



2026 7th & 8th Grade Track & Field State Championship Qualifying Meet Eligibility Criteria

Changes Announced in October 2025 are indicated with blue text.

Changes announced in January 2026 are indicated with red text.

Certification

- An “approved application” must be gained prior to marketing your meet as an “OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade State Meet Qualifier”. The OHSAA logo **CANNOT** be used in any way on any meet information, program, etc.
- The host will keep all revenue generated by spectator tickets, team registration fees, food concessions, parking revenue, apparel, sponsorships etc.
- The host school &/or meet management **WILL NOT** receive any type of financial assistance from the OHSAA for costs incurred from hosting this meet, nor will any member of the meet management, event staff, or timing company receive payment from the OHSAA for the work performed at this meet.
- The host is solely responsible for securing & providing all event staffing for this meet, a timing company, and the assigning of the required number of officials as outlined in the “Qualifier Agreement.” The hosting site understands & confirms that there will be no OHSAA staff on site during this qualifying event, nor will the OHSAA staff provide any pre-event assistance with any function of the meet management process.
- **All applications must be submitted by March 26, 2026 at 11:55pm.** Late applications will be accepted at the discretion of the Sport Administrator and will require a \$100 late fee paid to the OHSAA before the late application will be reviewed

Approved Competition Dates

- The meet must take place between **March 27, 2026, and May 9, 2026**.
- If canceled due to weather the meet can be moved to Sunday, **May 10, 2026** as long as all results filed by 10 pm.
- State Meet: **May 16, 2026**

Athletic.net Usage

- All meets **MUST** utilize **Athletic.net** for the meet, including both registration and results; there are no exceptions to this requirement.
- **The Athletic.net Meet ID and URL MUST be provided as part of the application or your meet will not be approved.** Meet Managers or FAT providers will need to create the meet and provide the information before applying. If the host or the FAT provider makes changes that

affect the ID or URL, they must report them immediately or your meets results will not be included as a qualifier.

FAT Requirement

- Fully Automatic Timing must be used, and NFHS Rules must be followed for both its use and who is allowed to operate it.
- FAT systems must start automatically (electronically) at the firing of the starting device, and the finish must be recorded via approved video. **Software that captures the finish electronically but does not start automatically cannot be used.**
- If there is a FAT failure, any race not using FAT will not be accepted. If this occurs, please contact the sport administrator.
- All Seated event results must be reported in the final results as “Seated Events”. Seated event results CANNOT be reported in the same event as footed athletes. Please review the seated athlete manual for more information.
- **It is strongly recommended that Electronic Starting Devices be used as they will be used at the championship.**

Wind Readings

- Wind readings for the appropriate races and long jump are recommended but not required for qualifiers.

Team Entry Requirements

- Meets must allow at minimum 4 (four) schools to enter (both genders).
- There is no maximum or minimum number of athletes a team can enter in each event. All OHSAA and NFHS regulations must be followed.
- Meets do not need to follow the standard order of events; relay-style meets are eligible. Only those events in the standard order of events will be included in the top 50 list for qualification. Specialty relays that do not follow the regulations outlined in the coaches/officials manuals will be excluded from the top 50 list for qualification.

Officiating Requirements

- Ensuring fair and safe competition is a key element of the certification process; meets must have at least 4 (four) OHSAA-certified officials, as detailed below.
- If 4 (four) officials cannot be contracted due to the shortage of officials and meets can show they have contacted all eligible officials in their area, an exception may be made on a case-by-case basis.
- All officials' assignments must be made through DragonFly

Minimum Officiating Requirements

- Meet Referee (1), who is an OHSAA class one official.
- Starter (1), who is an OHSAA official of any class.
- Clerk (1), who is an OHSAA official of any class.
- Head Field Judge or Field Referee (1) who is an OHSAA official of any class
- *It is **STRONGLY** recommended that additional officials be contracted.

Implement Inspection

- All pole vault poles and throwing implements must be inspected, throwing implements must be weighed, and both must be certified by an OHSAA class one official. [Failure to do so will result in the affected events being excluded from the top 50 list for qualification.](#)
- If the official assigned to the field event(s) is not a class one official, the Referee or other class one official must perform this responsibility.
- Regulations for vaulting poles are outlined in NFHS rules
- Regulations for throwing implements are outlined in the OHSAA Officials Manual.
- **ALL** OHSAA and NFHS rules apply to competition.

Order of Events

- If your venue has a legal pole vault facility, the event must be competed regardless of the number of participants or if the host school has any participants.
- Seated events must be offered at all non relay meets in the Shot Put, 100M, & 400M.
 - Please refer to the seated athlete manual for information on how the events should be administered.
- Shot Put, Discus, and Long Jump may be competed with finals (3 prelim attempts, three additional in finals) or with four attempts only.
 - Throws **MUST** be taken one at a time (no two & one or two & two) unless the referee deems it necessary for someone to throw more than one to compete in another event.
 - [Minimum measurement lines may be used.](#)
 - Long Jump may utilize an open pit
 - Field events must be seeded from worst to best, both overall and in each flight.
- Running events must be seeded per the rules outlined by the NFHS



2026 7th & 8th Grade Track State Championship Qualifier Check List

- Approval received from OHSAA Sport Administrator
The meet cannot be approved without submitting the [Athletic.net](#) Meet ID and Meet Link.
- Meet used [Athletic.net](#) for registration
- Meet was open to seated athletes
- Must use FAT as defined in NFHS rules.
- Meet is open to at least 4(four) schools (both genders)
- OHSAA official's minimum requirements met
- Pole Vault poles inspected by a OHSAA class one certified official
- Throwing implements inspected by an OHSAA class one certified official
- Field events followed the appropriate regulations
- Results submitted to [Athletic.net](#) immediately following event.
- Seated event results are listed as "Seated Events" in your results
- Any and all issues/anomalies reported to sport administrator
- Meet was held during the approved time frame

