OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214

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October 2026

To: Football Playoff Media Coordinators and Media Members
From: Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Communications, tstried@ohsaa.org
Re: Seating Assignments in Football Press Boxes

During the OHSAA football playoffs, the following priority is used when allocating seats in the press box. The athletic directors of the participating schools should be asked to identify which media covering their team fit into the following priority groups.

Credentials are not approved on a first-come, first-served basis. The scale below shall be used for requests received as of 3 p.m. on Tuesday and site managers shall notify media of their status. Credential requests received after 3 p.m. on Tuesday shall be considered only if space permits.

Seats must be allocated for working media before non-working persons. Seats in the press box shall not be assigned to spouses/children of school personnel before the priority scale below has been assigned. In addition, credentials shall not be given to recruiting or scouting services. College coaches must purchase a ticket and their placement shall be determined by the game manager.

- *Number of seats allocated for some categories below depends on press box size.*
- *Press box should be open 90 minutes before game and 60 minutes after the game. Media needing longer than 60 minutes should speak with the tournament manager for alternate locations or a time extension. A work area for photographers for use at halftime and postgame is encouraged.*

Top Priority (for requests received by 3 p.m. Tuesday)

1. **IF GAME SELECTED BY SPECTRUM:** 2 Seats (or more if possible) for OHSAA Official TV Partner
2. **IF GAME SELECTED BY NFHS:** 2 Seats for NFHS Network, OHSAA Official Streaming Partner
3. 2 Seats (or more if facility can accommodate): Primary broadcast designated by the home team
4. 2 Seats (or more if facility can accommodate): Primary broadcast designated by the visiting team
    a. Live video streaming is permitted for games not covered by Spectrum or NFHS, with payment of a rights fee to the OHSAA (see fees chart posted on the News & Media page at OHSAA.org.)
    b. Delayed video broadcasts are permitted for games not televised by Spectrum News 1. Broadcasts can begin when the game has concluded.
5. Primary newspaper of the home team (number of seats depends on press box size)
6. Primary newspaper of the visiting team (number of seats depends on press box size)
7. Ohio's major metro daily newspapers (number of seats depends on press box size. Newspapers include Akron Beacon Journal, Canton Repository, Cincinnati Enquirer, Cleveland Plain Dealer/Cleveland.com, Columbus Dispatch, Dayton Daily News, Toledo Blade and Warren Tribune-Chronicle)

Secondary Priority (depends on press box size)

1. Additional broadcasts that have followed one of the participating teams
2. Other newspapers that have followed one of the participating teams
3. Non-broadcast websites, specialty publications, etc. (higher priority if designated by a team)
4. Media that have covered events in that city or stadium
5. OHSAA state office representative or officials observer assigned by OHSAA
6. Radio station personnel covering the game to report score updates or provide reports

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