Ohio High School Athletic Association
2021-22

Gymnastics Coaches and Officials Manual
MESSAGE FROM THE OHSAA

Coaches and Administrators,

This manual is designed as a quick reference for pertinent information regarding gymnastics in the OHSAA. All schools sponsoring gymnastics and registered officials should have received a copy of USA Gymnastics Developmental Program Code of Points for Women’s Artistic Gymnastics 2018-2022 prior to the 2018 season. This publication will be referenced throughout the 2022 season. Should you need a replacement or additional copy, it will be a $60.00 fee. If you are a newly registered official or a school that was not registered last school year, you will be supplied a Code by our officiating/production department.

This is a reminder that our State Rules Meetings remain mandatory for head coaches, which can be accessed on your myOHSAA profile. This is addressed in the early pages of this manual. OHSAA Sports Regulations (and Bylaws) govern administrative rules specific to Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules.

USA Gymnastics Developmental Program Rules with modifications are to be used for girls gymnastics competition in Ohio. No coach, administrator, or official has the authority to modify or set aside these rules. Please take the time to review the materials provided.

Thank you for your professionalism, mentorship, and service to the student-student-athletes at your schools. I wish you all the best this season!

Kate Barnett
Sport Administrator
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### FOR COACHES AND OFFICIALS

*Reminder: The USAG Developmental Program Code of Points – 2018-2022 1st Edition* was sent to all high school head coaches and OHSAA registered officials three years ago. *This publication should have been retained as we will use it through 2022. Replacement cost is $60.00.*

*The current 2021-21 Rules and Policies document is available to download from USA Gymnastics.*

[https://usagym.org/womens/jotechnicalupdates](https://usagym.org/womens/jotechnicalupdates)
The Ohio High School Athletic Association's mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student's educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

**RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS**

**2021 GYMNASTICS RULES INTERPRETATION MEETINGS**

**Rules Interpretation Meetings are MANDATORY for all Head Coaches.** For the 2021-2022 Gymnastics season, all rules interpretation meetings for coaches will be conducted online through their MyOHSAA account. The rules meetings are geared exclusively toward both coaches and officials, but in this sport, we combine the meeting for coaches and officials into one presentation.

OHSAA Gymnastics Sports Regulations are covered in detail as well as General Regulations and Bylaws as they pertain to coaches and student-student-athletes. Though the main purpose is to provide knowledge and advice on the various OHSAA regulations, this is the educational mechanism to ensure compliance with the various rules and regulations.

**How to Complete the Rules Interpretation Meeting Online**

All Coaches and Officials will access the State Rules Meeting through their MyOHSAA account. Once you have logged in (full directions below) and have accessed the Rules Meeting, please follow the prompts to complete the meeting to receive meeting credit.

**Coaches** should login to their MyOHSAA account and use the Rules Meeting icon to access the list of meetings. Coaches should contact their athletic administrator if they do not have an account*. Please see further directions below if you are a coach and do not have a myOHSAA account. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed for attendance credit to be provided.

**Officials** should login to their MyOHSAA account and use the Rules Meeting icon to access the list of meetings. Please note that all screens of the presentation must be viewed for attendance credit to be provided.

**TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETINGS**
1. Login to your MyOHSAA account (http://officials.myohsaa.org/Logon)
2. Click on the “Rules Meeting” icon
3. Click on “Find a State Rules Meeting”
4. Search for the Gymnastics meeting using the ‘Sports’ and ‘Meeting Type’ drop-down menus
5. Click on the ‘View Meeting’ button once the State Rules Meeting has gone live—**October 13, 2021**
6. Once directed to the Rules Meeting, please follow all prompts to complete the meeting and receive credit.

*IF YOU ARE A COACH AND DO NOT HAVE A MyOHSAA ACCOUNT*
1. Contact your Athletic Administrator immediately to add you to the school’s staff list.
2. This will generate an email invitation from info@myohsaa.org to the coach—please look for this email in your inbox, junk or spam folders
3. Once the email is received, click on the link in the email and follow the prompts to create an account and clear any dashboard items. (verify email address and complete your contact information)

The OHSAA strongly recommends the use of a desktop or laptop computer to complete the rules meeting. The use of a tablet or mobile device may not correctly record meeting credit.
The ONLINE Rules Meeting link will be live on **October 13, 2021.**

The deadline for completion of the online version is **December 6, 2021 at 11:59 pm** or a $50.00 late fee is charged for access to the Rules Meeting. The deadline with the $50.00 penalty will be **January 31, 2022 at 11:59 pm.** If coaches do not complete the rules meeting by **THE REQUIRED DEADLINE,** your school will be removed from the post-season tournament in 2022, and officials will be ineligible for the 2022 State Tournament Series.

**AFTER COMPLETION:**

1. Your MyOHSAA profile will be updated to reflect your attendance.
2. Please do not call the OHSAA office for verification. Attendance WILL be reflected in your profile.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE RULES INTERPRETER</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lori Powers-Basinger</td>
<td>614-406-1537</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loripb7957@gmail.com">loripb7957@gmail.com</a></td>
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**IMPORTANT DATES**

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<tr>
<th>2021-2022 OHSAA GYMNASTICS CALENDAR</th>
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<td>December 6, 2021</td>
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<td>January 17, 2022</td>
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<td>January 25, 2022</td>
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<td>February 14, 2022</td>
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<td>February 14-26, 2022</td>
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<td>March 4-5, 2022</td>
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**OHSAA CONTACT INFORMATION**

OHSAA Office – 4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214 – 614-267-2502

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Responsibilities</th>
<th>E-Mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kate Barnett</td>
<td>Sport Administrator</td>
<td>Oversees the sport &amp; coordinates the tournaments</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kbarnett@ohsaa.org">Kbarnett@ohsaa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beau Rugg</td>
<td>Senior Director of Sports and Officiating</td>
<td>Oversees officials’ programs &amp; tournament assignments</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brugg@ohsaa.org">brugg@ohsaa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Ronai</td>
<td>Director of Compliance</td>
<td>Assists with overseeing the sport &amp; coordinating the tournaments</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kronai@ohsaa.org">kronai@ohsaa.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Powers Basinger</td>
<td>Director of Development for Gymnastics Officiating and State Rules Interpreter</td>
<td>Responsible for the training and development of interscholastic gymnastics officials; rules interpreter.</td>
<td><a href="mailto:loripb7957@gmail.com">loripb7957@gmail.com</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ohio High School Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association  
www.ohsgac.org

If you are a current head coach or assistant coach of an OHSAA sponsored school, you are eligible to join the Coaches Association. It is extremely important for you to be a member of the Coaches Association. Your membership benefits are:

- Your student-athletes can be recognized as All-District and All-State
- Your senior student-athletes can be recognized for Academic All-Ohio award
- You may nominate and vote for District Coach of the Year
- You may nominate and vote for District Team Sportsmanship Award
- You may select a member of your team to receive the Sportsmanship Award
- You may nominate and vote for State Coach of the Year & Assistant Coach of the Year
- You may nominate member coaches for the OHSAA S.E.I. Award
- You may nominate member coaches for the Service Award
- You are eligible to win any of these awards

Your membership fees provide funds for the above awards plus the Service Awards, website fees, and coaches hospitality at the State Tournament.

Please understand that if you are not a member of the Coaches Association, you and your student-athletes are not eligible for any of the above awards from the Coaches Association.

Membership Fees:
$20 per school if paid by the close of the OHSAA Online Rules Interpretation meeting.
$5 for each assistant coach.
$10 for a school with two or fewer gymnasts.
$30 After the first day of practice set by OHSAA and $10 for each assistant coach.
(Note: one vote per person regardless of the number of teams coached, maximum 2 votes per school)

**********DEADLINE for membership is JANUARY 1. **********

To join go to www.ohsgac.org and click on the link to join the Coaches Association.
Ohio H.S. Gymnastics Coaches Association Awards  
Nominations due February 1

You must be a Coaches Association member for your athlete to receive these awards.  
Please email your nominations to your district representative

FOUR –YEAR SENIOR RECOGNITION
Coaches Association members may submit names of their seniors who have been active team members for four years. Email these to your District Rep who is in your sectional or district.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
Coaches Association members may submit the name of ONE athlete on their team who demonstrates the values of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity during the season. Email this name to your District Rep who is in your sectional or district.

DISTRICT TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
Coaches Association members may nominate a school for this award. Submit the name of the school to your District Rep.

SECTIONAL/DISTRICT COACH OF THE YEAR
Coaches Association members may nominate a Coaches Association member for this award. Submit the coach’s name, school, and a brief explanation for your nomination to your District Rep.

District Representatives:
West Geauga Sectional – Kasey Eichele kaseyeichele@yahoo.com
Brecksville Sectional – Barb Palmer bpalmer@massillonschools.org
Medina Sectional – Liz Wojtkun ewojtkun@gmail.com
Central District – Kristen Willms kwillms0124@gmail.com
Southwest District – Steve Conner conners@countryday.net
Northwest District – Traci Dunn josephdunn@sbcglobal.net

You must be a Coaches Association member for your student-athlete to receive these designated awards.  
Member coaches will receive an email asking for these nominations.  
Names of nominees must be received by Feb.1.

ACADEMIC ALL-OHIO
Coaches Association members may submit nominee names of their senior who have a minimum of a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale

Coach must confirm GPA with school (you do not need to send official school documentation). Names must be received by Feb.1 to appear in State Program.
STATE COACH OF THE YEAR
STATE ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Coaches Association members may nominate a Coaches Association member for this award. Provide the coach’s name, school, and a brief explanation for your nomination.

Go to: www.ohsgac.org and click on the link to join the Coaches Association.

You must be a Coaches Association member to nominate individuals for these awards.

Nominations due February 1
Member coaches will receive an email asking for these nominations.

OHSSAA SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICS, AND INTEGRITY AWARD
Current head coach who demonstrates the values of sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity in all of their professional responsibilities. Provide coach’s name and school and a brief explanation for your nomination.

SERVICE AWARD
Given to one person each year for a “lifetime” of service to High School gymnastics. May be a coach, judge, administrator, volunteer, or anyone who has contributed their time and effort to our sport. Along with their name, please provide their address and a brief explanation for your nomination.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP
Anyone who is not a current coach who may have gone above or beyond to help with High School gymnastics. The recipient does not have voting rights, but this is a way to express our gratitude for their contribution. Please provide their name, position, address, and a brief explanation for your nomination.

Go to: www.ohsgac.org and click on the link to join the Coaches Association.
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<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C/E/SE</td>
<td>Cindy Fushimi</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Worthington Kilbourne Head Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Gail Maundrell</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>(C) 513-309-1006</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gamaund@zoomtown.com">gamaund@zoomtown.com</a></td>
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<td>Turpin Head Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/E/SE</td>
<td>Shea Stammen</td>
<td>1st Vice President</td>
<td>(C) 614-264-8282</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shazy13@aol.com">shazy13@aol.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Westerville Central Head Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/E/SE</td>
<td>Carol Eskay</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>(C) 614-657-4327</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ceskay@icloud.com">ceskay@icloud.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Hilliard Davidson, Hilliard Darby, Hilliard Bradley H.S. Head Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>C/E/SE</td>
<td>Kristen Willms</td>
<td>District Representative</td>
<td>Dublin Coffman, Dublin Jerome, Dublin Scioto Head Coach</td>
<td>614-204-3399 <a href="mailto:kwillms0124@gmail.com">kwillms0124@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>C/E/SE</td>
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<td>District Assistant</td>
<td>Olentangy Berlin Head Coach</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Kasey Eichele</td>
<td>District Assistant</td>
<td>Chardon Head Coach</td>
<td>440-241-6145</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Barb Palmer</td>
<td>District Representative</td>
<td>Washington Head Coach</td>
<td>330-244-1602</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Liz Wojtkun</td>
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<td>Magnificat Assistant Coach</td>
<td>(440) 376-0018</td>
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<td>NE</td>
<td>Maria Schneider</td>
<td>District Assistant</td>
<td>Brecksville-Broadview Heights Head Coach</td>
<td>(C) 216-924-0452 <a href="mailto:schneiderm@bbhcsd.org">schneiderm@bbhcsd.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Traci Dunn</td>
<td>District Representative</td>
<td>Findlay Head Coach</td>
<td>(C) 419-427-0400</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Joe Dunn</td>
<td>District Assistant</td>
<td>Findlay Head Coach</td>
<td>Same as Traci</td>
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<td>SW</td>
<td>Steve Conner</td>
<td>District Representative</td>
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<td>(C) 513-600-2419 <a href="mailto:conners@countryday.net">conners@countryday.net</a></td>
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<td>SW</td>
<td>Stacey Bailey</td>
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<td>Carol Eskay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lori Powers-Basinger</td>
<td>Director of Development-Gymnastics officials; State Rules Interpreter</td>
<td>Judge – Central District</td>
<td>(C) 614-406-1537 <a href="mailto:loripb7957@gmail.com">loripb7957@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kate Barnett</td>
<td>Sport Administrator</td>
<td>OHSAA</td>
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<td>4080 Roselea Pl.</td>
<td>k <a href="mailto:barnett@ohsaa.org">barnett@ohsaa.org</a></td>
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<td>Columbus, OH 43214</td>
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<td>614-267-2502</td>
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OHSAA Gymnastics Bylaw and Sport Regulation Review

**Bylaw 9-2-1: Out of State Travel**

Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that border Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states are Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in contests in any location that does not border Ohio subject to approval from the Executive Director’s Office. (Visit the Gymnastics Sport page on the OHSAA website to obtain the required form to request this travel permission).

Penalty for violation: A school which travels to a non-boarding location to compete in contests on more than one occasion shall be ineligible for the OHSAA postseason tournament in the sport in which the out-of-state travel was involved and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11. A school which travels to a non-boarding location without approval from the Executive Director’s Office shall be subject to a fine and could be subject to additional penalties as referenced in Bylaw 11.

**General Sport Regulation 26: Exhibition Competition**

Current OHSAA regulations prohibit exhibition competition. Participation in such events could result in ineligibility for student-athletes and suspension of the school.

**General Sport Regulation 7.3.2: Permitting Students to Participate on Non-School Teams Outside of the School Team’s Season**

7.3.2) Individual Sports – A member of a school team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and wrestling may participate with a non-school program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school’s season with no restriction when coached by either a school coach or a non-school coach.

**Gymnastics Regulation 8.1.A: Interscholastic Participation**

To be eligible for the team event competition in the OHSAA tournament in girls gymnastics, a school shall compete in a minimum of two interscholastic contests as a team (3 or more student-athletes in each of the four events) prior to the OHSAA Tournament.

1.1) Contest Limitations —A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

1.2) Scoring during the regular season—In regular season meets in which team entrants are unlimited, it is not permissible to designate which four gymnasts shall be eligible to have their scores added to produce a team score. Any of the eligible competitors shall be able to score for the team.

1.3) Individuals who coach multiple teams—Coaches are permitted to serve as the coach for more than one school as long as they are properly credentialed and are Board-approved by each respective district/school. Should this transpire, it is up to the districts/schools involved to determine compensation,
scheduling logistics and any other matters pertaining to the arrangement. The student-athletes from different schools may practice together under the direction of the coach but must always represent the school they attend in any competition.

1.4) School Representative — No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.

**Gymnastics Regulation 8.1.B: Non-Interscholastic Participation**

2.1) A member of an interscholastic gymnastics squad (any student who has participated in a regular season/tournament contest sponsored by the Board of Education) shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest as an individual or member of a team in the sport of gymnastics during the school’s season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

2.2) Interscholastic gymnastics coaches may coach student-athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

2.3) Gymnasts Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season: A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a gymnastics athlete who has not participated for the school in gymnastics that season must cease non-interscholastic gymnastics competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the state tournament in gymnastics in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in gymnastics who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in gymnastics shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in gymnastics in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

**Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 – Non-interscholastic competition NOT permitted on or after this date**

**OHSAA General Gymnastics Information**

**Professionalism**
Your professionalism is of the utmost importance. Your student-athletes and fans will follow your lead. If you are respectful of the competition and the officials, your student-athletes and fans are more likely to do the same. If you are disrespectful of the competition and the officials, it will be reflected in the words and actions of your student-athletes and fans. Officials aren’t perfect and mistakes will be made, but it is all part of the learning process for our young student-athletes. So please take those disappointments and turn them into positive learning experiences. What you permit, you promote.

Also, Bylaw 8-3-1 of the OHSAA Handbook reads in part, "Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will not be considered. Their decisions and interpretations are final." This means that correctable errors must be corrected during the contest. Officials and coaches must "keep their cool" during the contest so that all teams have an equal opportunity to win under the rules. It must always be remembered that the competition is being conducted for the student-athletes. Neither officials nor coaches would be involved except for the student-athletes.
**A reminder to all judges:** Please do not make any comments to other judges or coaches about scores, conferences, your judging event other events, or any results on the competitive floor. This regulation applies to all level meets including duals, invitationalals, sectional, districts, and state tournaments. Unprofessional behavior will subject a judge to the possibility of not being assigned to future meets. **Coaches** are reminded to always be professional in addressing the meet referee and to never have any direct communication with judges on the floor. The meet referee is the liaison between the judges and coaches and can be addressed for any questions on the competitive floor.

**Affiliation:** The regulations regarding affiliation are NOT meant to prevent officials from judging, but to prevent unfair situations for the gymnasts. An affiliated judge can be a support judge or a meet referee but not a head judge. Affiliation of an official at a specific meet refers to:
1. An immediate family member (parent/step parent, grandparent, sibling, or any other member of a household) of a competing gymnast, or of the gymnast's coach(es) or of the club owner whose team is competing.
2. A person on the payroll of a competing club
3. A team member or parent of a Women's Artistic team member or a competing club
4. A coach of a club that has gymnast(s) competing in the meet
5. A club owner whose club has a gymnast who is competing in the meet
6. Any sport science professional that is paid for ongoing services for a competing gymnast
7. A judge who critiques or coaches at a specific gymnastics club/school on a regular (more than once a month) basis is considered affiliated with that club/school.
8. A judge whose immediate family member is a coach at a competing club/school is affiliated with that club/school regardless of whether or not the family member is on the floor coaching at a specific meet.

**Coaches’/Officials’/Student-athletes Comments to the News Media**
OHSAA Sports Regulation B under Media Regulations OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, “Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials.” Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game. **Officials** are trained and expected to make no derogatory comments regarding the players, coaches, or schools. **Coaches** are expected to follow the same procedure. Failure to follow this request will result in disciplinary action. **Student-athletes** are also cautioned that they are not to make any disparaging comments concerning coaches or officials in the media which includes social media.

**Pre-Season Preparations**
During your pre-season preparations, invite a local official(s) to meet with your squad during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet your student-athletes and discuss new rules. It gives your student-athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to competition days. We would also recommend inviting an official to a pre-season meeting with your parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for your parents to learn more about the game.

**Scheduling Conflicts**
Certainly, scheduling conflicts are going to arise. **PLEASE COORDINATE WITH YOUR ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR TO ENSURE THAT OFFICIALS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF ANY CHANGES.** When dates, times, and / or locations are changed it not only affects the officials scheduled for that contest, but also other contests they are scheduled to work. Thanks so much for your assistance!

**Selection of Gymnastics Tournament Officials**
In order to be considered for Tournament assignment, an official must meet the following minimum standards:

- **Sectional/District** – Must be a Class 1 (Level 9 or above) or Class 2 (Level 8). Highly recommended to use Class 1 officials for both Sectional and District.

- State – Must be a Class 1
- Must complete and file a yearly review exam
- Must complete and file an application
- Must have officiating experience in the position for which the application is made
- Must not be a current high school head coach
- Must complete a state rules interpretation meeting

Panels will be assigned after all applications are received and reviewed.

**Protecting Athletic Eligibility**
If you have not accessed copies of the 2021-2022 OHSAA Athletic Eligibility Information Bulletin, entitled “High School Eligibility Guide for Student Student-athletes” which is written to explain the rules to coaches, student-athlete’s and their parents, please note that this publication can be downloaded from the OHSAA eligibility page here: [https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/EligibilityGuideHS.pdf](https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibilityDocs/EligibilityGuideHS.pdf). See your school administrator to discuss the best way to have this publication distributed to your student-athletes.

The OHSAA now requires all schools and coaches to conduct pre-season orientation meetings for student-athletes and their parents. These meetings afford the coach the opportunity to present information pertaining to school policy, athletic codes of conduct, issues involving sporting conduct, OHSAA eligibility rules, concussion management and anabolic steroids and details concerning the gymnastics program. The eligibility bulletins could be presented at this time. Please remember that when parents sign their consent for their son or daughter’s participation in interscholastic athletics on the OHSAA consent form which is part of the Pre-Participation Physical Exam, they also are indicating that they have read and understood the Eligibility Guide for Student-Student-athletes. An instructional PowerPoint presentation and agendas have been provided to your school to assist with these mandatory preseason meetings. **Failure to conduct these meetings shall require a $500 fine per meeting.**

**Inquiries**
It is understandable with 832 high schools in Ohio and the number of teams in Ohio from 7-8th grade to High School, communication to our office is in large volume. Most questions can and should be answered by the Athletic Administrator at your school. To make our communication as efficient as possible, we ask school administrators (including your Athletic Administrator) to communicate directly with us, thus derives our policy of not answering calls by parents and community members.

Additionally, every effort is being made to provide useful information via our website. We encourage you to check the website (both the main page and Gymnastics specific page), and additional information is provided in this manual regarding weekly informational items. Your Gymnastics Advisory Committee Officers are another great resource for you as well. Their contact information is provided in this manual.

**Ejection Report Forms**
**COACHES/PLAYERS EJECTION FROM A GYMNASTICS COMPETITION**
Officials shall file a written report with the school and the OHSAA office whenever a coach or a competitor is ejected from a contest. Use the Special Report Form provided to all officials. The form may also be obtained by contacting the Association office or the local officials’ association secretary. In addition, the official should telephone the school principal or athletic administrator no later than the next business day after the ejection unless the official has notified that administrator at the contest site. The offending school (coach, athletic
administrator or principal) must file a written report with the OHSAA anytime a coach or competitor is ejected from a contest, home or away. See the Sports Regulations enclosed with this mailing for the full text of the regulations governing player and coach ejections.

Any verbal abuse or unsporting conduct which occurs during any high school gymnastics competition should be considered for ejection from that competition. This applies to either the coach or the athlete. Officials should use discretion and, perhaps, issue a warning to the athlete and coach. Should an ejection be deemed necessary, it should be reported to Kate Barnett, Sport Administrator, with the name of the individual involved, the school name, and the circumstances surrounding the incident as described above.

In addition, any coach who is ejected from a contest for unsporting conduct as described above, in addition to the two-contest denial of participation shall be fined $100 and shall take the NFHS “Teaching and Modeling Behavior” which must be completed within 30 days of the ejection. This course can be taken online at www.nfhslearn.com

Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit (PAPP)

As outlined in Ohio Administrative Code, all Coaches MUST possess a “Pupil Activity Validation Certificate” to coach in Ohio. This includes paid coaches AND volunteer coaches. School administrators are responsible for maintaining records on compliance and most schools provide opportunities for their coaches to obtain the necessary coursework. The actual regulations AND the certificate can be downloaded from the OHSAA’s Sports’ Medicine page or directly at: http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine. To obtain the required certificate through the ODE, one must:

- Have completed a Sports’ First Aid Course
- Possess a valid CPR Card
- Have been approved by their local Board of Education or similar governing body
- Complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course
- Complete one of two approved Concussion Recognition courses
- Complete the Sudden Cardiac Arrest video course offered by the Ohio Dept. of Health

For more information regarding the requirements, click here.

Concussion Legislation as it relates to Coaching Requirements

Though the entire law is explained later, all coaches today MUST complete one of two (2) approved Concussion Education programs online upon renewal of their Pupil Activity Permit anytime after April 26, 2013. Individual student-student-athletes removed from contests with a suspected concussion are no longer permitted to return to play on the same day of the contest – regardless of the diagnoses. If they are removed by one of the individuals given this authority, they simply cannot return to play the same day. Written authorization IS required to return anytime thereafter and must be kept on file with the school Athletic Administrator.

Please see your AD and make every effort to secure these requirements BEFORE the season begins. Failure to have the proper credentials shall result in a fine of $250 per coach.
OHSAA/USAG FORMS and UPDATES

Please find the following on the gymnastics page of the OHSAA website here.

Vault Chart and Scoresheet
Score Sheet for Bars, Beam and Floor
Composition and Execution Chart
OHSAA Bonus and Composition Charts
A Value Beam Mounts

USAG changes for the 2021-22 season (includes all seasons since Code of Points was issued)

Any questions or clarifications during the season will be corrected on the website.

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<th>OHSAA REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS – USAG MODIFIED LEVEL 8 -9-10</th>
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**DIFFICULTY RESTRICTIONS FOR BARS, BEAM & FLOOR**

- Additive Value may be from either connections or “D/E” difficulty.
- There are no element restrictions in OHSAA competition.

**VAULTS ALLOWED**

OHSAA Vault Chart

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

- **BARS (4 at 0.2 each)**
  1) Minimum of 1 Bar Change
  2) and 3) Two B elements, same or different; One element with flight (excludes dismount) OR One element w/min LA turn or 180 degrees or more AND One 360 degree circling element from groups 3/6/7 (excludes dismount)
  4) Salto dismount, minimum of A

- **BEAM (4 at 0.2 each)**
  1) One acro series w/min 2 elements- one with flight (excludes mount and dismount)
  2) One leap or jump requiring a 180° cross or side split
  3) Minimum of 1/1 (360°) turn or more on one foot
  4) Aerial or salto dismount, minimum of A

- **FLOOR (4 at 0.2 ea.)**
  1) One acro series with 2 saltos or 2 directly connected saltos (saltos may be the same or different)
  2) Three different saltos (no aerials) within the exercise
  3) Dance passage with two different elements from Group 1 (directly or indirectly connected) – one a leap with 180 degrees cross or side split
  4) Salto performed as last isolated salto or within last salto connection must be minimum of A
1. All OHSAA, including Government and Department of Health policies, rules and regulations shall be followed.

2. Regulations and rules for competition are based on the Developmental Program Code of Points, The Women’s Program Rules and Policies (published online only) and a modified USA Gymnastics Level 8-10 Program. Requirements and restrictions will be as published in this handbook and online. The OHSAA will allow the performance of any “C” “D” or “E” element. All “C”, “D” and E elements will receive value part credit and will be eligible to fulfill special requirements for Bars, Beam and Floor Exercise. All “D” and “E” elements will receive difficulty bonus.

3. The State Rules Interpreter is charged with interpreting all girls gymnastics rules. Coaches and officials may direct gymnastics questions to our state rules interpreter and Director of Development for Girls Gymnastics Officiating, Ms. Lori Powers-Basinger. Coaches should direct questions relative to sports regulations to Ms. Kate Barnett and eligibility questions to their school and/or athletic administrators.

4. Rules Interpretation Meetings are held for the purpose of clarification of rules, regulations, policies, and tournament procedures. Corrections and clarifications will be published on the OHSAA website and sent to schools registering girls gymnastics and to officials.

5. The decisions of the contest officials are final.

6. In general, USA Gymnastics Guidelines for Judging the Developmental Program levels of competition are followed. Specific situations and the appropriate judging responses are published in the Developmental Program Code of Points and the 2021-22 Rules and Policies in addition to those in this manual. All appendix items specific to OHSAA competition will be published on the website.

7. No flash photography shall be permitted during competition. It is required that this statement be announced prior to competition.

8. It is recommended that no gymnast scores lower than 3.0.

9. It is required that start values be flashed at all competitions with the start value equipment provided by each official.

10. Clarification regarding bleeding injuries
    Take steps to stop the bleeding immediately and cover the wound as soon as possible. However, a bleeding wound (nor any other injury due to a fall) does not give the athlete the right to repeat her exercise or resume from where she left off. If the 45 second fall time is exceeded before the wound can be covered, then the routine is terminated. If there is blood on any equipment or mats after a gymnast finishes her exercise, the blood must be removed prior to the next athlete beginning her routine. The coach and athlete have the right to determine if the athlete can continue the routine after a fall (within the fall time limitations); however, it is advised that any recommendations from medical personnel be heeded, in the best interest of the athlete’s safety.
    The meet hosts should consider providing a small first-aid kit including tape, gauze or band-aids at each event, especially if there is no trainer available, so that these items could be accessed quickly.

11. Judges may use electronic tablets for gymnastics purposes only on the competition floor.
EVENT REGULATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

VAULT – Refer to the OHSAA revised vault chart found in this OHSAA publication and on the website. Go to ohsaa.org for the updated vault chart.

2. Judges shall use the start value of the vault performed; however, it is still necessary to announce or flash the intended vault number.

3. Round-off entry vaults must be done with a safety collar. This requirement applies for both training and competition. The vault is void if performed without a safety collar. The safety collar must be placed in the proper direction for round off entry vaults. A safety collar may be used on any vault.

4. The OHSAA requires the padding of the upright of the vault table and of covering any weights placed on the vault base for stability.

5. Manufactured hand placement mats, Velcro side down, shall be required for both warm-ups and competition. Note: No mat on the springboard is permitted. Only round off entry vaults may use the hand placement mat.

6. For twisting vaults, the turn may be performed in either direction.

7. For all vaults, the coach is permitted to stand in between the board and the table with no deduction in OHSAA competition.

8. For all salto vaults: If the coach spots the gymnast during the post flight, a 1.00 deduction is applied rather than voiding the vault. The current 0.50 deduction for spotting assistance upon the landing is still in effect. Should the gymnast fall after being spotted on the landing an additional .50 deduction will be taken for the fall.

9. Each gymnast may perform one or two vaults with the best vault as the counting score.

10. Athletic tape or Velcro strips may be placed on the runway- NO CHALK- and must be removed no later than the end of rotation.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS

2. Value Part Requirements: 4 “A’s” @0.10 each, 4 “B’s” @0.30 each, 0 “C” Basic Start Value - 9.7 points
3. Additive Value for Connection Value or Difficulty Value = maximum 0.30 point. Maximum start value = 10.0.
4. All “B”, “C”, “D” and “E” elements are allowed.
5. Special Requirements (4 at 0.20 each) – Refer to the DP Code of Points – Level 8 Requirements
   a. Minimum of one (1) Bar Change
   b/c. Two (2) B elements, same or different
      • One (1) B element w/flight (excludes dismount) OR B element w/minimum 180 LA turn (excludes mount and dismount)
      • One 360-degree circling element from Groups 3/6/7 (excluding dismount)
   d. Salto dismount, minimum A
6. The following counting skills may be used in OHSAA girls gymnastics competition only with no value part credit to avoid a short exercise deduction.
   a. Glide, single leg stoop through to stride support on low bar
   b. Single leg circle forward or backward (stride circle)
   c. Single leg basket swing with straight legs to finish in stride support or single leg rear lying hang (catching high bar)
   d. Low bar pullover mount
   e. Stem rise (from hang on HB or rear lying hang to outer front support on HB)
   f. Counterswing (in hang on HB) forward and back to stand or squat stand on low bar
   g. Front support on low bar, underswing to stand; also with ½ turn or full turn (less than “A”, may be considered a dismount) -.20 for no “A”, but no -.30 for having no dismount)
h. Horizontal cast will be allowed for counting skills, but appropriate execution deductions will be taken.
  i. From standing on the low bar, jump and pull over the high bar
  j. Swing out half turn on high bar (compulsory dismount)

7. Short Exercise - If a gymnast performs less than five value parts including counting skills a deduction of 2.0 shall be taken from the average score by the chief judge – See JO Code of Points.

8. All composition deductions will be applied during the competition season. The list of compositional deductions for OHSAA are on the website.

9. The touch warm-up time for Bars is 30 seconds per gymnast, Time may be blocked for gymnasts on the same setting. The clock will not stop during a block to change the bar settings.

10. Fall time is 45 seconds. Fall time begins when the gymnast is on her feet.

11. OHSAA will use the following criteria for awarding value part on casts to handstand:
    a. 0-20° from vertical = “B” value part is awarded
    b. 21° and below from vertical = NO value part is awarded

12. JO cast angle deductions will NOT be used in OHSAA competition. All casts will still be subject to execution and body posture deductions.

13. C + C or more both with turn or flight will receive +.20 bonus connection value (high school only.) Please refer to the OHSAA bonus chart on the website.

**BALANCE BEAM**

1. Value Part Requirements: 4 “A’s” @0.10 each, 4 “B’s” @0.30 each 0 “C”
2. Basic Start Value - 9.7 points
3. Additive Value for Connection Value or allowable Difficulty Value = maximum 0.30 point. Maximum start value = 10.0 points; Value Parts of “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and “E” elements are allowed.
4. Special Requirements (4 at 0.20 each) – Refer to DP Code of Points- Level 8
   a. One (1) acro series w/min two (2) elements, one with flight (excludes mount and dismount)
   b. One leap or jump requiring a 180° cross/side split
   c. Minimum of 1/1 (360°) turn or more on one foot (Group 3)
   d. Aerial or Salto Dismount, minimum A
5. Short exercise –Exercise is less than 30 seconds, deduct 2.0 from the average score by the chief judge.
6. The time limit for beam is a maximum of 1:30. A warning will be given on beam at 1:20. The overtime deduction is 0.10 from the average score. If the time is within a fraction of a second over the time allotment, do not take the time deduction.

7. Fall time is 45 seconds. Fall time begins when the gymnast is on her feet.
8. All composition deductions will be applied during the entire competition season. The list of compositional deductions for OHSAA are on the website.
9. Group 1, 6, 7 and 8 rolls may be used to fulfill the compositional requirement of a forward or sideward and backward acrobatic element.
10. Acro Series Special Requirement – Clarification that the flight element may be from the Roll category (example: dive forward roll).
11. OPTIONAL BEAM ACRO SERIES CLARIFICATION:
    Connecting elements in an Acro series: The landing leg or the free leg must be the take-off leg for the next element. If both feet land at the same time, the take-off must be a jump from two feet. During the step between the elements, the free leg must be no higher than 45 degrees or the series will be considered broken.
    The following is an example of an acro series that is considered NON-CONNECTABLE, regardless of how quickly they are performed:

**Back Walkover (or back handspring step-out) to Round-off (or cartwheel):**

In this example, the first element lands on one foot, then the second foot is placed on the beam behind in a lunge; the gymnast then leans forward to initiate a Round-off (or cartwheel).

Note: The only way these two elements could connect legitimately is by landing the first element on one
leg and swinging the other leg forward to step into the Round-off (or cartwheel); that would mean performing the two skills on opposite legs. Of course, the gymnast could do a Right BWO and switch legs to land on the Left foot so that she could then step forward on the Right leg to initiate a Right Round-off (or cartwheel).

12. Acro Series for OHSAA- For any attempt to do an acro series which has a stop or fall, a 0.20 will be applied for no special requirement plus the fall deduction. If only one acro skill is performed in the routine without attempting a second acro skill following the first skill, the -0.20 for no special requirement and -0.30 for NOT attempting to do two acro skills in a row. The .30 is also applied to routines with no acro skills along with the .2 for the missing special requirement.

FLOOR EXERCISE

1. Value Part Requirements: 4 “A’s” @0.10 each, 4 “B’s” @0.30 each, 0 “C”
2. Basic Start Value - 9.7 points
3. Additive Value for Connection Value or allowable Difficulty Value = maximum 0.30 point. Value Parts of “A”, “B”, “C”, “D” and “E” elements are allowed. Maximum start value = 10.0.
4. Special Requirements (4 at 0.20 each) Refer to DP Code of Points – Level 8
   a. One acro pass with 2 saltos or 2 directly connected saltos (the saltos may be the same or different)
   b. Three different saltos (not aerials) within the exercise
   c. Dance passage with minimum of two different Group 1 elements (directly or indirectly connected)
      – one a leap with 180 degrees cross or side split
   d. Salto performed as last isolated salto or with last salto connection must be minimum of A value part.
5. Lack of minimum of “B” salto -.30
6. Short exercise – See JO Code – Exercise is less than 30 seconds, deduct 2.0 from the average score by the chief judge.
7. All composition deductions will be applied during the competition season. The list of compositional deductions are included on the website.
8. Timing - The maximum time limit for floor is 1:30. The overtime deduction is 0.10 from the average score. If the time is within a fraction of a second over the time allotment, do not take the time deduction. Timing begins and ends with the movement of the gymnast-not the music.
9. FLOOR: Spring/Reflex floors shall be used at all regular season and OHSAA Tournament competition. Other matting may be used in regular season competition by mutual agreement of participating schools.
10. Last salto pass- SR #4 for OHSAA competition: The requirement is to have an A salto as the last isolated salto or in the last salto connection. The .2 deduction will be applied to routines that have no saltos, routines that end with a non salto pass or the gymnast repeats a pass done earlier. The additional .3 from the start value for no dismount will be taken ONLY if there are no saltos in the routine or a routine ends with a non salto pass.

APPARATUS SPECIFICATIONS

The following applies to all events: Up to 9” of any combination of supplemental matting in addition to maximum allowable competition landing surface of 24 cm. One manufactured skill cushion or sting mat may also be used in addition to the maximum allowable landing mats. If the skill cushion is 8” in thickness, it must be a minimum of 5’ x10’; however, it is recommended that the skill cushion be as close as possible to the dimensions of the competition landing mat. Abutted mats:
When two mats are abutted, they should be secured at the joining with ties or tape to prevent an open space between the mats.
A sting mat may also be used by itself or in addition to the skill cushion. Whenever a 4” supplemental mat is used, it must be 7’ X 10’.

In addition to what is currently allowed for Optional competitions for mounting the apparatus (as found in the Rules and Policies), the gymnast is allowed to stand on an 8” skill cushion for uneven bars or balance beam mounts. For mounting purposes, a mount mat (not a springboard) may be placed on the 8 inch skill cushion.

VAULT
The vault table is required. For round off entry vaults, a manufactured safety zone mat is required for training and competition. A safety zone mat must be placed snuggly around the board so there is no space between the board and the mat. The safety zone mat may be used for other vaults in any position.

Vault Table Height = 135 cm maximum

Measurement is from the front of the table
Runway: Length = 76’ minimum, 82’ maximum; Thickness = a minimum of 1 3/8” (+/- 1/8”) is required for the vault runway.
Matting for Landing Area: A minimum of 6’ wide x 12’ long x 4-4 3/4”(12 cm) thickness is required over the base mat. An 8’ x18’ mat is recommended. An additional 4” or 4 ¾” landing mat may be used.
Any combination of matting systems is permitted provided that the total thickness does not exceed 10” + ¾” (24 + 3 cm) and all landing mats are uniform in width and length.

VAULT EQUIPMENT:
1. The regulation landing mats (plus allowable skill cushions) may be placed on top of a solid foam pit landing area for vault.
2. All manufactured models of the new vault table (including “retro-fit” tables that are inserted into the uprights of the old horse) are allowed for OHSAA competition, provided that they are capable of being adjusted to the various height specifications allowed for OHSAA student-athletes. A mat is required to be placed in front of the support of the vault table. A mat which is no higher than the low edge of the front of the board may be used
3. A hand placement mat may be used on the runway but not on the vault board.
4. No tape or chalk is permitted on the vault table.
5. Manufactured hand placement mats, Velcro side down, shall be required for both warm-ups and competition for round-off entry vaults only. The hand placement mats shall no longer be used as a visual aid for hurdle placement or any other vaults.
6. It is permissible to place athletic tape or velcro strips along the width of the vault runway. The markings should be removed no later than at the end of rotation. None of these markings listed shall be wider than 2”. The judge must issue a warning before taking a deduction if that 2” measurement is exceeded.

UNEVEN BARS
Low bar = 166 + 1 cm  High bar = 246 + 1 cm
Bars must close to a minimum of 130 cm and extend to a maximum spread of 180 cm.
In accordance with Junior Olympic guidelines, based on the best interest of the gymnast’s safety, it is permissible to adjust the high bar and/or low bar to a height which exceeds (or is lower than) the F.I.G. specifications provided that after such adjustment, the bars remain within the allowances identified by the manufacturer of the
apparatus. In addition, the distance (spread) between the bars may be set to the preference of the athlete, provided after such adjustment, the bars remain within the allowances identified by the manufacturer of the apparatus.

Schools with Bars that do not extend to 130 cm should inform visiting school at least a week in advance.

Tournament: Uneven Bars will extend to 180 cm.
Measure: Height of bars from the top of the rail to the floor.
Width between the inside of the rails by vertical (plumb) line.
Mount and Dismount Areas: 18' minimum forward and rearward of the center of the bars is recommended.
Matting: 24' long x 6' wide x 4-4 3/4" thick. 8' width is recommended.
A minimum of 12' from the center of the bars to the front and 12' to the rear. Matting may be adjusted up to 4' forward or backward for dismounts.
Any combination of skill cushions (maximum of 9”using sting mats, 4” throw and/or 8” skill cushions) may be placed on top of the allowable competition landing mats in two separate areas (under the bars and/or at the dismount area). If an 8” skill cushion is used, it must a minimum of 5’ X 10’.

**BALANCE BEAM**

Height = 120 cm (47” + ¼") or 125 cm
Measure at both ends from the top of the beam to the floor.
Mount and Dismount Areas: 18’ from each end of the beam is recommended.
Matting: Under the beam, a minimum of 6' wide x 4-4 3/4" thick.
Landing area, a minimum of 6' wide x 12' long x 4-4 3/4" thick.
When space filler matting is needed to extend regular matting under the beam, the height and density of the filler matting should be as equal as possible to the regular matting.
Note: If a landing mat is not provided at both ends of the beam, the area designated as "not a landing area" must be matted a minimum of 6' wide x 3' long x 4-4 3/4" thick. Schools should be informed one week before the meet when only one end dismount area is available. An additional 4 ¾" or 4" landing mat may be used.
Any combination of skill cushions (maximum of 9 “using sting mats, 4” throw and/or 8” skill cushions) may be placed on top of the allowable competition landing mats in two separate areas (under the beam and/or at the dismount area). If an 8” skill cushion is used, it must a minimum of 5’ X 10’.
It is strongly recommended that padding for the beam uprights and bases be used.

**FLOOR EXERCISE**

12 m x 12 m (39' 4 7/16" x 39' 4 7/16")
Measure from the outside of the parallel boundary lines.
Matting: 1 1/4" + 1/4" thick ethafoam or similar cushion material spring floor mat. Any other must be approved in advance by all teams competing.
Two additional mats (skill cushions – each a maximum thickness of 8 inches/20 cm) can be placed separately on the floor exercise area. Mats must be clearly marked to indicate actual boundary lines. Failure to mark mats will result in a - .10 neutral deduction taken from average.
• If the skill cushion is 8” in thickness, it must be a minimum of 5’ by 10’.
• A “sting” mat may also be placed on top of each of the up to 8” skill cushions.
• It is recommended that matting (panel mats) be placed around the outside corners of the floor exercise mat especially when on a concrete/wood floor.

Note: The additional matting does not have to be removed during the exercise. A coach is permitted to go onto the floor to place or remove a mat with no deduction.
All abutted mats should fit together without separation or be taped.
Spring/Reflex floors shall be used in all OHSAA competitions unless agreed upon in advance by competing schools.

SPRINGBOARD:

Height = 22 cm ± 1.5 cm
Measure from the top of wood at the highest point to the floor.
1. The gymnast may use a springboard to mount.
2. MOUNTING RULES FOR BARS AND BEAM:
3. Standing mounts: The gymnast may stand (with or without a board) on one or two competition landing mats, and may also stand on an “up to 8-inch skill cushion” (sting or throw mat” that is placed on the competition landing mat(s) for dismount purposes.
4. Mounts using a spring board: The board may be placed on one competition landing mat(s) (one or two 10-12 cm mats or one 20 cm mat) or on the supplemental matting of 5-10 cm. (sting mat or 4” throw type skill cushion)
5. The board must be removed as soon as possible after the gymnast has mounted. If not removed, a deduction of 0.30 is taken from the average score by the Chief Judge.
6. Mounts that are preceded by one element prior to take off from the board will be allowed. If more than one element is performed before take-off from the board, a 0.20 deduction is taken by each judge. However, only the movement done after the feet leave the board will be evaluated.
7. A gymnast may use a spring board, training board, or panel mat for mounting. Gymnasts may NOT place a springboard on an 8-inch skill cushion for mounting purposes.

NON-REGULATION AND FAULTY EQUIPMENT:

1. The Meet or Tournament Director/Manager shall check all apparatus for safety and equipment regulations at all meets and OHSAA tournament competition.
2. When equipment breaks during warmups or competition and cannot be replaced or repaired, the same procedures should be followed as for non-regulation equipment.
3. When equipment is faulty, or other problems arise, the Meet Referee/Chief Judge of the event will decide to allow or disallow the gymnast to repeat her exercise. If the gymnast repeats the exercise, her score for the event will be the score earned on the repetition.

WARNING:

1. Risk of injury to an athlete can be minimized, but this risk cannot be eliminated. Apparatus should be inspected for flaws that might lead to apparatus failure. Gymnasts should be in good health and trained to perform the skills included in each exercise.
2. When the coach or supervisor is not in the room, the gymnasts or any other students or individuals should not use apparatus and/or equipment.
3. A bonded manufacturer of gymnastics apparatus or mats should manufacture apparatus. No apparatus should be altered except with a part, or parts, specifically designed for the purpose and manufactured by a bonded company.

UNIFORMS

The OHSAA shall follow the USAG Junior Olympic rules for competition in regard to competitors’ uniforms. Therefore, a gymnast shall present herself in the proper attire for both warm-ups and competition. (No bare midriffs, backless leotards, T-shirts, Boxer or compression shorts). Leotard and/or warm-up suit shall be worn for opening, closing and award ceremonies. Leg opening on competitive leotards must NOT be
cut or rolled above the gymnast’s hip bone. A deduction will be applied for an infraction. For competition, the gymnast may wear a sleeveless leotard and may be barefooted or wear gymnastics footwear. Clarification: If underwear is visible due to the cut of the leotard, warn the coach of the athlete. If they do not correct it, take a deduction on the subsequent event. Underwear should not be intentionally visible throughout the entire routine. However, if briefs or bra straps show due to activity, do not take the deduction. Judges need to use common sense. Sports bras if visible must be the same color as the predominant color of the upper portion of the leotard which surrounds the sports bra.

NOTE: Leotards may have the school name or the school’s mascot on them, but they may not display any other marking except as is permitted within the OHSAA uniform regulations contained within this publication.

For a competitor who presents with improper attire during touch warm-ups and/or competition, a 0.20 deduction shall be taken from the gymnast’s first event score when it is noticed by the officials, following a warning. This deduction shall be taken by the meet referee or chief judge in the event there is no referee. Please note: proper competition uniform consists of a leotard only.

For the pre-meet or tournament parade or march, student-athletes must be attired in warm-up clothing or school-issued uniforms. If there is no regular team uniform, the gymnasts may march wearing identical tee shirts with school logos and shorts or warm-up pants.

Note: During general warm-ups, student-athletes are not permitted to wear improper attire such as compression shorts, boxer shorts, tee shirts, etc. The reason for this prohibition is the safety of the gymnast, and the OHSAA strongly discourages any deviation from this recommendation; however, there is no penalty for failure to comply.

It is unacceptable and shall be considered unsporing conduct (subject to ejection) if a student-athlete removes her leotard in any area within the view of the public. This includes but is not restricted to the competition and warm-up areas. All facilities make locker rooms available to student-student-athletes, and it is in this environment that the gymnast shall make any changes of uniform. PENALTY: Ejection from the contest for unsporing conduct. This requires that the gymnast be ineligible for the next two gymnastics contests.

JEWELRY

Jewelry is not permitted during competition and warm-ups AND MUST BE REMOVED. No warning shall be issued. The deduction is .20 on the first event that it is noticed by the officials and a .30 unsporing conduct penalty for any subsequent event. Note: In all other OHSAA adopted national playing rules, jewelry is not permitted. The ultimate responsibility for compliance with this rule rests with the coach as well as the student athlete. NOTE: The covering of jewelry is not acceptable. Officials are requested to ensure that jewelry that is covered be removed immediately.

JUDGING FORMULA

The judging formula for OHSAA competitions will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start value</th>
<th>9.70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonus points</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum score</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bars</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance Beam</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Exercise</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Execution, Composition and Artistry</td>
<td>7.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presentation includes Artistry up to 0.30 pt. and Dynamics up to 0.20 pt. Execution will include technique, amplitude, and rhythm of the elements and connections as well as the overall posture and rhythm and the specific apparatus deductions.

**OHSAA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

Tournament Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after Board approval). On the web site, under “Sports & Tournaments” select gymnastics. The regulations are listed under Tournament Information on the left side.

A meeting for coaches and judges must be held prior to District competition. The Tournament Referee conducts the meeting.

**Withdrawal (scratches) and substitutions of competitors:**

1. A competitor may be withdrawn or substituted with another eligible gymnast at the coaches meeting before competition.
2. Competitors on a team do not have to be the same individuals who competed in the prior Tournament.
3. A coach may replace an eligible gymnast for a competitor who is injured or becomes ill during warm-ups or competition. The substitute gymnast will receive warm-up time equal to that of other gymnasts on the event, or events, at the directive of the tournament manager. The injured/ill gymnast thus replaced may be permitted to reenter the competition for any other event for which she was entered, provided she is authorized to do so by coaching staff/medical personnel.
4. A coach may choose to "scratch" an injured gymnast from an event in which she is entered rather than replace her. The gymnast will receive a "score of zero" by presenting herself for the event in her rotation and touching the apparatus.

**Use of Alternates**

An alternate gymnast or team may compete in the individual or team competition of the State Tournament if a qualifying gymnast or team cannot compete due to injury, illness, flagrant misconduct or ineligibility. The alternate shall be the next highest individual qualifier or team in that event or the team competition from the District Tournament.

Replacement of these student-athletes or the team may be made up to the time that the competition begins in that event at the State Tournament. The athlete and her coach or the next qualified team must report to Associate Commissioner Deborah Moore for verification. If the replacement can be made prior to Tuesday by 4:00 PM, the name of the competitor can be placed into the official program.

**Repetition of an Exercise**

Repetition of an exercise is not permitted. Exception:

1. Whenever there is a failure of equipment during a competitive routine, the gymnast should have the option of repeating her routine in total or repeating the routine from the point of interruption (after a reasonable amount of rest, if necessary). The decision must be made prior to flashing the score. If an event occurs during a routine that is no fault of the gymnast, the Chief Judge of the event will make the decision regarding repeat of an exercise in consultation with the meet/tournament referee or acting referee. Decisions must be made promptly.

2. When an exercise is repeated, the event score is the score for the second exercise.
Score Inquiries must be given to the Tournament Referee by the coach within 5 minutes of the conclusion of the school’s competition on the event.

OHSAA Qualifying Procedures require that ties shall be broken at the Sectional and District tournaments for the last qualifying place. However, the tied gymnasts’ scores in the event in which tied shall not be changed, and all student-athletes shall earn duplicate awards. This means that the scores generated through the tie-breaker procedure shall not be entered anywhere and will have no effect on the all-around score. All scores will be calculated to the thousandth place. The procedure indicated below shall be followed until ties are broken.

**Individual Events**

1. All score-sheet entries are checked by the tournament director, tournament referee and each judge for errors based on judging formulas not including execution.
2. "Base score" is determined. The gymnast's event score added to the chief judge's score divided by 2.
3. If both/all tied gymnasts competed in the All-Around competition, the gymnast with the highest All-Around score shall advance.
4. Competitors repeat the exercise.

**Team Competition**

Ties for the last qualifying place will be broken by:

1. Application of #1 above
2. A “base score”, as described in #2 above, will be determined by the chief judge and tournament manager for all scores in all events for the student-athletes comprising each tied team (maximum number of gymnasts permitted is six).
3. The sum of the top four “based” scores in each event shall be added to determine the new team score, which will be used to break the tie for advancing to the next round of tournament competition.

**All-Around Competition**

1. The gymnast with the highest score on a single event shall advance.
2. Given the remote possibility that the tied competitors would be tied on all events, each separate event shall be base scored to produce a new All-Around score.

**Coaches**

OHSAA bylaws require that all coaches, paid or volunteer, be approved by their respective Boards of Education or governing boards (in nonpublic schools). It is imperative that only coaches who have been approved by their schools be permitted to work with gymnasts on the floor at OHSAA tournaments, as well as during the regular season. High school principals, on the entry form, shall verify all individuals who have been approved to coach in that high school. No other individuals shall be permitted access to the competition area during OHSAA tournaments.
GIRLS GYMNASTICS – 2021-2022 REPRESENTATION (Due to Covid-19, the 2020 representation shall be used)

6 Districts
36 competitors per event for individual competition; 12 teams for team competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>TEAMS - '19</th>
<th>TEAMS QUAL.</th>
<th>INDIV. QUAL.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>*24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>*50</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>105</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*East (2) and Southeast (2) will be assigned to the closest district.
MEET DIRECTOR'S CHECKLIST

PERSONNEL

____ Judges. At least one Class 1 judge required; strongly recommend that one judge panels be comprised of Class 1 officials only. Determine number of judges by the meet format example.
Example 1: two judging panels, two events at a time, two teams with six competitors/event = approx. one hour and 20 minutes of competition.
Example 2: one judging panel, one event at a time, two teams with six competitors /event = 2 1/2 - 3 hours of competition.


____ Runner/Scoreflasher (1-2 per event)

____ Score Tabulators – Computer Scoring Set-up. (1-4)

____ Announcer for March-in and during meet.

____ Spectator Admission Fee Salesperson (1 per each entrance).

____ Concession Stand Committee and Sales (1-4 as needed by size of meet). Check with chairman 3 days before meet regarding supplies, beverages and foods.

____ Athletic Trainer/Nurse/Physician if possible.

APPARATUS AND SUPPLIES (Set up before visitor team(s)/competitors arrive.)

Vault, Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, and Floor Exercise Area.

____ Base & Landing Mats behind Vault and under Bars and Beam as per apparatus specifications and secured against slippage.

____ Additional Landing Mat available for Vault and Bars and Beam Dismounts (skill cushions, sting mat and zone mat).

____ Springboard(s) for Vault, Bars and Beam.

____ Tape measure to measure apparatus and for Vault Runway.

____ Safety hand placement mats for Vault

____ Chalk bin with chalk at Uneven Bars.

____ Music station.

____ National Anthem to play at conclusion of march-in.

____ Warm-up and Competition Rotation Schedules posted.

____ OHSAA Handbook, USAG Code of Points, copies of all OHSAA rules memos.

____ Awards and Awards area/platform, if awards will be presented.

____ First Aid kit and supplies.

____ Towel for chalk removal.

JUDGES STATIONS

____ Desk chairs and tables for judges. Chairs for Timers, Runner/Scoreflasher.

____ Scoreslips

____ Stop watches. Bars (1), Beam (2), Floor (1). Method to indicate "Warning" and "Time" - bell, whistle, voice of Timer.

____ Scoreflasher (1 per simultaneous apparatus competition).

TABULATOR and/or ANNOUNCER STATION

____ Score Tabulator's Table and chairs.

____ Scoresheets, calculator, pens, pencils and scratch paper.
PA system for Announcer.
Computer Set-up

OTHER AREAS

Registration table for competitors and coaches.
First Aid station, supplies and Emergency Procedures Plan (post).
Designated area for Coaches Meeting and Judges Meeting.
Hospitality Room for Judges and Coaches.
Spectator entrances. Table, chairs, stamp or tickets.
Concession stand. Table & chairs (1-2).
Check with chairman regarding supplies, beverages and foods.

DIRECTOR'S TIMETABLE

Set up and measure apparatus, mats and equipment
Register competitors. Receive event line-ups from coaches.
Give line-ups to Score Tabulator, Computer workers.
Bar Settings (1/2 minute per competitor) and General Stretch.
Coaches meeting. (May be held after warm-ups to include Referee.)
Warm-up rotations (1 1/2 or 2 minutes per competitor).
Judges meeting.
March-in and introduction of student-athletes, coaches, and judges. (Plan a maximum of 15 minutes, less if possible.)
Competition begins. (Plan 3 minutes per competitor, not including march-in, or touch warm-ups, during competition time.)

COACHES MEETING

* Inquiry management (Must be written. Give to Meet Director or Meet Referee.
  Meet Director gives to Chief Judge)
* Signals to be used for "Warning" and "Time" (bell, whistle, voice).
* Apparatus variations, settings, etc.
* Emergency Procedures Plan, 1st Aid station.
* March-in procedures - where and how to line-up, where to be on floor mat.
* Competition rotations, touch warm-up rotations if included.
* Awards management, if included.
* Scratches and substitutions in event line-ups.
* Meet Referee clarifies any rules and answers any rules questions.
USA Gymnastics Score Inquiry Form

Check One: Vault____ Bars ______ Beam ______ Floor ______

Gymnast’s number____ Name____________________________________ Score_______

This inquiry is based upon the following (check one):

1. Start Value ________________________________________________

2. Neutral deductions_________________________________________________________________

3. Score Range ______________________________________________________________________

List all elements that receive difficulty and additive value Judges’ Use Only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element/Additive Value</th>
<th>Description of Element(s)</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
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</table>

Coach’s Name ___________________________ Team ____________________________

Start Value:  
Judge #1  Judge #2  Judge #3  Judge #4  Average

Score:  
Judge #1  Judge #2  Judge #3  Judge #4  Average

Adjusted SV:  
Judge #1  Judge #2  Judge #3  Judge #4  Average

Adjusted Score:  
Judge #1  Judge #2  Judge #3  Judge #4  Average

________________________Score Not Adjusted

_______________________________________
Signature of Chief Judge/Meet or Tournament Referee
GENERAL REFERENCE INFORMATION

The safety of our student-athlete athletes is always of utmost concern. Information regarding the following important topics can be found at www.ohsaa.org and at www.nfhs.org:

- Heat Stress and Athletic Participation
- Recommendations for Hydration to Prevent Heat Illness
- Suggested Guidelines for Management of Head Trauma in Sports
- Communicable Disease Procedures Disordered Eating
- Information on Nutritional Supplements
- Links to the following sites:
  - Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Athletic Trainers Association
  - American Medical Society for Sports Medicine
  - Ohio Parents for Drug Free Youth
  - National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA)
  - Gatorade Sports Science Institute News

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PROCEDURES

While risk of one athlete infecting another with HIV/AIDS during competition is close to non-existent, there is a remote risk that other blood borne infectious diseases can be transmitted. For example, Hepatitis B can be present in blood as well as in other body fluids. Procedures for reducing the potential for transmission of these infectious agents should include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The bleeding must be stopped, the open wound covered and if there is an excessive amount of blood on the uniform it must be changed before the athlete may participate.
2. Routine use of gloves or other precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure when contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated.
3. Immediately wash hands and other skin surfaces if contaminated (in contact) with blood or other body fluids. Wash hands immediately after removing gloves.
4. Clean all contaminated surfaces and equipment with an appropriate disinfectant before competition resumes.
5. Practice proper disposal procedures to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels and other sharp instruments or devices.
6. Although saliva has not been implicated in HIV transmission, to minimize the need for emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, or other ventilation devices should be available.
7. Athletic trainers/coaches with bleeding or oozing skin conditions should refrain from all direct athletic care until the condition resolves.
8. Contaminated towels should be properly disposed of/disinfected.
9. Follow acceptable guidelines in the immediate control of bleeding and when handling bloody dressings, mouth guards and other articles containing body fluids.

10. See page 16 for specific policy related to gymnastics.

CONCUSSION REGULATIONS – UPDATED FOR 2021-22

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION – APRIL 26, 2013

Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Student-athletes and Return to Play Protocol

Notwithstanding the leading role that the Ohio High School Athletic Association has played in developing policies concerning concussion prevention, recognition and management, in December of 2012, Ohio’s Governor Kasich signed into law legislation that was passed by Ohio’s 129th General Assembly which incorporated much of what the OHSAA regulations previously mandated. This law adds several aspects to previous OHSAA regulations. Therefore, to be fully compliant with this law as signed by our Governor, modifications have been made to OHSAA policy. These modifications are set forth in these updated Concussion Regulations.

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio’s General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013 for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

1) The individual who is serving as the student’s coach during that practice or competition.
2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.


RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach
or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

1) The student’s condition is assessed by either of the following:
   a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
   b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.

2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Click here [https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf](https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf) to retrieve the OHSAA’s Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider’s authority to practice in Ohio:

1) In consultation with a physician;
2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
3) In collaboration with a physician, or
4) Under the supervision of a physician.

Note: A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

**COACHES REQUIREMENTS**

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

**CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS**

New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition. Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

**STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS**

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet”
which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here: https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/media/concussion-information-sheet-youth-sports-organizations

APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSES
The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and contest officials:

(This free online course is available through the NFHS. Click the “order here” button, and complete a brief registration form to take the course. Follow these steps to complete the course:

1. Click on the button that says “Please Login to Order.” In the window that appears, click “Register Now.”

2. When your registration is complete, you may "order" the free concussion course offered along the left-hand side of the page. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you will be charged for the course, there is no cost.

3. Once you've completed "Checkout," you will be able to take the free online course.

4. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.

5. All Ohio Officials should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and carry it with them to all contests.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports On-Line Training Program: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html -

PLEASE NOTE: Both courses offer a “certificate of completion” upon successful passage. The NFHS course allows organizations to search for and track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course, while the CDC course does not.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?” The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS</th>
<th>SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Appears dazed or stunned</td>
<td>• Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is confused about assignment</td>
<td>• Nausea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forgets plays</td>
<td>• Balance problems or dizziness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is unsure of game, score, or opponent</td>
<td>• Double or fuzzy vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Moves clumsily</td>
<td>• Sensitivity to light or noise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Answers questions slowly</td>
<td>• Feeling sluggish</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Who is responsible for administering this rule?**

All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

3. **What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?**

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student’s parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury **shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.**
- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

4. **What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?**

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.
- An official **shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.**
- If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
- Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
- All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the approved online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
- At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.
- All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
- Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the “OHSAA Concussion Report” within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.

5. **What are the expectations of student-student-athletes in concussion management?**

- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
• Student-student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student-athlete.

• Student-student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health’s Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website and at this link https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/child-injury-prevention/media/concussion-information-sheet-youth-sports-organizations

6. Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?

• Only an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school’s Board of Education or other governing body who is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider’s authority to practice in Ohio:
  1) In consultation with a physician;
  2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
  3) In collaboration with a physician;
  4) Under the supervision of a physician.

is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has not received a concussion. Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition (see No. 7 below).

• If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that “yes” there has been a concussion, that decision is final.

7. Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?

• No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day.

• No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with written authorization by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.

• If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.

8. Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?

• Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely as a part of that student’s permanent record. Click here https://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Sports-Medicine/AuthorizationToReenter.pdf to access the OHSAA “Medical Authorization to Return to Play” Form.

• School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

9. What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?

• After a clearance has been issued, the student’s actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.
• The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports: (Note: This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
   • Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
   • If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
   • Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)
MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION TO RETURN TO PLAY WHEN A STUDENT HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO A SUSPECTED CONCUSSION

Ohio State Law as well as NFHS rules and OHSAA policy require a student who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with concussion to be removed from and/or prevented from participating or continuing to participate in any practice or contest (sports activity) and not permitted to participate in or reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal. After these symptoms are identified, written medical authorization from a physician (M.D. or D.O.) or another qualified licensed medical provider, who works in consultation with, collaboration with or under the supervision of an M.D. or D.O., or who is working pursuant to the referral by an M.D. or D.O., AND is authorized by the Board or Education or other governing board, is required to grant clearance for the student to return to participation. This form shall serve as the authorization that the physician or licensed medical professional has examined the student, and has cleared the student to return to participation. The physician or licensed medical professional must complete this form and submit to a school administrator prior to the student’s resumption of participation in practice and/or a contest. To reiterate, this student is not permitted to reenter practice or competition on the same day as the removal.

I, ______________________________________________________, M.D., D.O. or _______(other qualified licensed medical provider) have examined the following

(Print name of MD, DO or Other)

student, __________________________________ from ____________________________High School/7-8th grade school

(Name of Student),

who was removed from and/or prevented from participating or continuing to participate in a ____________(sport) contest at the _______level (V, JV, 9th, 7-8th) due to exhibition of signs/symptoms/behaviors consistent with a concussion or who is known to have suffered a concussion. I have examined this student, and determined that the student is cleared to resume participation upon the completion of the directions provided below.

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DIRECTIONS BELOW

___Return to play protocol for concussion as outlined in Zurich Consensus Statement 2012 or as attached.
___Return to play protocol for concussion required under direction of Licensed Athletic Trainer or other qualified licensed medical provider as approved in above directive
___Return to play protocol for concussion not required, and the student may return to participation in practice and competition on this date______________
___Other: (explain):

VALID ONLY WITH ALL INFORMATION COMPLETED

Signature of Medical Professional

(MD, DO or other qualified Licensed Medical Provider as Approved in the Above Directive)

Date: _____________________

Contact Information:

______________________________________________________________
(Print or Stamp)         Address:

______________________________________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Return to play is also subject to clarification of this document, as deemed necessary, by Licensed Athletic Trainer, other qualified Licensed medical providers authorized by Board of Education or other governing body, or school district administration. Return to play decisions are also subject to recognized principles of conditioning, skill development, mental preparedness, etc. Parent(s)/Guardian and student are reminded that the initial signature document of awareness of signs and symptoms of concussion and need/requirement to report are still in effect. Parent(s)/Guardian and student have a responsibility to report any further signs or symptoms of a concussion or head injury to coaches, administrators and the student-athlete’s doctor. Information regarding signs and symptoms are available from school district personnel or OHSAA website.
LINDSAY’S LAW – SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

ODE Website: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsay’s-Law.aspx

Lindsay’s Law, Ohio Revised Code 3313.5310, 3707.58 and 3707.59 became effective on August 1, 2017. In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth student-athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

The following resources were developed to implement Lindsay’s Law:

For parents/guardians and student-athletes in grades 7-12 in Ohio schools
- Required video
- Required SCA Informational Handout
- Required Signature Form

For coaches:
If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport and are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education (all paid and volunteer coaches in Ohio), please visit their website for information about their training requirements around Lindsay’s Law http://www.odh.ohio.gov/landing/Lindsay’s-Law.aspx. The required video, informational handout and a post assessment test will be available shortly through the ODE’s website. We will inform you when that component is available. If, however, you want to have your coaches view the video and review the information immediately, you may access those items below.

Please be advised that as a school district, your superintendent must be able to verify that coaches have seen this video and read the informational handout if you choose to implement this requirement before it is available through ODE’s LMS.
- Required video
- Required SCA Informational Handout

Successful completion of this coaches’ requirement will generate verification through the LMS. The Ohio Department of Education anticipates that these items will be ready for coaches to access by June 30, 2018.

These educational materials are all free of charge and are the only materials authorized for compliance with this new state law. No other course or training material is acceptable.
The sport of girls gymnastics is indeed a unique and wonderful sport, and the process for registering for an OHSAA license to officiate and for maintaining active status is also unique. Most officials understand that to become registered as a Class 1 Girls Gymnastics official, they must provide to the OHSAA officiating department a copy of their USAG Joint Certification (Level 9 or better) at the time application is made. To receive a Class 2 license, the official must provide the OHSAA with a copy of the USAG Joint Certification (Level 8) at the time of registration. An official will then be required to complete, return and pass the take home review exam by the deadline and attend a state rules meeting, when scheduled, to retain active status. After having been registered, the renewal period is from June 1 - July 1 each year. During that time, officials should send the renewal fee to the officiating department.

Failure to renew one’s license does result in the suspension of the official; however, the gymnastics official may be reinstated to full status by reapplying, sending the joint certification, passing the review exam and attending a rules meeting, when scheduled. There are no other penalties incurred except those suspended officials will not be assigned to work OHSAA tournaments.

There are many benefits that accrue to OHSAA registered officials. It may be useful to note some of these for our gymnastics officials:

a. Receipt of all rules books and materials including the JO Code of Points once each quadrennial
b. Membership in the National Federation Officials Association
c. Eligibility for recognition for honorary awards such as the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, the NFOA National and State Distinguished Service Awards and the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame
d. Opportunity for professional affiliation and growth
e. Most importantly - the chance to work with young people who are committed to interscholastic gymnastics

Please feel free to direct any inquiries regarding officiating to Mr. Beau Rugg, OHSAA Director of Officiating, at the OHSAA.

**OFFICIATING ETHICS & CODE OF CONDUCT**

(From [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and the OHSAA Handbook for Officials)

Our member schools have entrusted officials to assist them in the education and development of their youth through athletics. This requires officials to be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people they serve. In recognition of these expectations there is an established Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct for all officials. The purpose of the code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all officials.

**OFFICIATING CODE OF ETHICS**

An Official must devote time, thought and study to the rules of the contest and the mechanics necessary to carry out these rules so that one may render effective and credible service in a fair and unbiased manner

An Official must work with fellow officials and the state association in a spirit of harmony and cooperation in spite of differences of opinion that may arise during debate of points or rules at issue.
An Official must resist every temptation and outside pressure to use one's position as an official to benefit oneself. Under all circumstances, officials must avoid promoting the special interest of any person or group of persons other than the student-athletes we serve.

An Official must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the avocation in all personal conduct and relations with the student-student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public, to be a worthy example to the student-athletes under one's jurisdiction.

An Official will be prepared both physically and mentally, dress accordingly to expectations and maintain a proper appearance that is befitting the importance of the game.

An Official shall avoid the use of tobacco and related products at the contest site.

An Official must remember and recognize that it is important to honor contracts regardless of possible inconvenience or financial loss.

Every member of the officiating profession carries a responsibility to act in a manner becoming a professional person. The conduct of any official influences the attitude of the public toward the profession in general as well as toward the official in particular.

Sports officials bear great responsibility for engendering public confidence in sports. They are critical to the health of athletic competitions. Officials ensure games are played fairly, by the rules, within the spirit of the rules and in a safe manner. Officiating takes a great deal of preparation, continuing education and commitment of time.

PRE-SEASON PREPARATIONS

We have encouraged coaches to invite local officials to meet with their team during pre-season workouts. It allows the officials to meet the student-athletes and discuss new rules. It gives student-athletes an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion prior to competition days. We also recommended inviting an official(s) to a pre-season meeting with team parents. Again, it provides a forum for healthy discussions and an opportunity for parents to learn more about the sport. Many of you already participate in such activities, but for those that do not, please get involved!

ADDRESS CHANGES

NOTE: Annual renewal cards are sent to the address the OHSAA has on file, failure to notify the OHSAA will result in your not receiving the renewal card.

Address changes are now to be submitted via www.myOHSAA.org. Please log-on in order to make the appropriate changes.

STATE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SELECTION PROCESS

All girls gymnastics officials who have a Class 1 license, have completed an annual review exam and attended a state rules interpretation meeting are eligible for assignment to the Girls State Gymnastics Tournament. To be considered, the official must complete an application, which will be sent in November. The selections of officials to work the tournaments will be made by OHSAA staff in conjunction with state rules interpreters considering the official’s experience, NAGWJ rating, event preference and availability. No official is guaranteed assignment to
both days of the tournament. In addition, although proportional representation is not a requirement, the assigners will attempt to balance the panels in terms of the athletic district where each official resides.

It is anticipated that contracts will be released in early January.

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**UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

In accordance with Board of Directors-adopted regulations printed in the 2021-2021 OHSAA Handbook for Officials, the required uniform for girls gymnastics officials consists of the OHSAA jacket with a white shirt and blue or black dress pants. This uniform is mandatory in all regular season competitions. Information about ordering uniforms will be forthcoming from our DOD at a later time.

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**WEBSITE RESOURCES**

Our website includes a great deal of information specifically geared for officials. Go to [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org) and click on “officiating” on the left side of the home page. On the officiating page you will find the following information. When you have questions, this may be a great place to start!

Topics include:

- **OHSAA Officiating FAQ's**
- **OHSAA Rules Meetings** - information on local & state meetings, how to maintain your officiating permit
- **Directory of Officiating Information & Forms** - assigners, instructors, local & district secretaries, OHSAA staff
- **How To Become an OHSAA Official** - info for beginning and experienced officials, suspended and retired officials wanting to reinstate
- **How To Change The Status Of Your Officiating Permit** - information on upgrades, retired status, active military duty and address changes
- **How To Renew Your OHSAA Officiating Permit** - information on annual renewal procedures and fees
- **Game Assignments** - regular season and tournament selection processes and voting results
- **Officials Needed Posting**
- **Coach and Player Game Ejections** - ejection forms and procedures
- **Officiating Uniforms, Equipment and Supplies** - uniform regulations, authorized dealers, pins & patches
- **Officiating Ethics and Code of Conduct**
- **OHSAA Officiating Hall of Fame** - members, selection process and banquet information
- **OHSAA Officiating Clinics**

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**TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS**

Tournament Regulations are available at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) (after approval at the October Board of Directors meeting). On the web site, under “Sports & Tournaments” select gymnastics. The tournament regulations are listed under “Tournament Information” on the left side.

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**OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS**

A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

1) Interscholastic Participation

To be eligible for the team event competition in the OHSAA tournament in girls gymnastics, a school shall compete in a minimum of two interscholastic contests as a team (3 or more athletes in each of the four events) prior to the OHSAA Tournament.

1.1) Contest Limitations

A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

1.2) Scoring during the regular season

In regular season meets in which team entrants are unlimited, it is not permissible to designate which four gymnasts shall be eligible to have their scores added to produce a team score. Any of the eligible competitors shall be able to score for the team.

1.3) Individuals who coach multiple teams

Coaches are permitted to serve as the coach for more than one school as long as they are properly credentialed and are Board-approved by each respective district/school. Should this transpire, it is up to the districts/schools involved to determine compensation, scheduling logistics and any other matters pertaining to the arrangement. The athletes from different schools may practice together under the direction of the coach but must always represent the school they attend in any competition.

1.4) School Representative

No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.

2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic gymnastics squad (any student who has participated in a regular season/tournament contest sponsored by the Board of Education) shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest as an individual or member of a team in the sport of gymnastics during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

2.2) Interscholastic gymnastics coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

2.3) Gymnasts Who Have Not Competed for Their School This Season:

A sports regulation identified as the Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date stipulates that a gymnastics athlete who has not participated for the school in gymnastics that season must cease non-interscholastic gymnastics competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the state tournament in gymnastics in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in gymnastics who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in gymnastics shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in gymnastics in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 – Non-interscholastic competition NOT permitted on or after this date.

3) Penalties

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic gymnastics
squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic gymnastics squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic gymnastics season or the ensuing gymnastics season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

4) Transfer Bylaw
While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, information regarding the transfer bylaw can be found on the OHSAA website at this link, http://www.ohsaa.org/Eligibility/Transfer-. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw, and who participated in high school gymnastics in the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer date, are ineligible for all regular season contests and the OHSAA postseason tournament beginning with varsity regular season contest #8.

5) Other Bylaws and Regulations
For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations on the Gymnastics Page at www.ohsaa.org. For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 in the Bylaws on the Eligibility Page at ohsaa.org

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12
1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 5, 2021.
2) First contest — December 6, 2021.
3) Deadline date for OHSAA tournament — January 31 2022.
4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — February 6, 2022 for tournaments starting at sectional level
   February 13, 2022 for tournaments starting at district level
5) Coaching and Season end with the State Tournament — March 5, 2022.
6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
7) Regular season contests — 14 for team and individuals; no limit on number of opponents.
8) Rules — U.S.A. Gymnastics.
9) Officials
   9.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 judge required. It is strongly recommended that two Class 1 judges officiate each meet. Class 2 judges may be utilized, but it is highly recommended that a Class 2 official judge with a Class 1 official.
   9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 judge recommended.
   9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 or 2 or non-registered level 8 JCI or higher recommended.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8
1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 5, 2021.
2) First contest — December 6, 2021.
3) Coaching and Season end with the State Tournament — March 5, 2022.
4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
5) Regular season contests — 12 for team and individuals; no limit on number of opponents.
6) Rules — U.S.A. Gymnastics.
7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 or non-registered level 8 JCI or higher recommended.
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<th>2021-22</th>
<th>2022-23</th>
<th>2023-24</th>
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<td>11/5</td>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>11/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Season Begins</td>
<td>12/6</td>
<td>12/5</td>
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<td>1/17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4/17</td>
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**SPORTING CONDUCT**

The OHSAA challenges everyone to take positive steps toward positive sporting behavior. It is the responsibility of each of us to serve as a positive role model and set high expectations for others.

**ADMINISTRATORS**

Athletic departments are comprehensive, pre-eminent teaching departments with a subject matter all their own: self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, discipline, perseverance, respect for others, strategic thinking, dedication, the importance of rules, and sportsmanship. These are true-life lessons, and participation in athletics provides another forum for learning.

Coaches and Officials are responsible for promoting sporting conduct and positive behavior on the competition floor. Administrators, we need your continued assistance in promoting sporting conduct and controlling fan behavior in the stands! Let the parents and fans know what you expect!

**COACHES**

Your student-athletes will demonstrate the attitudes and behaviors they have learned from you, either through direct instruction or through observation of your actions. *Never underestimate the influence you have on your students!* You must:

- Abide by and teach the rules of the sport in letter and in spirit.
- Set a good example for players and spectators to follow.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of contest officials and judges. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.
- Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Develop a program that rewards participants and spectators for displaying proper sportsmanship and enforces penalties on those who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.

It is difficult to develop a great setter, a great hitter or a great defensive player. However, your greatest challenge is to develop mature young adults who will become great citizens and role models in your community.

**OFFICIALS**

Your job is not an easy one, but officials must be aware that they are an important component in the educational development of students. To carry out this responsibility, you must:

- Know the rules and mechanics of our sport and the philosophy behind them.
- Get fit and stay fit. An official with all of the rules and mechanics knowledge and people skills in the world does no good if he or she cannot physically keep up with play.
- Maintain professional and ethical relationships with athletic administrators, especially in the area of fulfilling game contracts.
- Work cooperatively with fellow officials during contests and within the officials’ association to improve members’ performances.
- Always maintain when interacting with all participants, an attitude of civility and professionalism.
- Practice effective preventive officiating as much as possible before, during, and after a competition. The quiet word, proper signals, timely verbal instructions, a simple thank-you to a player for avoiding an unsporting act, and well-thought-out pre-competition conferences with the teams and other contest officials will result in an improvement of sporting conduct by eliminating the chance for things to go wrong.

**STUDENT-ATHLETES**

You serve as a role model for your younger siblings, young fans in the stands, your teammates, and your classmates. Set high expectations for everyone and help them follow-through! You must:

- Accept and understand the seriousness of your responsibility, and the privilege of representing your school and the community.
- Live up to the standards of sporting conduct established by the school administration and the coaching staff.
- Learn the rules of the game thoroughly and discuss them with others. This will assist everyone in the achievement of a better understanding and appreciation of the game.
- Treat opponents as you would like to be treated……with respect.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Treating them with respect, even if you disagree with their judgment, will serve to create a positive impression of you and your team.

**CONCLUSION**

Good sporting conduct is everyone’s responsibility. It is the essence of interscholastic athletics. Remember...some may question an official’s judgment or a coach’s decision, but no one can question the value of good sporting conduct.

As we prepare for the upcoming seasons, we wish to emphasize to each of you the importance of your leadership role in sporting conduct, ethics and integrity. The professional way officials and coaches conduct themselves prior to, during and following a contest unquestionably impacts the behavior of others involved.

The OHSAA has joined the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in its quest to improve sportsmanship, ethics and integrity. We are involved in an ongoing campaign in every sport to do just that.

Printed below is the mission statement of the NFHS concerning sporting conduct, ethics and integrity. Please take the time to read and digest this statement and then carefully consider your impact upon the players, officials, coaches, and fans. Thank you and have a great season.

**NFHS Sporting Conduct Mission Statement**

Good sporting conduct is viewed by the National Federation of State High School Associations as a commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. The ideals of sporting conduct apply equally to all activity disciplines. Individuals, regardless of their role in activities, are expected to be aware of their influence on the behavior of others and model good sportsmanship.

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

On our website (ohsaa.org – click on “Respect the Game” on the right side of the screen) you will find Fair Play Codes for student-athletes, coaches, and fans, as well as additional information regarding parents’ role in interscholastic athletics. The Respect the Game site also includes information about the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship Award and the Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. Please feel free to contact us with any additional questions. A direct link can be found by clicking on http://www.ohsaa.org/RTG/Resources/resources.htm