Preseason Mailing (usually in September/October); and The Spring Preseason Mailing (usually in December/January). This mailing will contain your NFHS rule book for your sponsored sports and any other pertinent information as determined by the Director of Sport Management for that sport.

Please note: The OHSAA no longer sells any NFHS publication (rule books etc.). Should you need additional NFHS materials, please visit www.nfhs.com.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at ztaylor@ohsaa.org. I am here to serve the needs of our member schools.

Zachary Taylor
Production & Facilities Specialist
614-267-2502, ext. 102
ztaylor@ohsaa.org



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 REGULAR SEASON athletic events sponsored by member schools of the OHSAA. This year, there are two valid passes. One is in portrait orientation with a photo and one is in landscape orientation that requires a valid ID should the member school request one. Both passes are WHITE with the year **2024-2025** in **RED**. Samples below.

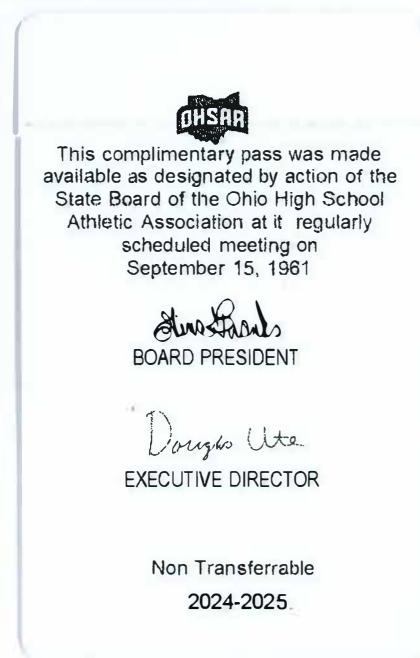
These two passes are the only passes issued by the State Office of the OHSAA.

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

FRONT



BACK



Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors Pass



2024-2025

SAMPLE

This Board Pass Admits Bearer and One Guest to
All REGULAR SEASON Athletic Events Sponsored by our Member Schools.
VALID ID REQUIRED

This complimentary pass was made available as designated
by action of the State Board of the Ohio High School Athletic
Association at its regular meeting on September 15, 1961.

Valid ID Required.
Non-Transferrable 2024-2025



Angie Selby
Board President

Doug Ute
Executive Director

OHSAA™