



Ohio High School Athletic Association

September 17, 2021

TO: Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director
RE: Fall Tournament Reminders Re: COVID

With OHSAA fall tournaments quickly approaching, the following are updates and reminders on issues that are related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please share this update with other interested administrators and coaches on your staff.

Bylaw 3-1-1, Administrative Responsibility, and Tournament Participation Agreement

This is a reminder that Bylaw 3-1-1 says that each school's principal is responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics, including educating the school's students, coaches, school personnel, boosters and other appropriate persons involved in the program regarding OHSAA bylaws and sport regulations that could affect them. This would include the OHSAA Tournament Participation Agreement, which must be signed in order for schools to be eligible to participate in OHSAA tournaments, and, among several items, indicates that schools shall follow the orders and guidelines disseminated by the Governor's Office, Ohio Department of Health, local health department and/or adopted by the school. We thought it is important to remind our administrators of this since the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to impact our state.

Positive COVID Cases and Quarantines

As has been mentioned in the OHSAA Administrative Update that is sent to superintendents, principals and athletic administrators, administrators are asked to continue to work with your local health department when a positive COVID test is confirmed to ensure the proper individuals are notified. Facilitation of the appropriate quarantines and contact tracing also falls under the direction of the local health department and not the OHSAA.

Tournament Postponements and Cancellations

If you recall, last October we utilized Constitution Article 6-1-9 to make some immediate modifications to OHSAA General Sports Regulations that are related to tournament postponements and cancellations and, in particular, when a team or individuals are quarantined due to COVID-19. To summarize . . .

• Team Sports (field hockey, football, soccer, volleyball)

If a team is unable to participate (or a site is unable to host), the OHSAA Executive Director's Office and/or District Athletic Board, in collaboration with the participating schools, contest officials and tournament personnel, shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the competing school with rescheduling the contest provided:

- The rescheduled date does not adversely affect the next round of the tournament;
- The rescheduled contest shall be completed a minimum of 48 hours prior to the next round of the tournament*
*In the sport of football, the rescheduled contest shall occur on either Friday or Saturday (meaning a Friday contest may move to a Saturday and vice versa, irrespective of the state finals) due to the unique nature of football with the number one priority being the safety of the participants followed closely by fairness to a school's opponent and/or future opponent.;
- Both teams mutually agree to reschedule the contest, and
- Contest officials are available.

If a contest cannot be rescheduled for the school that has the quarantine issue, a "no contest" shall be declared and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of the competition.

• Individual Sports (Cross Country, Golf, Girls Tennis)

If individuals are unable to participate, the OHSAA Executive Director's Office in collaboration with the District Athletic Board for a sectional or district event, reserves the right to delay or reschedule a tournament competition when all factors related to the severity of the situation are considered and provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such competitions. If it is determined the event will not be delayed and/or rescheduled:

- Those unable to participate shall be removed from the event and the tournament shall proceed as scheduled.

Thank you for your attention to this information and for the work you are doing with our student-athletes!