

To: OHSAA Wrestling School Athletic Directors & Head Coaches

From: Tyler Brooks, Director of Officiating & Sport Management

Re: Update on Out-of-Season Wrestling

Per OHSAA General Sport Regulations (GSR), wrestlers and wrestling coaches are essentially unrestricted in regards to out-of-season competition and training during the offseason. Please review General Sport Regulations 7.3.2, 7.5.3, and 8.4 in the OHSAA Handbook. Here is a link to the OHSAA Handbook, with the first GSR reference being on page 81:

<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/Handbook.pdf>

However, per orders from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding contact sports, contact sports (includes wrestling) are permitted to conduct competition and training only within their own team (intra-squad competition). Teams cannot conduct competition / training with other schools / teams (inter-squad competition) without following the mandatory protocols outlined here:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Games-Leagues-Conferences-Tournaments-Contact-Sports.pdf>.

Here is a link to the ODH order: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/2nd-Ext-Exp-2nd-Amended-Order-Contact-Sport.pdf>

Again, these restrictions on inter-squad competition are a result of the Ohio Department of Health's orders, **not OHSAA regulations**. As such, the OHSAA has no role in the oversight or enforcement of these orders.

I do not have any information on any prospective modifications to our 2020-21 wrestling season at this time. As of the writing of this email, we are planning for our season as regularly scheduled. There are no assurances, promises, or commitments that I or anyone at the OHSAA can make that couldn't be nullified by our local, state, or federal governments at a moment's notice.

If you have any follow-up questions to this email, please feel free to reply. However, I want to share that I am extremely busy with my officiating department duties at this time and am currently responding to emails on an approximate one-week delay.

If you are seeking guidance on how to more-safely conduct wrestling activity during this pandemic, below are two links to resources that may assist you.

NWCA's "Returning to Wrestling" Guidance

http://www.nwcaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NWCA_Returning-to-Wrestling-Advocacy-Guide_FINAL_July-7-2020.pdf

USA Wrestling's "Return to the Mat Guidelines"

<https://content.themat.com/covid-19/USAW-Return-to-the-Mat-Guidelines.pdf>

Please stay safe and stay healthy!



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