

To: OHSAA Wrestling School Athletic Directors and Head Coaches

From: Tyler Brooks, Senior Manager of Officiating & Sport Administration

Re: August 2021 Update

Date: Tuesday, August 3, 2021

I hope this email finds you doing well as we begin our 2021-22 school year!

Beginning with this school year, some of my core duties here at the OHSAA have changed. In addition to continuing as the administrator for the sport of wrestling, I will also be administering boys and girls golf (fall sports), boys lacrosse (spring sport), and girls lacrosse (spring sport). With these new duties, my response time to wrestling matters may be slower this fall than normal as I prioritize my current sports of boys and girls golf, as well my duties within the officiating department. Please be patient and I will respond to your wrestling inquiries as soon as I can.

This email will be long, but there are several critical updates and changes relating to the 2021-22 school year. Please review this entire email. Any references to changes in wrestling regulations will be accessible via the OHSAA wrestling webpage (<https://www.ohsaa.org/sports/wrestling>) later this month. As of this morning, the 21-22 regulations were not in final format for posting to OHSAA.org. I will share the hyperlink to the full text once posted in a future update.

1 - Future Site of the OHSAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament

The contract with the future site of our OHSAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament has not been finalized. I will email you all once the contract is finalized. We anticipate the contract being finalized this month.

2 - New Weight Classes

As codified in the 2021-22 wrestling regulations, the new weight classes shall be:

Boys Weight Classes (set of 14, will be used for the individual tournament):
106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 144, 150, 157, 165, 175, 190, 215, and 285

Girls Weight Classes (set of 14, used for female-only events):
100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 155, 170, 190, and 235

In the survey distributed this spring on the subject, there was clear support for the boys weight classes (59%) to remain at 14 weight classes. 23% of respondents supported 13 weight classes and 18% supported 12 weight classes.

The survey also showed clear support for implementation of these weight classes for the 2021-22 school year, with 57% of respondents voicing their support for implementation in the 21-22 school year. 22% of respondents supported implementation in the 22-23 school year, while the other 21% supported implementation in the 23-24 school year.

3 - Girls Wrestling Information

Please review the information below from Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association Girls Representative Brian Nicola. These resources are invaluable to the growth of girls wrestling in our state, please take some time to submit your school's information where applicable:

Coaches - Please fill out or update the linked chart: [Link to "Girls Teams - Statewide 2021-22" Spreadsheet](#)

- 1) Complete or add your data (best guess)
- 2) Once complete, highlight your line and change to **BLACK** to show that it is updated.
- 3) Complete MS and tourney tabs, if applicable

Additionally, below is a hyperlink to a resource provided by the Wrestle Like a Girls organization titled "Coaching Girls Wrestlers: Best Practices":

 [Girls Wrestling Best Practices Quick Guide.pdf](#)

4 - Change in Interpretation of Regular Season Event Point Values

Previously, the interpretation of wrestling regulation 1.1 (table of regular season event point values) was that the number of schools present dictated the point value of the regular season event. This interpretation made it difficult for smaller teams with a partial lineup to schedule non-tournament matches.

Beginning this school year, the number of schools / teams present will no longer dictate the point value of the regular season event. The point value of each event will now be dictated by the highest number of matches wrestled by a wrestler on your team at that event.

For example, if 8 teams with partial lineups gathered to wrestle a non-tournament, round robin format event where every wrestler only competed in no more than 2 matches, then the regular season point value for the wrestlers would be 1 point. I will provide additional examples and interpretations as the season approaches, but it was important that I share that information now so that schools can begin to schedule non-tournament events with a clear understanding of the point value that they will incur on their schedule.

5 - Change in Point Value for a Quad Match / 3 Match Day

The point value for a quad match / 3 match event is now 1.5 points. This was previously 2 points.

6 - Optional Modifications to Sub-Varsity Competition

The following optional modifications to sub-varsity competition are now permissible and codified in the 21-22 wrestling regulations:

With mutual agreeance of all participating teams in a sub-varsity event, the sub-varsity competition may be modified in one or both of the following ways:

8.1) Multiple Entrants in Same Weight Class

Schools may enter more than one wrestler in the same weight class in a sub-varsity event, including bracketed individual tournaments.

8.2) Home School Weigh-Ins

Sub-varsity wrestlers may weigh-in at their home school on the day of competition. The host school / tournament director may dictate the time of day the home weigh-ins take place. Home school weigh-ins will be conducted using Trackwrestling-generated weigh-in forms and must be witnessed and signed by a school administrator / coaching staff / designee. Additionally, the signed weigh-in form shall be presented at the meet prior to the competition.

These optional modifications should provide some added flexibility when it comes to sub-varsity competitions, where we all know the name of the game is "getting kids matches".

7 - Tournament Divisions (and Enrollment Data) Remain the Same in 2021-22

Per action by the OHSAA Board of Directors, the 2020-21 enrollment data and tournament divisions will be utilized again in the 2021-22 school year. Constitution Article 6-1-9 allowed the Executive Director's Office to make this change, and it was subsequently approved by the Board. With some schools not offering sports along with many students transferring to non-traditional learning modules last fall due to COVID-19, the Executive Director's Office deliberated on how to handle enrollment data, since October 2020 is when the OHSAA traditionally would have received that data (EMIS) from the Ohio Department of Education for use in tournament representation, tournament division breakdowns and classifications for OHSAA District Athletic Board elections. While understanding many schools had various unique enrollment situations this year, it was determined that utilizing the same data for a third and final year was the fairest for all OHSAA member schools since any new data collected would likely be severely skewed and/or an unreliable representation.

8 - Review of OHSAA Bylaw 9-2-1 - Travel to Non-Bordering State

Per the spring 2021 referendum voting, schools are now required to request permission from the OHSAA prior to traveling to a non-bordering state for competition (Bylaw 9-2-1) for the upcoming 21-22 school year.

This form is available on the golf webpage at the link below:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/NonBorderingStateApproval.pdf>

Full text of revised bylaw is below:

9-2-1: 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 ohsaa.org to obtain the required form to request this travel permission). Penalty for violation: A school which travels to a non-bordering 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-bordering 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.



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