



2026 OHSA ATHLETIC DISCUSSION MEETING

Doug Ute

Executive
Director



Meeting Purpose

- Inform membership of important updates schools need to know in Spring 2026
 - Financial Updates
 - Divisional Expansion Update
 - Other Important Issues
- Explain 2026 Referendum Issues
 - One Constitution Article
 - 11 Bylaws
 - Three 7th & 8th Grade Issues; Eight High School Issues



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Welcome & Introductions

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

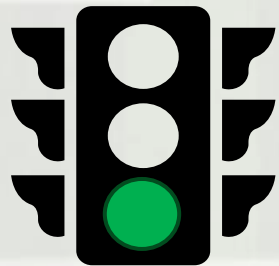
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Financial Update

Operate at a Profit

On Track



Budget
\$65K Profit

Maintain Reserves

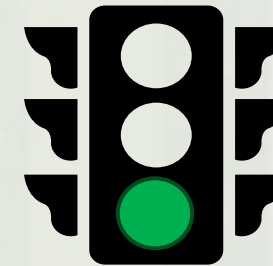
4.0 mos. Operating
5.3 mos. Reserves



Goal to maintain
9 months
cash on hand

Support Opportunities for Student Participation

Division Expansion
Athletic Donation to
Schools



Division Expansion
Athletic Enrichment
Fund to Schools

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Year to Date as of March 31, 2026

OHSAA Financials	Actual	Budget	Favorable/(Unfavorable)	
Fall Sports	\$2,234,506	\$1,064,132	\$1,170,374	110%
Winter Sports	\$1,580,500	\$1,441,769	\$138,731	10%
Spring Sports				
Tournament Net Profits	\$3,815,006	\$2,505,901	\$1,309,105	52%
Other Operating Revenues	\$2,235,261	\$2,132,500	\$102,761	5%
Other Operating Expenses	\$4,673,455	\$4,977,814	\$304,359	6%
Operating Profit	\$1,376,812	(\$339,413)	\$1,716,225	506%
Investments/Other	\$444,485	\$333,333	\$111,152	33%
Total Profit/(Loss)	\$1,821,297	(\$6,080)	\$1,827,377	> 1000%

Cash & Investments	Mar 31 2026	Mar 31 2025
Operating Cash	\$8,287,157	\$9,016,593
Invested Reserves	\$10,944,043	\$10,191,165
Total Cash & Investments	\$19,231,200	\$19,207,758
Total Months on Hand	9.3	9.5
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,218,873	\$3,141,500

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Athletic Enrichment Fund

- Fund was established in May 2023 with \$3 million initial investment
- Purpose: Provide a financial contribution to each member high school's athletic department to assist with costs of equipment, uniforms, game transportation, officials and improving student sportsmanship and adult fan behavior.
- Distributions to member schools = \$3,662,000
 - 2023 - \$1,250 per school = \$1,017,500
 - 2024 - \$2,000 per school = \$1,632,000
 - 2025 - \$1,250 per school = \$1,012,500
 - **2026 - TBD**
- Current balance \$2.2 million invested

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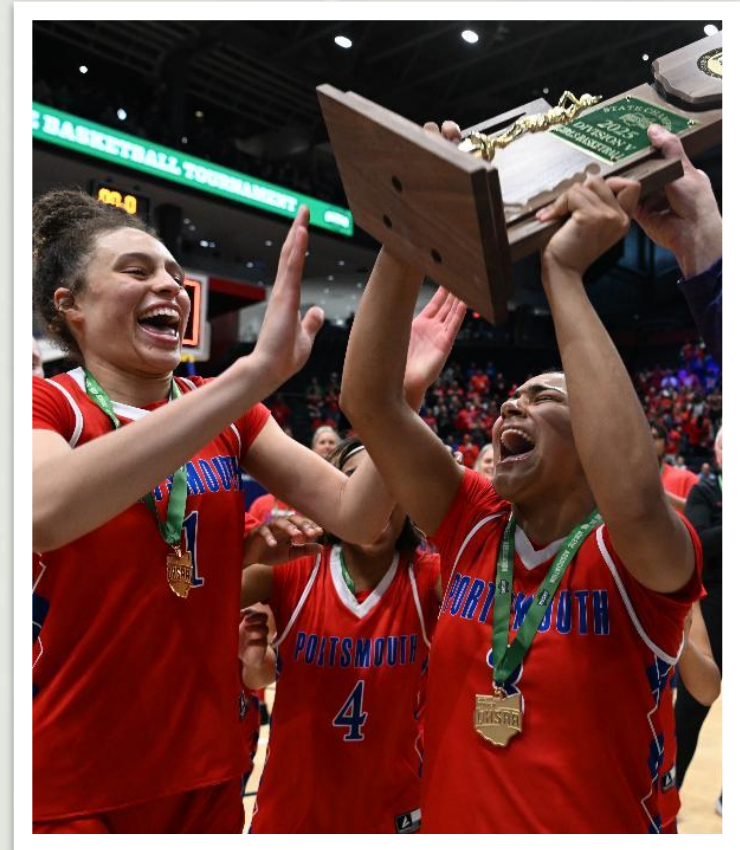
Executive Director Updates

❑ EMIS & Updated Divisional Assignments for 2026-27

- ❑ Final EMIS numbers & Classifications were approved by BOD during March special meeting in Dayton.
- ❑ Preliminary Fall Divisions available after **April 23rd, 2026**, BOD Meeting.
- ❑ Preliminary Winter Divisions available **late May**.
- ❑ Final Fall & Winter Divisions available after **June 11th, 2026**, BOD Meeting in Akron.*
- ❑ *Will not include consolidated numbers for multi-HS districts reducing their number of high schools. This will be completed in September 2026.

❑ Tournament Calendar Reminders

- ❑ Ensure your coaches are reviewing school calendars when placing themselves on tournament brackets. (Look for graduations, proms, concerts, testing, etc.)
- ❑ Accommodations are attempted to be made, when possible, but there are no guarantees.



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Executive Director Updates

Tournament Hosting

- Thank you to those that do host!

Sportsmanship by the Numbers

Player ejections:

- 2024-25: 1050
- 2025-26: 1041

Coach ejections:

- 2024-25: 155
- 2025-26: 205

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Executive Director Updates

Legislative Outlook

- HB 661 – Prohibit NIL
- HB 745 – Permit NIL
- HB 697 – Broadcasting Rights Regarding Athletic Contests
- HB 625 – Non-Enrolled Participation for Public School Students
 - No Superintendent Agreement as Written
- HB 634 – Removal of OHSAA Transfer Bylaw
- SB 311 – Modification of Ice Hockey Participation Opportunities for Multi-HS Dist.
- HB 437 – Cardiac Monitoring



Executive Director Updates

AED
GIVEAWAY!



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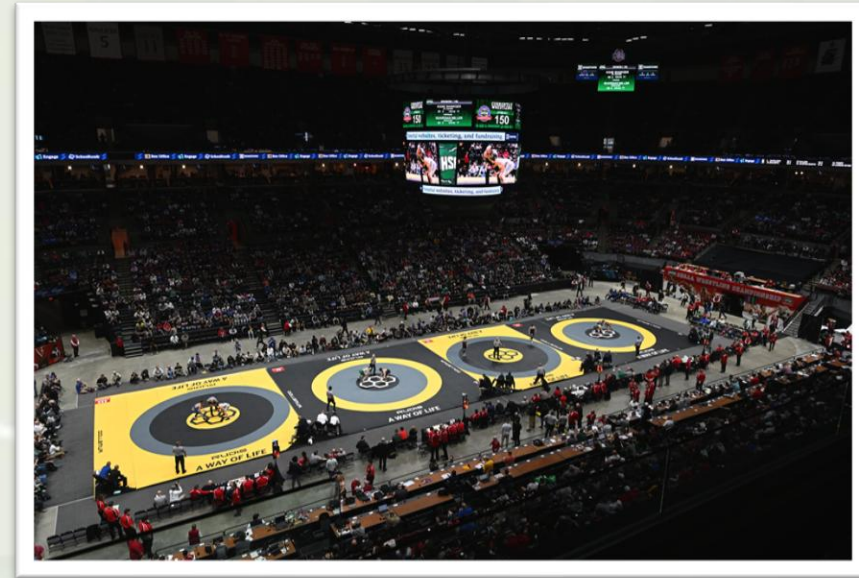
2026 Referendum Issues

**12 Total Issues:
1 Constitution Article, Three 7th & 8th Grade Issues
Eight High School Issues**

RONALD SAYERS

**DIRECTOR OF
ELIGIBILITY &
TECHNOLOGY**

Full Text



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DAB Voting Information

Constitution Article 7-4-2, District Athletic Board candidates who are running for one of the classification positions shall be elected by a vote of the principals of member high schools of their classification within their district. At large positions shall be elected by a vote of all member high schools within their athletic district or the principals of the member 7th and 8th grade schools.

The nominating petitions are open from April 1 to April 30. All verified petitions with at least six valid electronic signatures will be placed on the ballot as candidates for the district athletic board.

Central District

Class A representative
Ethnic Minority representative

East District

Class AA representative
(term 8/1/2026 to 7/31/2030)
Class AAA representative
Ethnic-minority representative
(term 8/1/2026 to 7/31/2031)
7th & 8th grade representative

Northeast District

Class A representative
(term 8/1/2026 to 7/31/2029)
Class AA representative
Female representative

Northwest District

Class AAA representative
Ethnic Minority representative

Southeast District

Class A representative
Class AA representative
(term 8/1/2026 to 7/31/2027)
7th & 8th grade representative

Southwest District

Class AA representative
Female representative

The logo for the District High School Athletic Association (DHSAA) is displayed in a bold, green, blocky font with a white outline.

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Referendum Process

- ❑ Changes to Constitution and Bylaws outlined in Constitution Article 8. Become effective by a majority vote.
- ❑ This year there are 12 issues, and all were approved by Board of Directors for inclusion on the ballot (none from petition option).
- ❑ Referendum Issues are developed in several ways:
 - ❑ Feedback by member schools. Compliance staff committed to making conscious effort to listen and follow through with vetting process for suggestions from member schools about bylaw referendum ideas
 - ❑ Proactive action to prevent legislative intervention
 - ❑ Trends noticed within Appeals Panel hearings
- ❑ All items, if approved, become effective August 1, 2026, unless otherwise specified.



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Referendum Logistics

Ballots

Will be available on May 1, 2026, via each member school principal's myOHSAA account. FinalForms and myOHSAA is currently unsynced until May 16, 2026.

7th & 8th Grade and High School Principals

Please complete the ballot no later than **Friday, May 15, 2026**, at 4:00 PM via the electronic protocol. Voting is optional but return of the ballot is required to avoid a penalty.

MAY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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Issue 1C

Modify Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

- ❑ Current Constitution Article 8 requires an emergency vote by the OHSAA member schools to reinstate language that had been previously stricken by state law if that state law is later removed from the Ohio Revised Code.
- ❑ The proposed modification would allow the OHSAA Board of Directors to simply reinstate a bylaw or constitutional provision that was previously removed to comply with state law, if that law is later repealed. This would allow the language to take effect immediately ***as it was last approved by the member schools.***
- ❑ This previously occurred in September 2021 when a state law that had eliminated several transfer bylaws/exceptions was repealed.

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7th & 8th Grade Issues 1B & 2B

Modifications to Age and Semesters Bylaws Exceptions

- The proposed modifications would change the current language of Bylaw 4-2-2 Exceptions 1 & 2 and the Exception to Bylaw 4-3-4 that states a student must have ***no impact*** on the outcome of the contest to qualify for the exception.
- The new language would permit the ED's Office to consider the exception when the student, instead, does not have a ***significant impact*** on the outcome of the contest.
- Example:** A student who is in the rotation of their school's basketball team but is not a major contributor.
- All other requirements (Students with a disability; retained in grade 3) remain unchanged.

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7th & 8th Grade Issue 3B

Modification to Scholarship Bylaw Hardship Exception

- The proposed modification would remove the requirement that a student **must be withdrawn or removed from school** during the immediately preceding grading period for the exception to apply.
- Family and school would be required to provide documentation showing that the hardship was occurring at the time the student failed to pass 4 classes.
- Example:** Student's immediate family member had cancer during the previous grading period, but the student was not removed or withdrawn from school.

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High School Issue 1B

Modification of Bylaw 4-1-4, Member of Interscholastic Team

- ❑ The proposed language would clarify that a school is considered to have “sponsored a sport” once the team in that sport participates in a ***regular-season contest***.
- ❑ This modification would primarily assist with determinations that must be made when students are provided participation opportunities through Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 6 (state law) and Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8 (if approved).
 - ❑ Additionally, the modification codifies an interpretation that was previously only outlined within FAQs on ohsaa.org.

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High School Issue 2B

New Exception: Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8, Non-Enrolled Participation

Current Participation Opportunities Afforded to Students

Home educated student

1. Residential school
2. Non-residential school, subject to Supt approval
3. Private school, subject to partial enrollment requirements

Non-public school student

1. School of attendance
2. Residential school
3. School in which private school is physically located, subject to Supt approval

Community school student

1. School of attendance
2. Residential school

Public school student

1. School of attendance
- **Ice Hockey Athletes:
Different public school
within 20 miles, subject
to Supt agreement*

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High School Issue 2B

New Exception: Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8, Non-Enrolled Participation

History of Issue:

May 2022 Vote: 393 In Favor 406 Opposed 14 Abstained
**Closest Vote in OHSAA History*

May 2023 Vote: 374 In Favor 427 Opposed 13 Abstained

Summer 2025: State legislature includes language within state budget bill to permit public school students who participate in the sport of Ice Hockey to participate at a different public school within 20 miles if their district does not offer the sport.

December 2025: State legislators introduce HB 625, Student Athlete Mobility Act. If passed, would *require* public schools to adopt a policy to permit student enrolled at a neighboring public school to participate in their team sports if that neighboring district does not offer the sport.

On Going: Continued discussions with member school administrators regarding possible participation opportunities



High School Issue 2B

New Exception: Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8, Non-Enrolled Participation

New Proposal:

- ❑ Would allow students at an OHSAA Member Public School that does not sponsor a particular team sport to participate at another OHSAA member public school if:
 1. The other school is within 20 miles (using the most direct route).
 2. The superintendents of both schools approve the arrangement.

- ❑ If the student is enrolled within a multi-HS district and their school does not offer a specific sport, they must be assigned to another member school within the same district. Assignment must abide by the OHSAA Business Rules for Non-Enrolled Participation in a Multi-HS District. These students may only participate elsewhere if no schools in the district offer the sport.

- ❑ Team Sports Include: Baseball, basketball, bowling, field hockey, football, ice hockey*, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball.

- ❑ Competitive Balance: Students living outside of the district in which they are participating will be Tier 2; Students living inside the district in which they are participating will be Tier 1.

High School Issue 2B

New Exception: Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 8, Non-Enrolled Participation

Support We've Heard:

- Closes the participation opportunity gaps for public school students.
- Would provide opportunities for students in multi-
HS district to participate in sports they may not be able to offer at individual high schools.
- Superintendents remaining as the decision makers is key in any type of proposal like this as to avoid displacement and harming participation in other sports.

Concerns We've Heard:

- May displace athletes who are enrolled in and fund the school.
- Could be abused to create powerhouse teams.
- Administrative management (grades, daily attendance, etc.)
 - Note: You do already do this with private school students. But volume could be different and a consideration.
- Seismic shift in previous philosophies surrounding education based athletics.

What say you?

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High School Issue 3B

Modification to Scholarship Hardship Exception

- ❑ The proposed modification would remove the requirement that a student ***must be withdrawn or removed from school*** during the immediately preceding grading period for the exception to apply.
- ❑ Family and school would be required to provide documentation showing that the hardship was occurring at the time the student failed to pass 5 credits.
- ❑ **Example:** Student's immediate family member had cancer during the previous grading period, but the student was not removed or withdrawn from school.

High School Issue 4B

Modification to Residency Exceptions 4 & 6

- ❑ Bylaw 4-6-2 requires a student to have at least one parent residing in the state of Ohio in order to have *any* participation opportunity with a member school.
- ❑ A modification to **Exception 6** was approved last year that adjusted the requirement for **high school participation** for students enrolled in a parochial school from continuous enrollment starting in the 4th grade to continuous enrollment starting the the **6th grade**.
- ❑ The new proposed modification to **Exception 4** would mirror these adjustments for students enrolled in a public school district, changing the requirement for **high school participation** from continuous enrollment at the start of 1st grade to continuous enrollment at the start of **6th grade**.

EXAMPLE

Parents live in West Virginia.

Student attends member public school in grades K-8, currently eligible at OHSAA HS.

Student attends member public school in grades 6-8, currently ineligible at OHSAA HS.

Under proposed modification, second student will be eligible at OHSAA HS as long as enrollment starts and is maintained from 6th grade on.

High School Issue 4B

Modification to Residency Exceptions 4 & 6

- ❑ Additionally, the proposal would add language to both Exception 4 and Exception 6 regarding participation in 7th & 8th grade member schools governed by those districts/systems of education.
- ❑ A student whose parents reside outside the state of Ohio would be required to enroll, and continuously maintain that enrollment, at the start of 4th grade in order to be eligible for participation in 7th & 8th grade athletics with that district/system of education.

High School Issue 5B

New Note in Bylaw 4-7-2, Definition of Transfer

- ❑ The proposed note would exempt a student who changed their enrolled to a different school but returned to their previous school **without** participating in **any** sport(s) while enrolled at the other school.
- ❑ **Example:**
 - ❑ Student who was open-enrolled was denied continued open enrollment prior to the start of the school year so had to transfer to district of residence.
 - ❑ Family eventually moved into district and a student transferred back BEFORE playing sports at the other school.
 - ❑ Student was required to fulfill the transfer consequence upon their return EVEN THOUGH they never played sports anywhere else.

High School Issue 6B

Modification to Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, Bona Fide Change of Residence

- The proposal would provide a formal definition of what is considered to be a **bona fide** change of residence.
- A student's parent, in order to fully waive the transfer consequence, must fully relinquish any and all responsibility of their previous residence through:
 - Sale;
 - Lease to a non-family member;
 - Transfer to an LLC for business purposes; or
 - Fully terminating the lease
- Parents who transfer the home to an LLC must provide clear and convincing evidence that the prior residence is being utilized solely for business purposes and **not** for residential use.
- The language also provides the ED's Office latitude to further review cases that may not meet these requirements, **but any approval without meeting these requirements would not include OHSAA post season participation.**

High School Issue 7B

New Bylaw: 4-7-8, Superintendent's Memorandum of Understanding

- The proposed language mirrors ORC 3313.64 (F)(12).
- The language would allow a transfer student to have their eligibility fully restored if the **Superintendents or Heads of School** from both OHSAA member schools districts/systems enter in an MOU stating the transfer is necessary to **protect the student's physical or mental well-being or to address other extenuating circumstances**.
- Notes:
 - The student must be transferring from one district/system of education **to a different** district/system of education.
 - Intra-District/Intra-System transfers remained governed by Bylaw 4-7-4, 4-7-6, and 4-7-7.
 - This bylaw has no applicability in waiving Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer.
 - This bylaw can be utilized up to two (2) times during a student's high school career.
 - If approved, Bylaw 4-7-2 Exceptions 4 (*Self-Support*), 9 (*Discontinues Entire Interscholastic Athletics Program*), and 10 (*Death of Immediate Family Member*) will be stricken.

High School Issue 8B

Modifications and New Section to Bylaw 4-11, NIL

- ❑ The proposal adds clarifying language to Bylaws 4-11-2 (b), (d), and 4-11-3 to solidify consistent application of the NIL regulations.
- ❑ The proposal creates Bylaw 4-11-8, permitting a student to enter into an agreement with an athlete agent (as defined within ORC 4471.01) ***solely*** for marketing purposes.
 - ❑ Any agreements must be disclosed to the ED's Office within 14 days of execution.
 - ❑ Athlete agents must abide by requirements outlined within the Ohio Revised Code and must be registered through the Ohio Athletic Commission.

**If passed, effective May 16th, 2026.*

***If passed, strike Bylaw 4-10-2(f)*

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Note on NIL

- ❑ The ED's Office has only issued written warnings and education when violations of Bylaw 4-11 have occurred since the passage of the language earlier this year.
- ❑ Beginning **May 1st**, penalties for violations will begin to include appropriate/reasonable periods of ineligibility for the **student athletes** in question. Please ensure they receive the information outlined within the Pre-Season Parent Meeting slideshow.
- ❑ Schools and teams will only be penalized when there is clear evidence of the school (or one of its officials) knowingly violating Bylaw 4-11 and any of its sections.

QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
ATTENDANCE
TODAY!



Southwest District Athletic Board

Class A Representative-**Matt Macy**, Athletic Administrator, Arcanum High School

Class A Representative- **Andy Bixler**, Superintendent, Anna Local Schools

Class AA Representative- **Tom Nerl**, Athletic Director, Mariemont High School
(OHSAA Board of Directors Representative)

Class AA Representative- **Chuck Richardson III**, Athletic Administrator, Norwood High School

Class AAA Representative- **Tim Cook**, Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator, Western Brown HS

Class AAA Representative- **Scott Kaufman**, Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator, Lakota West HS

Ethnic Minority Representative- **Jonas L. Smith**, Athletic Administrator, Trotwood-Madison City Schools

Female Representative- **Ashley Naff**, Athletic Administrator, Covington Exempted Village Schools

7th and 8th Grade Rep.- **Paul Stone**, Athletic Administrator, Oakwood Junior High School

Treasurer- **Joe Roberts**

Secretary- **Phil Poggi**



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