



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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November 5, 2019

TO: Member School Principals, Athletic Administrators and Track & Field Coaches
FR: Dale Gabor, OHSAA Administrator of Cross Country and Track & Field
RE: Change in Starting Date for Coaching – Track & Field

On Thursday, October 24, the OHSAA Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve a proposal that **EFFECTIVE IN THE 2020 TRACK & FIELD SEASON, THE STARTING DATE FOR TRACK & FIELD COACHING WILL BE FEBRUARY 24, 2020 (NOT MARCH 9 AS LISTED IN THE OHSAA HANDBOOK)**

This proposal was brought forth by the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches. The rationale behind the proposal was threefold:

- 1.) To provide consistency with the start of coaching for baseball, softball and lacrosse, and in line with fall sports, all of which begin on the same day, (i.e. August 1);
- 2.) Safety issues/preparation time for student-athletes (especially hurdles, jumps, vault, throws and sprints) . . . baseball, softball, lacrosse and track & field all allow for the same date for the beginning of competition, but track & field actually had two less weeks of preparation, and
- 3.) Not all schools in Ohio sponsor indoor track and field.

Following a survey of superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and coaches, the results were overwhelmingly in favor to support this proposal. Together, these four groups approved the proposal 707-189.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. Your understanding is most appreciated.