

This Week in Golf

May 22, 2020

Updates were sent to member school administrators on May 15 and May 21 and can be accessed below:

May 15: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20200515Update.pdf>

May 21: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/BulletinBoard/20200521AdministratorUpdate.pdf>

Important information from these memos pertaining to golf and other updates are below:

May 26- No-Contact Period will be Lifted

The no-contact period currently in place for school coaches will be lifted for golf coaches on May 26. You may begin working with your athletes at that time and can have unlimited contact as long as participation is not mandatory.

School Athletic Facilities

For anyone who didn't see the Governor's press conference yesterday, Lt. Governor Husted announced that the opening of school facilities is a decision to be made by individual school administrators. Although golf courses will typically be used for your instruction, please consult with your school administration if you are looking to use any school facilities as they can advise whether or not they are open for use.

May 20 Board of Directors Meeting-Approval of Golf Regulations

On Wednesday, the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting took place with Presidents of each Coaches Association permitted to attend. Several items to note from that meeting:

- All sport-specific regulations were approved.
- A few changes were made to the golf regulations which included:
- Eliminating the non-interscholastic rule for 7th-8th graders only. No waivers are needed for those students and they can participate in an unlimited number of non-interscholastic events during the season. No change has been made to the high school rule- 3 waivers are still permitted. The last date that non-interscholastic participation is permitted with an approved waiver is September 20.
- Clarified that no team or individual may play in more than 2 contests per day.
- The start date for practice in 2021 will be Monday, August 2 and you will be permitted to begin competition on Thursday, August 5.

Out of State Travel Bylaw Adjustment

The Out of State Travel Bylaw has been adjusted. You can continue to travel to contiguous states with no limitation. The adjustment was made when traveling to non-contiguous states. It is still a one-time permission per season but previously, you were not permitted to miss school time for travel or competition. This stipulation has been removed and it is now a school decision on whether you may miss school time.

Governor's Golf Operator Guidance

The Governor's Office released guidance for golf course operators to use. Although this is not our guidance and we have no authority to oversee or enforce these regulations, I wanted to share the document:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Golf-Course-Operator.pdf>

Looking Ahead

No decisions have been made on the fall seasons, but we are planning and preparing for many different scenarios and remain hopeful that we will safely be able to conduct sport seasons at that time. With so many unknowns, we may not have answers for some time, but any updates will be communicated directly to school administrators and coaches.