

CHAPTER

5

OHSAA

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2018-19 OHSAA Ready Reference Calendar - High Schools

Revised Aug. 1, 2018. Dates and locations subject to change.



FALL	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number-Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Cross Country	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 20	16	Oct. 1	Oct. 7	Nov. 3, National Trail Raceway, Hebron
Field Hockey	Aug. 1	5 scrimmages after practice begins	Aug. 17	16	Oct. 1	Oct. 7	Nov. 2-State Semis/Upper Arlington High School Nov. 3-State Final/Upper Arlington High School
Football	July 30	2 Scrimmages (or 1 scrimmage/1 preview) plus 1 Jamboree Game between Aug. 7-18	Aug. 20	10	Oct. 8	Playoff Qualifiers Announced Oct. 28	Nov. 2-3-Regional Quarterfinals Nov. 9-10-Regional Semis Nov. 17-18-Regional Finals Nov. 24-25-State Semifinals Nov. 29-Dec. 2-State Finals, Canton
Golf	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage and 1 exhibition match any time during season	Aug. 4	20	Sept. 4	Sept. 16	Oct. 12-13 (BII, BIII, & GII/OSU & NorthStar) Oct. 19-20 (Boys Div. I & Girls Div. I/OSU)
Soccer	Aug. 1	4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 17	16	Oct. 8	Oct. 7	Nov. 6-Girls State Semifinals Nov. 7-Boys State Semifinals Nov. 9-Girls State Finals, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus Nov. 10-Boys State Finals, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus
Tennis (Girls)	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Aug. 10	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Sept. 4	Sept. 23	Oct. 19/Lindner Tennis Ctr., Mason (1st & 2nd rounds) Oct. 20/Lindner Tennis Ctr., Mason (Semis & Finals)
Volleyball	Aug. 1	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 18	22	Oct. 8	Oct. 7	Nov. 8-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Center (Div. IV & III) Nov. 9-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Center (Div. II & I) Nov. 10-State Finals/Wright St. Nutter Center (all 4 divs.)
WINTER	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number-Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Basketball (Boys)	Nov. 2	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Nov. 29	22	Feb. 18	Feb. 10	Mar. 21-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. III & II) Mar. 22-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. IV & I) Mar. 23-State Finals/OSU Schottenstein Center (all 4 divs.)
Basketball (Girls)	Oct. 26	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Nov. 23	22	Feb. 11	Feb. 3	Mar. 14-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. III & II) Mar. 15-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. IV & I) Mar. 16-State Finals/OSU Schottenstein Center (all 4 divs.)
Bowling	Nov. 2	None permitted	Nov. 16	24	Jan. 21	Feb. 3	Mar. 1-2-Division II/Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl Mar. 8-9-Division I/Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
Gymnastics	Nov. 2	None permitted	Dec. 3	14	Jan. 14	Feb. 10	Mar. 1-Team/Hilliard Bradley H.S. Mar. 2-Indiv. & AA/Hilliard Bradley H.S.
Ice Hockey	Oct. 26	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Nov. 16	35	Feb. 4	Feb. 6	Mar. 16-State Semis/Nationwide Arena, Columbus Mar. 17-State Finals/Nationwide Arena, Columbus
Swimming & Diving	Oct. 26	None permitted	Nov. 26	16	Jan. 21	Jan. 27	Feb. 20-23/C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton
Wrestling Team Dual Individual	Nov. 9	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Nov. 30	20 points (see Handbook for event points)	Jan. 7	Dual Team: Jan. 3 Individual: Jan. 27	DUAL TEAM: Feb. 10/OSU St. John Arena INDIVIDUAL: Mar. 7-9/OSU Schottenstein Center
SPRING	First Practice	Scrimmages & Previews	First Contest	Number-Regular Season Contests	Non-Intersch. Date	Tournament Draw/Seed	State Tournament Dates/Sites
Baseball	Feb. 18	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 23	27	Apr. 29	May 5	June 6-State Semis/Site TBD (Div. I & IV) June 7-State Semis/Site TBD (Div. II & III) June 8-State Finals/Site TBD (all 4 divs.)
Lacrosse (Girls)	Feb. 18	3 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 15	18	Apr. 29	May 5	May 29 State Semifinals June 1 State Finals - Ohio Wesleyan University
Lacrosse (Boys)	Feb. 18	3 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 15	18	Apr. 29	May 5	May 29 State Semifinals June 1 State Finals - Ohio Wesleyan University
Softball	Feb. 18	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 23	27	Apr. 29	April 28	May 30-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stadium (Div. III & II) May 31-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stadium (Div. I & IV) June 1-State Finals/Akron Firestone Stadium (all 4 divs.)
Tennis (Boys)	Mar. 4	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Mar. 22	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Apr. 8	April 28	May 24-Lindner Tennis Center, Mason (1st & 2nd rounds) May 25-Lindner Tennis Center, Mason (Semis & Finals)
Track & Field	Mar. 4	None permitted	Mar. 23	16	Apr. 29	May 5	May 31/June 1-OSU Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium



The Ohio High School
Athletic Association

OHSAA Official Game Balls

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Fall

Football

Wilson GST

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

Soccer

Nike T-90 Catalyst

Used in all OHSAA regional & state tournament contests

Volleyball

Molten IV 58L-BLK/SLV-OH

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

Winter

Girls Basketball

COMPOHIO285CB
("Contour")

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

Boys Basketball

COMPOHIOCB ("Contour")

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

Spring

Baseball

Rawlings R100-OHIO

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

Fast Pitch Softball

Worth/Dream Seam
C12RYLAH

Used in all OHSAA tournament contests

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Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association

For School Counselors - 2018-19

Revised 5/3



Virtually every scholarship appeal that comes to the OHSA office places sole responsibility on you, the school counselor, for a student's failure to meet the requirements of the applicable scholarship bylaws found in 4-4. Even though that notion is absolutely incorrect and OHSA rules make reference to the fact that scholastic success is a shared responsibility with parents and students expected to shoulder most of the load, the Executive Director's Office has prepared this document to inform you of the crucial information that you need to know in order to advise students appropriately.

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO KNOW

HIGH SCHOOL

1. All high school students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of **five one-credit courses** (or the equivalent) each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of five one-credit courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Do not allow the student to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five one credit courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator a template of which can be accessed here. (<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>)
5. The required Physical Education Course is not a full credit course. Do not count this course as one of the five full credit courses.
6. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.
7. The OHSA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSA matter

Grades 7-8

1. All 7-8th grade students **MUST** be enrolled in and earn passing grades in a minimum of five courses each and every grading period to have continuing eligibility.
2. Participate in every effort to ensure that all students are fully scheduled in a minimum of five courses each grading period.
3. If a student comes to you and asks to drop a course, ask the following questions:
 - a. Are you a student athlete?
 - b. What sports do you play?
 - c. Have you visited with your athletic administrator or principal to determine if dropping this course will affect your eligibility to play a sport?
4. Do not allow the student to drop a course which reduces his/her course load below five courses unless you receive a form from a senior administrator a template of which can be accessed here. (<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/forms/SuggestedScheduleChangeForm.pdf>)
5. Always contact your principal or athletic administrator if you have any questions.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods," and restoration of eligibility is NOT permitted after such evaluations.

In addition, students who have not met the high school or 7-8th scholarship requirement are not "substantively eligible;" and a student who fails to register for enough credit hours, fails a class(es) or drops a class that lowers the student below the requisite number of credits, always has a shared responsibility for this shortcoming thus disqualifying such shortcoming from the "due solely to an administrative error" category. Therefore, the administrative error bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility - Grades 9-12

Passing grades must be received in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
History	B	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Typing	C	1/4 - 4th 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Option - College Credit Plus

Note: If a student is taking all course work at the post-secondary institution under the College Credit Plus program, the calculation of equivalency has changed. Please note that in order for a CCP class to be used for determining eligibility for Bylaw 4-4-1, the class must count toward HS graduation.

In addition, students electing to enroll in CCP must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. College courses for which three or more semester hours of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately. This means that courses which are four, five, six or even seven hours of credit receive just one Carnegie unit. Examples of CCP options:

-1-

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Literature	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Calculus	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Biology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	CCP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Sociology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Computers	CCP	2 semester hours	$67 \times 2 =$
Geology	CCP	3 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Total Credits			7.34 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Spanish 2	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Health	B	1/4 - 1st 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
French	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Phys. Ed	A	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility - Grades 7-8

Passing grades are required in a minimum of five subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses, regardless of how many times per week the course meets, in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	C
Music	C
Health	F
Credits Passed	4 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Industrial Arts	C
Music	B
Computers	B
Physical Education	B
Credits Passed	5 of 6 classes = eligible for 4th grading period

NOTE:

For additional information, contact:

Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Telephone: (614) 267-2502 • Fax: (614) 267-1677 • Website: ohsaa.org

The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA website.



Interscholastic Athletics and Student Activities

2016-2017

Guidelines for students who attend

Home Educated and Non-Public Schools (either chartered or non-chartered), Community or STEM schools and who live in the district.

Home Educated

Effective September 28, 2013, the Ohio legislation allows home-educated students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools. (ORC Section 3313.5312(A)).

An “extracurricular activity” is a pupil activity program that is run by a school or school district and is not included in a graded course of study. Activities include any offered at the school that the student would attend if enrolled in the public school district the family resides.

Home educated students must meet the same requirements as any other student participating in the activity.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District guidelines for permitting home educated students to participate in extracurricular are:

1. The parent/guardian must submit an application form to the principal or designee of the school to include the name, address, date of birth, previous school attended, and date of withdraw from the District, of the home schooled student requesting to participate in extracurricular activity. Students that are being home educated pursuant to Rule 3301-34-03 (a parent-led curriculum) of the Administrative Code, are withdrawn from the district. These students are tracked through the office of Data, Accountability & Research as a registered home educated student with the District.
1. The principal/designee submits the application information to the Interscholastic Athletics office for verification through the office of Data, Accountability and Research.
2. Once the home schooled student has been verified by the office of Data, Accountability and Research, and declared eligible by the CMSD Commissioner of Interscholastic Athletics, the home educated student athlete must adhere to all rules, guidelines and policies set forth by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District’s board of education.
3. Home educated students participating in Interscholastic Athletics and extracurricular activities including *Band, Music, Drama, and Dance* must achieve a 2.00 GPA, and no “F”s”, in each semester.



Interscholastic Athletics and Student Activities
Home Educated and Non-Public Schools (either chartered or non-chartered),
Community or STEM schools and who live in the district.
PARTICIPATION APPLICATION FORM

Effective September 28, 2013, the Ohio legislation allows home-school students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools. (ORC Section 3313.5312(A)).

As a result of House Bill (HB) 487, community (AKA charter) school and STEM school students may now participate in extracurricular activities in certain school districts under RC 3313.537. The changes became effective on September 17, 2014.

An "extracurricular activity" is a pupil activity program that is run by a school or school district and is not included in a graded course of study. Activities include any offered at the school that the student would attend if enrolled in the public school district the family resides.

All applicants wishing to participate in the public-school-sponsored sports team or other extracurricular must meet eligibility requirements of the school, Senate Athletic League, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the OHSA. Applicants must fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements and must either meet academic requirements established by the state board of education for home instruction or those standards established by the school district.

Applicants are not eligible to participate, until verified by the office of Data, Accountability and Research, and declared eligible by the CMSD Commissioner of Interscholastic Athletics.

Participating SCHOOL: _____

School Administrator: _____ Date Submitted: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address: _____ DOB: _____

_____ CMSD ID: _____
(If applicable)

Current School/Program Attending: _____

Previous School Attended: _____

Date of Withdraw from CMSD: _____

Name Parent/Guardian: _____
(Please print)

Address of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Submit form to: Interscholastic Athletics and Student Activities Office
East Professional Center – 1349 East 79th Street – Cleveland, Ohio 44103
FAX: 216-432-4543

4. Student athletes must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5), one credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period to be eligible to participate.

FRESHMAN FRESH-START - Students enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from 8th grade shall only be required to have passed a minimum of five of the subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

For eligibility purposes, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year, or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.

Home educated student participants achieving less than a 2.0 G.P.A. on their report card or a "D" or "F" on their weekly eligibility card, for two consecutive weeks in the same courses, will be required to attend mandatory study sessions, until the next report card period.

5. All home educated students wishing to participate in the public-school-sponsored sports team or other extracurricular must meet eligibility requirements of the school, Senate Athletic League and the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Home schooled students must fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements and must either meet academic requirements established by the state board of education for home instruction or those standards established by the school district.

Non-Public Schools

As a result of House Bill (HB) 487, community (AKA charter) school and STEM school students may now participate in extracurricular activities in certain school districts under RC 3313.537. The changes became effective on September 17, 2014. (See Attached List of '14-'15 schools)

A student enrolled in a community or STEM school must be given, by the superintendent of the district in which the student is entitled to attend school, the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity at the district school in which the student would otherwise be assigned to attend under RC 3313.64 or 3313.65. However, if the district operates more than one school that serves the student's grade level, as determined by the superintendent based on the age and academic performance of the student, then the student must be given the opportunity to participate in the extracurricular activity at the school to which the student would be assigned. (The School closest to the students documented residence.)

1. Submission of the name of the school that the student attends SHALL be on file with the building principal/athletic administrator prior to any tryout or participation in interscholastic athletics.

2. Proof of bona fide residence within the district where participation is desired SHALL be on file (must show at least two of the following):
 - a. Utility bill showing name and address
 - b. Lease showing name and address
 - c. Parent/guardian driver's license
 - d. Affidavit of residence (either OHSAA Form <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/forms/Affidavit-BonaFideResidence.pdf> or district affidavit)
3. Immunization Disclosure (Insert Local Form here)
4. Athlete's Original Birth Certificate, Passport, Visa or Green Card – copies will not be accepted nor will hospital birth records be accepted.
5. Certified legal custody documents, if applicable
6. Emergency Medical Authorization and e-PPE clearance from a physician within the last year
7. Athlete's academic performance/grades from the previous grading period's work
 - a. Written transcript/grade card as verification that the high school student has passed five one credit course or the equivalent in the preceding grading period at the current non-public school attended.
 - b. Written transcript/grade card as verification that the 7-8th grade student has passed five courses in the preceding grading period at the current non-public school attended.
8. Have on file with the Athletic Department
 - a. District Pre-Participation Forms if applicable (insert local form here) and all OHSAA e-PPE and consent forms
 - b. Emergency Medical Authorization Form
 - c. Concussion Form
 - d. Acknowledgement of receipt of District's Athletic Code of Conduct, Student Code of Conduct and such other documents as required of all students in the district for interscholastic athletics participation
9. If the athlete's participation is after the fall of what would be the freshman (9th grade) year of participation, the parents and student MAY be required to file additional paperwork with the District and the OHSAA to determine eligibility.
10. The athlete and the parents/guardian MUST fulfill any and all other requirements for participation including but not limited to those established by the OHSAA and the District.

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEMO
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214
Telephone: 614-267-2502 • Fax: 614-267-1677 • www.ohsaa.org

May 8, 2017

TO: Member High School Principals and Athletic Administrators and 7th-8th Grade Principals and Athletic Administrators
FR: Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D., OHSAA Commissioner
RE: Preseason Meetings and Related Materials

Our staff has updated an OHSAA preseason meetings presentation that we highly encourage you to review and then present during your preseason athletic team meetings with student-athletes and their parents. If you recall, OHSAA Bylaw 3-1-4 requires that preseason meetings be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. The OHSAA presentation is not required but, again, we believe your student-athletes and their parents will only benefit from viewing it.

The 2017-18 OHSAA preseason meetings presentation is a PowerPoint, and the link to access it either as a PowerPoint or a PDF is located in the middle of the School Resources page of the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org) under 2017-18 OHSAA Preseason Meeting Information. The link is:
<http://www.ohsaa.org/School-Resources>.

The presentation is 41 slides and includes information on the purpose of education-based athletics along with:

- Rules and Regulations (essential regulations that impact athletic eligibility);
- Health and Safety (preparticipation physical evaluation and consent forms; concussions; sudden cardiac arrest, alcohol, tobacco, supplements, anabolic steroids and prescription drugs);
- Respect The Game (sporting behavior), and
- The OHSAA (a quick look at who we are and services we provide).

Administrators are welcome to add slides to the PowerPoint with your own school material.

Please note that another document that includes 1.) a suggested agenda for a general information preseason meeting; 2.) a suggested agenda for a sports specific preseason meeting; 3.) sample scripts to use when addressing sporting conduct and tobacco, alcohol and drug prevention, and 4.) sample invitations, student participation contract and evaluation form is also posted under 2017-18 OHSAA Preseason Meeting Information at:

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/SchoolResources/PreSeasonMeetings/PreseasonMtgSampleAgendas.pdf>

Current OHSAA Bylaw (3-1-4) on Mandatory Preseason Meetings

As mentioned, conducting preseason meetings is required in OHSAA Bylaw 3-1-4. The bylaw says: "No later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season, the principal, through his/her athletic administrator, coaches and such other personnel as deemed advisable by said principal, shall conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officers. The meeting shall consist of (a) a review of the student-athlete eligibility bulletin and key essential eligibility requirements; (b) a review of the school's Athletic Code of Conduct; (c) a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity component, and (d) a review of issues concerning concussions and steroids."

OHSAA Preseason Meetings Memo — 2

OHSAA General Sports Regulation 4 adds the following:

"When it has been verified that the member school has failed to conduct a preseason meeting(s) in accordance with Bylaw 3-1-4, the member school shall be fined \$500 for each violation." It is also noted that "the OHSAA intends to conduct random audits of compliance with this standard. Each member school shall record on *myOHSAA* the date and location of each meetings as well as the person responsible for each meeting."

Reinforcing the essential eligibility standards is of utmost importance in these meetings so that students and their parents are aware of the obligations they must meet in order to have the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics. As you can see, however, the OHSAA believes addressing other key areas is also essential. In addition, schools are given the flexibility to hold preseason meetings for fall sports in the late spring or early summer, while at the same time requiring that these meetings be held no later than two weeks after the start of the season.

Additional Preseason Meetings Notes

The OHSAA strongly recommends that, if a student and/or his or her parents do not attend the mandatory preseason meeting, participation in interscholastic athletics be denied until the meeting can be completed. Allowing them to view the OHSAA PowerPoint presentation individually by going to the OHSAA website is one option, or you are more than welcome to copy and paste the link to the presentation onto your school website, instruct parents and student-athletes to view it from there and have them sign-off that it was viewed.

In addition, you are not necessarily encouraged to have multi-sport athletes and their parents view the preseason meeting presentation each time prior to each season. However, you ARE still required to conduct a preseason meeting for each season.

Additional Materials On Preseason Meetings

Also, both the *2017-18 OHSAA Student-Athlete Eligibility Guide for High School Students* and the *2017-18 OHSAA Student-Athlete Eligibility Guide for 7th and 8th Grade Students* have been posted on our website. It is highly advisable to print out, duplicate and distribute copies of these publications for your student-athletes and their parents and/or to include the publications in your student-athlete handbook. The links to those two publications can be found at:

High Schools

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/OtherEligibiltyDocs/EligibilityGuideHS.pdf>

7th-8th Grade Schools

<http://www.ohsaa.org/Portals/0/Eligibility/OtherEligibiltyDocs/EligibilityGuideMS.pdf>

And finally, you are highly encouraged to make use of the resources available at www.OHSAA.org under the Sports Medicine area.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please contact our office if you have any questions!

Agenda for Mandatory Preseason Meeting *(Sample)*

GENERAL INFORMATION MEETING

I. Overview

- A. Welcome and introductions by superintendent, principal and/or athletic administrator
- B. Introduction of coaches/athletic trainers/sponsors and/or administrative staff
- C. District program philosophy
 - 1. Sporting conduct
 - 2. Citizenship
 - 3. State and school eligibility standards
 - 4. Expectations of student participants, their parents and coaches
 - 5. Special concerns/responsibilities of athletes and parents

II. Information

- A. Show OHSAA preseason meetings PowerPoint presentation with emphasis on the following essential eligibility standards:
 - 1. Must be currently enrolled or participating in accordance with state law
 - 2. Both parents must live in Ohio (or the parent with custody, due to divorce or having never been married, must live in Ohio)
 - 3. Must have passed five (5) one credit courses or the equivalent in the preceding grading period - high school
 - 4. Must have received passing grades in a minimum of five of the subjects in which you received grades in the preceding grading period - 7th-8th grade school
 - 5. Students taking College Credit Plus must comply with OHSAA scholarship standards
 - 6. Students participating via state law (home-educated, non-public at public, community and STEM school students) must comply with OHSAA scholarship standards
 - 7. Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility
 - 8. Summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period
 - 9. **Do not drop a class or change a schedule without checking with either the principal or athletic administrator**
 - 10. A high school student is entitled to eight semesters of participation opportunity once he/she enters grade 9 and whether he/she participates or not
 - 11. A seventh-eighth grade student is entitled to four semesters of participation opportunity once he/she enters grade 7 and whether he/she participates or not
 - 12. High school students will be ineligible whenever they turn 20; seventh-eighth grade students who turn 15 prior to August 1 means ineligible for grades 7th-8th (but could compete at high school for eight semesters)
 - 13. During the sport season, you may not participate on a non-school team in the same sport in which you are participating for the school
 - 14. There are certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after the season, and there are restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season. Before participating with a non-school team or receiving instruction outside the season from your school coaches, meet with your school's athletic administrator

Sample Preseason Meeting Agenda (General Information) — 2

15. Transfer students new to this school must ensure that all forms have been completed. School administrators will submit this paperwork to the OHSAA Office. Eligibility will be granted by the state office only if one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation has been met. Otherwise, transfers can expect a period of ineligibility.
 16. When in doubt, ask a school administrator. If the administrator still has questions, he/she will contact the OHSAA.
- B. Other topics
1. Required school forms
 2. School athletic code of conduct
 3. School academic requirements (district GPA, no pass/no play, may be more stringent than OHSAA's, etc.)
 4. Sporting behavior and expectations of coaches, student-athletes and parents/fans towards each other, opponents and their fans and contest officials
 5. School use of social media policies
 6. Attendance requirements for participation in practices and/or contests
 7. Participating in more than one sport at the same time
 8. Practice and contest guidelines when school is postponed, on holidays, etc.
- C. Health and medical/concussion/injury issues
1. Required preparticipation evaluation and parental consent forms
 2. Athletic trainers and team doctors procedures and policies
 3. Concussion management protocol, regulations and sign-off on Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet"
 4. Heat management guidelines
 5. Communicable disease and skin infection procedures
 6. Reporting injuries, failure to report injuries and procedures for game participation if no participation in practice
 7. Lightning and inclement weather policies
- D. Athletic participation insurance
1. School policy, availability
 2. Procedure for reporting injuries and submitting claims
- E. Activity fees and/or pay-to-participate
- F. Information for college bound student-athletes

Adjourn To Individual Sport Meeting

Agenda for Mandatory Preseason Meeting *(Sample)*

INDIVIDUAL SPORT MEETING

I. Overview

- A. Welcome by the head coach
- B. Introduction of the assistant coaches, other staff members including athletic trainers and/or booster club officers
- C. Coaching philosophy

II. Information

- A. Required team forms
- B. Communicating with the coach and staff
- C. Selection of team members/tryouts
- D. Preseason practice information/expectations
- E. In-season practice information/expectations
- F. Off-days expectations
- G. Team rules
 - 1. Training rules and code of conduct
 - 2. Alcohol, tobacco, drugs, steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs
 - 3. Non-school parties, parents who host, etc.
 - 4. Final date to join squad
 - 5. Procedure for quitting the squad
 - 6. Criteria for lettering and other awards
- H. Athletic trainers, doctors and injury procedures including treatment on non-school days
- I. Uniforms and equipment
- J. Home game expectations
 - 1. What to wear during school, to and from contest
 - 2. Pre-game meals
 - 3. Arrival times at school
- K. Away game procedures
 - 1. What to wear during school, to and from contest
 - 2. Pre- and post-game meals
 - 3. Departure time from school
 - 4. Parent pick up once return to school
 - 5. School policy for parent transportation
 - a. Impact on liability coverage
- L. Distribution of practice and contest schedules
- M. Summer and off-season expectations
- N. Fund raising requirements and booster information
- O. Tickets
 - 1. Seasonal activity passes vs. single game
 - 2. Reserved seating

III. Questions and Answers

Sporting Behavior *(Sample Script)*

The administration of this school is committed to the practice of sporting conduct and ethical behavior during all interscholastic competition. To be successful, it is critical that everyone consistently behaves in a manner that is respectful and reflective of the values of sporting conduct. Unfortunately, the failure on the part of one individual or any group can undermine the effort of all others.

Sporting conduct is defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and a genuine concern for others, and that would include our own coaches, student-athletes and fellow fans; the opposing team, coaches and fans; the contest officials, and the administrators conducting the contests.

Remember, there's nothing wrong with striving to be the best. But school sports exist to help develop all participants to be their best — their best as individuals, as students, as teammates, as members of the community — not just their best as athletes.

So when our opponents visit our school, treat them as our guests. To you parents, please fill our stands in support of your sons and daughters. We encourage you to bring your friends and neighbors and attend what we believe is always one of the best shows in town as well as an educational experience for our students. And to both our parents and our students, please remember to show your team spirit in a way that reflects positively on our teams, our school and our community.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs *(Sample Script)*

Participation as a member of one of our athletic teams at this school will provide you with many positive and educational experiences. In order for our teams to achieve their fullest potential, students will need to practice hard, work together and maintain a healthy lifestyle that is free of tobacco, alcohol, steroids and both performance-enhancing and recreational drugs. Students cannot expect to attain peak performance if they are under the influence of these dangerous and often illegal substances.

We strongly believe that parents must be partners in efforts to prevent alcohol use among our students, and highly encourage parents to demonstrate this commitment by participating in parent networks and promoting alcohol-free and other drug-free events for our high school students.

(Provide examples of organizations/activities from the school/community here.)

Student Participant Contract *(Sample)*

I _____, have chosen to participate in
(Student's Printed Name)

_____ at
(Sport)

_____ School.
(School Name)

I commit myself to continuously work toward the goal of top physical fitness. To do anything which would harm my body would not be in my best interest or the best interest of my team and school.

I agree to remain free from tobacco, alcohol, steroids and other performance-enhancing or recreational drugs during my sports season and throughout the entire school year. I fully understand this pledge extends to seven days per week.

If I have a problem or I need help fulfilling this contract, I understand the coaches, administrators and/or counselors will be available to help me.

I have read and understand the athletic policies/code of conduct and the consequences for violations of these policies or codes.

I pledge to follow all the rules and policies and to help all my teammates abide by the same athletic rules and policies.

(Student's Signature)

(Date)

As the parent/guardian of _____,
(Student's Printed Name)

I understand and support this contract and pledge that my student has signed. Optimum health and education are the goals of our athletic program, and I support the school in its efforts to attain these goals.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Coach's Signature)

(Date)

(Date)

Preseason Meeting Evaluation Form *(Sample)*

Sport _____

Please check one: Parent _____ Student _____

Questions

1. The purpose of the preseason meeting was made clear to me before the meeting:
Yes _____ No _____
2. The information presented to the entire group (if applicable) was:
Very helpful _____ Somewhat helpful _____ Not helpful _____
3. The amount of time spent providing information to the entire group (if applicable) was:
Too long _____ Too short (did not cover everything I expected) _____ Just right _____
4. The presentation by the OHSA was:
Very helpful _____ Somewhat helpful _____ Not helpful _____
5. The information presented by the coach to the smaller group was:
Very helpful _____ Somewhat helpful _____ Not helpful _____
6. The amount of time spent providing information to the coach's smaller group was:
Too long _____ Too short (did not cover everything I expected) _____ Just right _____
7. I had an opportunity to ask my questions:
Yes _____ No _____

Comments and suggestions for future meetings:

I would like a call from the:

_____ Principal _____ Athletic Administrator

_____ Coach _____ Other _____
(Specify)

Name: _____ Phone: _____
(Only If You Would Like A Call)

Best Time to Be Reached: _____

Parents Preseason Meeting Invitation *(Sample)*

Dear Parents:

You and your student-athlete are invited to attend a preseason athletic meeting that will include school administrators and coaches. This meeting will take place on

_____ at _____ a.m./p.m.,

and will be held at _____.

The general purpose of the meeting is to make students and their parents aware of the obligations they must meet in order to have the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics. Besides reviewing the school's essential eligibility standards, our athletic policies and/or code of conduct and reviewing policies and procedures related to topics like sportsmanship and health and concussion/sports medicine issues, attendees will also have the opportunity to break down into smaller groups to meet with the coaches of the students' particular sport.

We hope you will join us for this informative meeting since attendance is a required condition in order for your student to be eligible to compete for our school.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Student-Athletes Preseason Meeting Invitation *(Sample)*

Dear Students:

You and your parents are invited to attend a preseason athletic meeting that will include school administrators and coaches. This meeting will take place on

_____ at _____ a.m./p.m.,

and will be held at _____.

The general purpose of the meeting is to make students and their parents aware of the obligations they must meet in order to have the privilege of participating in interscholastic athletics. Besides reviewing the school's essential eligibility standards, our athletic policies and/or code of conduct and reviewing policies and procedures related to topics like sportsmanship and health and concussion/sports medicine issues, attendees will also have the opportunity to break down into smaller groups to meet with the coaches of the students' particular sport.

We hope you will join us for this informative meeting since attendance is a required condition in order for you to be eligible to compete for our school.

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Preseason Parent Meeting Scheduling Instructions – July 2011

Adding Preseason Parent Meetings:

1. Login to myOHSAA and click on the "Preseason Parent Meeting" link in the left column under "Participation Info".

The screenshot shows the myOHSAA website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links like My Home, My Profile, Report/Print, User Manual (pdf), Directory Info, School Admin, and Participation Info. The main content area is for "Index Blue Test High School 1 #999991" at "3248 Henderson Rd., Columbus, OH 43220". It features a calendar for July 2011 with a callout box pointing to the "Preseason Parent Meeting Link" on Sunday, July 10, 2011. To the right, there are statistics: "1 PENDING INVITATIONS" (1 Boys Wrestling) and "No Post Game Reports". At the bottom, there are "Add Event" buttons for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

2. Use the drop down box to select the school year that you want to schedule a meeting for then click the "Go" button.

The screenshot shows the myOHSAA website interface for "IndexBlue High Test 2 #999992" at "3248 Henderson Rd., Columbus, OH 43220". It features a "School year drop down" menu set to "2011-2012" with a "Go" button. Below this, there are sections for "Fall", "Winter", and "Spring", each with the text "No meetings currently scheduled." and an "Add Meeting" link. A callout box points to the "Add meeting link" for the Fall season.

3. Click the "Add Meeting" link for the season you are scheduling a meeting for. The form to add a meeting will appear.

Add/Edit Meeting

Date:

Start Time: : : AM/PM

End Time: : : AM/PM

Location:

Sports: ☐ Select / Unselect All Sports

- ☐ Boys Golf
- ☐ Girls Golf
- ☐ Girls Tennis
- ☐ Boys Soccer
- ☐ Girls Soccer
- ☐ Girls Volleyball
- ☐ Girls Field Hockey
- ☐ Boys Cross-Country
- ☐ Girls Cross-Country
- ☐ Boys Football

Facilitator:

Facilitator Title:

Public Notes:

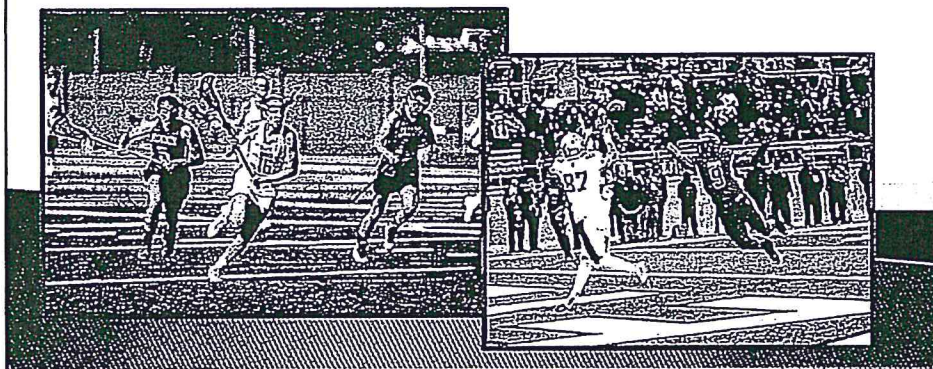
4. Enter the date by clicking inside the date box and selecting the date from the calendar. Use the arrow buttons on the calendar to move from month to month.
5. Enter the start time and approximate end time of the meeting.
6. Select the facility/location for the meeting. The list of locations pulls directly from the list of locations in your schools' location manager. If the location is not in the list, select "Add a new location...". The location address will default to the school's address. Add the facility name and correct the address if necessary. Upon saving the meeting, the location will be added to the list in your location manager.

In addition, once the public interface of schedules is launched the preseason parents meeting will appear as an event on those calendars for the public to view.

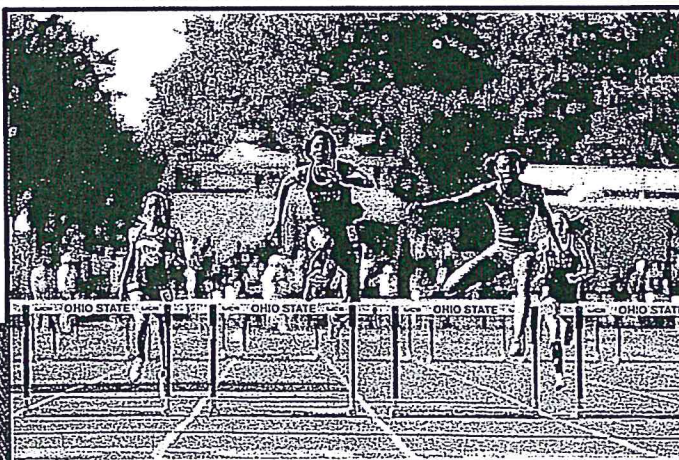


THE OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Information for
2018-19 Meetings



Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs





Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs

- ▶ Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is educational in nature and:
 - Complements your school experience.
 - Fosters a sense of community and teaches lifelong lessons of hard work, teamwork, citizenship and discipline.
 - Promotes a lifetime appreciation for sports and healthy lifestyles.



Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs

- ▶ Participation in interscholastic athletics programs:
 - Helps prepare you for the next level of your life as a responsible adult and productive citizen. Interscholastic athletics programs are not designed to prepare you for the next level of sports.



Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs

- ▶ The educational components of participation in interscholastic athletics programs make it unique.
- ▶ This is unlike many other non-school organizations that promote free player movement, the athletic development of the individual and provide a showcase for those individuals.

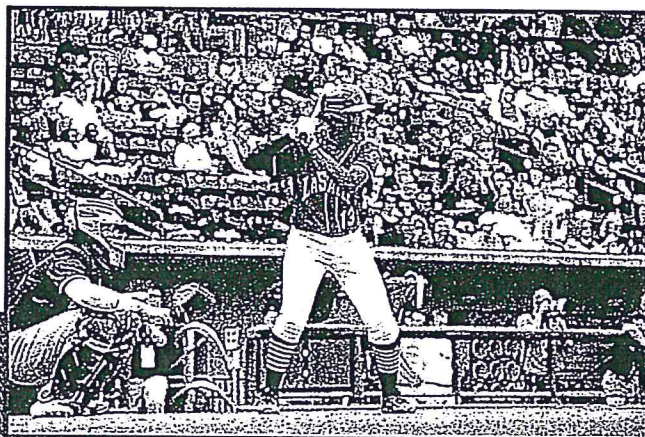


Why Interscholastic Athletics & OHSAA Beliefs

- ▶ Participants in interscholastic athletics programs should engage in a well-rounded experience that includes participation in a multitude of extracurricular activities.
- ▶ In interscholastic athletics:
 - Student academic achievement and success take priority over athletics achievement and success.
 - The success of a team is more important than individual awards.
- ▶ Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is a privilege, not a right.



Basic OHSAA Rules & Regulations



General OHSAA Eligibility Standards

- ▶ Eligibility rules exist to help maintain competitive balance in school sports and to promote the purpose of education-based athletics.
- ▶ As a student-athlete, YOU are responsible for your compliance.
- ▶ Besides OHSAA regulations, your school also has the authority to establish additional academic standards and codes of conduct.



• General OHSAA Eligibility Standards

- In order to maintain eligibility, you must be officially enrolled in an OHSAA member school, or participating in accordance with state law, and you must have a biological and/or adoptive parent who lives in Ohio.
- You may not be eligible if you are competing under a false name or have provided your school with an incorrect home address.
- You may not be eligible if you have been recruited to attend this school.



• OHSAA Scholarship Standards

- All incoming ninth graders must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five subjects** in the immediately preceding grading period. All grades must be recorded in a student's academic record.
- To maintain eligibility, high school students must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses**, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period.



OHSAA Scholarship Standards

- › All incoming seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw regardless of previous academic achievement.
- › To maintain eligibility, 7th–8th grade students must have received **passing grades in a minimum of five classes** in the immediately preceding grading period.



OHSAA Scholarship Standards

- › Students taking College Credit Plus must comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- › All students participating via state law that permits home educated, non-public, community and STEM school students to participate at public schools must also comply with OHSAA scholarship standards.
- › Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility unless your school provides grades at the end of a semester or school year pursuant to Board of Education policy.



• OHSAA Scholarship Standards

- ▶ To attempt to regain OHSAA eligibility, summer school grades, College Credit Plus and other educational options (e.g. work permitted after the conclusion of the grading period) shall not be used to bring a student into compliance with the OHSAA scholarship bylaws, nor can they be used to compensate for the lack of courses taken in the preceding grading period.
- ▶ If you drop a course or change your schedule, it is critically important that you contact your principal or athletic administrator to see if this affects your eligibility.
- ▶ The OHSAA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the state-mandated GPA is of concern are strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSAA matter.



• OHSAA Semester Standards

- ▶ No high school student will be eligible if he or she has been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- ▶ No 7th–8th grade student will be eligible if he or she has been enrolled in 7th–8th grade for more than four semesters.



OHSAA Age Standards

- High school students will be ineligible whenever they turn 20 years old.
- Seventh- and eighth-grade students who turn 15 before August 1st are also ineligible for 7th and 8th grade sports but **MAY BE** eligible to participate in high school athletics.



OHSAA Non-School Team and Program & Out-of-Season Standards

- You will be ineligible if you are a member of a school team competing on a non-school team in the same sport during your school team's season (example: club soccer team during school's soccer season).
- Coaches and schools cannot require that you participate in an open gym/open facility **OR** in a conditioning or instructional program. Violations of this regulation will result in penalties.



OHSAA Non-School Team and Program & Out-of-Season Standards

- ▶ There are certain restrictions regarding tryouts, practices and competitions with non-school teams before, during and after the school season.
- ▶ There are also restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in an OHSAA team sport (baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball) and some OHSAA individual sports (cross country, track & field and wrestling).
- ▶ There are no restrictions for instruction you can receive from school coaches outside of your season in many OHSAA individual sports (bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving and tennis).



OHSAA Amateur Standards

- ▶ You could lose your amateur status and forfeit your eligibility if you compete for money or other monetary compensation OR capitalize on your athletic fame by receiving money, merchandise or services or by entering into an agreement with a professional team or agent.

- ▶ Should you have transferred to this school, you must ensure all applicable paperwork has been submitted to the OHSAA AND the state office has granted approval for eligibility.
- ▶ Immediate eligibility will be granted only if one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation has been met.



• OHSAA Transfer Standards

- ▶ Once eligibility has been established at a member high school, a transfer to a different high school may mean you will lose eligibility for interscholastic athletics for a period of time at your new school. For specifics on the period of ineligibility, visit www.ohsaa.org.
- ▶ This regulation has several exceptions, most of which require a ruling from the OHSAA Executive Director's Office.



• OHSAA Transfer Standards

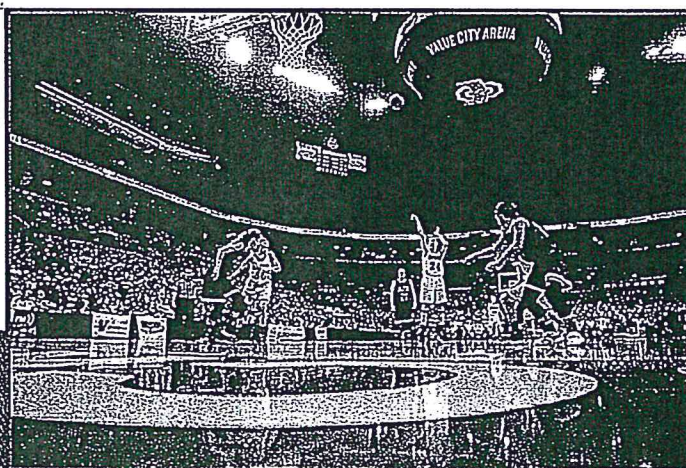


General OHSAA Eligibility Standards

- ▶ There ARE exceptions to some OHSAA regulations. If you believe you qualify for an exception or you have questions pertaining to your eligibility or about any of the regulations, please consult with your school principal or athletic administrator.
- ▶ Ask your school principal or athletic administrator to discuss any unresolved issues with the administrators in the OHSAA office who handle eligibility issues.
- ▶ You can also review all OHSAA regulations on eligibility standards by going to the OHSAA website at www.ohsaa.org.



Your Health & Safety





Your Health & Safety

- › Before the season's first practice (or prior to your first participation should you join the team after the season has started), you must have had a physical examination within the past year AND an examination clearance form must be on file at the school.
- › Physical examinations are valid for 13 months from the date of the exam. Exams taking place from May 1 to June 1 are valid for one year plus through the end of the next school year's spring season.



Your Health & Safety

- › You and your parents are highly encouraged to work with your certified athletic trainer and/or athletic administrator to complete an electronic preparticipation evaluation form that was developed for the OHSAA by PrivIT and called the PrivIT Profile™. This Profile is now the OHSAA standard.
(<http://privit.com/privit-products/privit-profile/>)
- › In addition, you will not be eligible unless you and your parents have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form; the OHSAA Eligibility & Authorization Statement; the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH) concussion form, and ODH's sudden cardiac arrest form, all of which must be on file at your school. These forms can be e-signed within the PrivIT Profile™.



Concussions

- It's EXTREMELY important for everyone involved in school sports to recognize the potential dangers associated with concussions and review their responsibilities in protecting student-athletes.
- Concussions are NOT just a problem in football . . . concussions can happen in just about any sport!
- A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that interferes with normal function of the brain. "Dings" and "bell ringers" are SERIOUS brain injuries and you do NOT have to have loss of consciousness for it to be considered serious. Young athletes are at increased risk for serious problems.



Concussions

- In Ohio, any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion . . . such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems . . . shall be IMMEDIATELY removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play that same day.
- Thereafter, the student shall not return to practice or competition until cleared with WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION from a physician or health care provider approved by the local board in accordance with state law.



Concussions

- ▶ Each school is required to review its concussion management protocol with participants and their parents.
- ▶ In addition, participants and parents must review and sign the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and are highly encouraged to review a short presentation on concussions available at no cost (www.nfhslearn.com).



Concussions

- ▶ While return-to-play policies are very important, parents must also work with school administrators and teachers in developing concussion management guidelines for student-athletes who have been concussed and are returning to the classroom (i.e. Return to Learn).



• Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- ▶ Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is the most common cause of death among student-athletes, and dizziness, loss of breath and a racing heart are often symptoms that are overlooked. In many cases, recognizing the signs of cardiac trouble means student-athletes can continue their athletic participation.
- ▶ Participants and parents are required to view the Ohio Department of Health's sudden cardiac arrest video that may be shown at your school.
- ▶ In addition, participants and parents must review and sign the Ohio Department of Health's "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information Sheet" prior to participation.



• Additional Health & Safety Guidelines

- ▶ The OHSAA does not permit the use of any form of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs.
- ▶ Besides the health risks involved, use of any of these items will result in students being disqualified from contests and violators likely facing additional school and legal penalties.



Additional Health & Safety Guidelines

- ▶ Another prominent issue is the use of performance enhancing supplements.
- ▶ The increased availability of these items allows students easy access to a wide variety of products aggressively marketed to include promises — endorsed by faulty research claims — of extraordinary weight loss, explosive power or tremendous strength gains.
- ▶ It is important for parents to educate themselves about what substances their child may be using and about the potential risks involved with uneducated supplement use.



Additional Health & Safety Guidelines

- ▶ Beyond performance enhancing supplements, there are additional issues related to illicit drugs, such as anabolic steroids and some prescription drugs used with the goal of aiding performance.
- ▶ Use of these drugs will result in disqualification from all interscholastic athletics.
- ▶ The OHSAA website (www.OHSAA.org) provides a wealth of information to assist parents, coaches, students and anyone interested in learning more about sports medicine and healthy lifestyles.



Sporting Behavior



• Respect The Game

- ▶ The OHSAA's vision for positive sporting behavior is built on expectations. It calls on the school community — administrators, contest officials, coaches, students, parents and fans — to strive for positive sporting behavior in everything they do by teaching the values of ethics, integrity, equity, fairness and respect.
- ▶ As a student-athlete, you must always remember to Respect The Game!



Respect The Game

- ▶ That means you are expected to accept the responsibility and privilege of representing your school and community while participating in school sports. You are expected to:
- Treat opponents, coaches and officials with respect.
 - Ensure that your actions do not incite fans or other participants or attempt to embarrass, ridicule or demean others.



More on the OHSAA





• Organization Helping Student-Athletes Achieve

- ▶ Like the other 820 public and non-public high schools and approximately 800 7th and 8th grade schools, your school has volunteered to become a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.
- ▶ Ohio is one of the top ranked states in the country with over 350,000 high school students competing in 26 sanctioned sports.



• Organization Helping Student-Athletes Achieve

- ▶ For many of you, playing on your school teams may be the last time you will participate in competitive athletics.
- ▶ The OHSAA wants to make sure your time as a high school student-athlete is meaningful and memorable.



• Organization Helping Student-Athletes Achieve

► Key OHSAA initiatives:

- Establishing and regulating regular season and tournament standards in order for competition to be fair and equitable.
- Administering exceptional post-season tournaments.



• Organization Helping Student-Athletes Achieve

► Other key OHSAA initiatives:

- Providing annual scholarships totaling over \$100,000 to students who excel in athletics and academics.
- Licensing, registering and training nearly 17,000 contest officials.
- Ensuring coaches are certified to work with student-athletes through an ongoing coach education program.



Organization Helping Student-Athletes Achieve

- ▶ The OHSAA has had a tradition of excellence for over 100 years, with our ultimate purpose to promote lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in safe and sporting environments.
- ▶ For more information and additional resources, visit the OHSAA website (www.OHSAA.org) and follow us on Twitter (twitter.com/OHSAASports) and Facebook (facebook.com/OHSAA).
- ▶ Have a great season!

Flash Photography

Authorized news media representatives, who have been approved for credentials by contest managers or the OHSAA, shall be permitted to use electronic lighting equipment (includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras) throughout the course of a given activity in all sports EXCEPT bowling, gymnastics and diving (including warm-ups). In addition, electronic lighting is NOT permitted to be used in the following situations: in basketball in the free throw lane area (behind the background); in golf during and a few seconds before the swing; and in swimming immediately before the start of a race so as to not interfere with the starter's signal.

Additional Photography Note: In the sport of volleyball, electronic lighting is not permitted at any time during OHSAA tournament contests, and electronic lighting is only allowed during regular-season contests in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of f2.8. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season volleyball contests, photographers must work with school administrators anytime prior to the start of a match to test equipment and have the light meter reading verified. The reading can then be used for future matches in the same facility in the same season without retesting.

Photographer Positioning

In basketball, photographers and videographers are prohibited to position themselves behind the backboard (within the free-throw lane area) unless approved by the OHSAA.

1. The first violation of this policy shall result in a warning from contest managers or the OHSAA, and the second violation of this policy shall result in the removal of the photographer from the contest facility by contest managers or the OHSAA.

2. Photographers may position themselves along the baseline outside the lane area of the court (and are permitted to use electronic lighting as specified in Section 6-c).

3. The use of remote-operated cameras behind a basket is permitted (without flash) so long as the guidelines listed above are followed.

4. In soccer, photographers are permitted between the team benches only if approved by the head official (who may consult with both head coaches, if needed).

Photographers for other sports shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of football, field hockey and soccer, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In volleyball, photographers shall not be positioned in an area that could be "in play." When a soccer match goes to penalty kicks (after overtime), photographers may position themselves on the field in the midfield area if approved by the site manager or media coordinator. In addition, photographers shall not be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. In baseball and softball, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas unless a photographer's area (typically with a paint or chalk line) has been established by the game manager and approved by the officials before the game. The OHSAA requests that at least one area be designated for photographers that provides an unobstructed view of the field.

Officials have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in or keeping their equipment in designated dead ball areas. In the sport of golf, photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the

Photography Regulations Continued on Back Page

player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. In the sports of volleyball, bowling, track and field, swimming and tennis, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

Special Access and Photo Sales

1. Individual credentialled media personnel and spectators may not sell photos from OHSAA state tournaments. Furthermore, credentialled media may not give photos to current student-athletes (or their parents or legal guardians) or post galleries of their photos from state tournaments. (A gallery is defined as more than five photos displayed on one webpage.) If a credentialled media photographer posts a photo on his/her personal webpage, it may not be made available for high-resolution download.

2. In team sports (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, football, team wrestling, ice hockey, basketball, softball, baseball and lacrosse), one school-designated photographer (student or adult) may be credentialled for OHSAA tournament contests if approved by the school's athletic administrator. The school-designated photographer may only give his/her photos to the school (athletic director, principal or head coach) for the school's use. Photos may not be sold or posted online in galleries (see previous note) and may not be posted so they are available for high-resolution download.

3. Bona fide newspapers, as determined by the OHSAA, may sell photos from OHSAA tournament contests via the newspaper's office or official website. Permission is granted because newspapers have always been permitted to fill the photo requests of their readership, and photo sales is not their primary purpose for covering a contest.

4. School officials have the authority to permit or deny freelance photographers (including parents) from having special access at their regular-season athletic contests.

5. School officials have the authority to permit or deny the sale of photos from their regular-season contests.

6. Freelance photographers who are granted a media credential for sectional, district and regional tournament games (and state semifinal games in the sports of football, soccer and lacrosse) may sell photos from the contest as long as the photographer is affiliated with a specific school and can produce a written or on-site verbal show of support from that school's athletic director. However, said photographers may not set up booths or tables, distribute promotional material or request that public address announcements be read that advertise their services.

7. Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet will not be credentialled for state tournament contests. Photos taken from spectator viewing area at state tournament contests are for personal use only and may not be sold.

Use of Drones

The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), most commonly referred to as drones, is not permitted anywhere within the entire athletic facility during any OHSAA tournament contest, beginning one hour before the contest is scheduled to begin. This includes both indoor and outdoor contests. The facility includes both the area above the playing surface itself, and the areas above the surrounding surfaces that are a part of the facility, including, but not limited to, bleachers and other seating areas, parking lots, sidewalks, running/walking track, adjacent athletic fields, etc.

1. The use of UAS at regular-season contests is permitted pending approval from the host institution, which accepts all liability and confirms that the UAS complies with local, state and federal regulations.

2018-19 OHSAA

Working with the Media

*The OHSAA's Guide for Coaches, Student-Athletes,
Administrators and Tournament Managers*



Ohio High School Athletic Association
Phone 614-267-2502 | Fax 614-267-1677
www.OHSAA.org

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Respect
THE
GAME



Edited and Endorsed by the OHSAA Media Advisory Committee,
the Ohio Prep Sportswriters Association and the
Ohio Newspaper Photographers Association



The Value of Working with the Media

Positive exposure in the news media is not simply a by-product of having a winning program. It is often the result of preparation, good communication and providing the media with the information they need to do their jobs. That is true in any sport, any time of year, win or lose, sectional or state.

When an interscholastic athletic program or tournament site has positive relationships with the media, the value is immeasurable, both in terms of "positive press" and building relationships with the media that could last for years. It also plays an integral role in influencing public opinion.

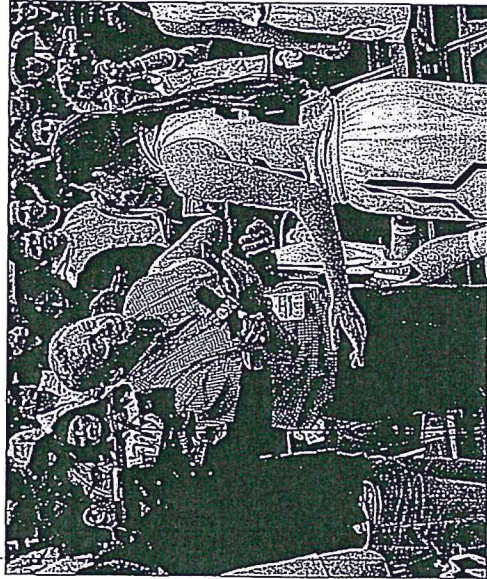
Tips for Working with the Media

1. Be available via email and telephone to correspond with media to answer their questions, including credential requests, parking suggestions, media seating and work spaces, your specific policies, etc.
2. Establish a seating area for media members, as well as an overflow area if the area is full. Assign specific seats with name cards, if needed, giving priority to media that have followed a team for all or the majority of its season, along with larger regional or statewide media outlets.
3. BROADCAST CONNECTIONS (especially for football press boxes and basketball gymnasiums): Having internet connections or phone lines available is crucial for radio stations and is greatly appreciated. A nominal fee can be assessed (typically less than \$50).
4. Be sure that electrical outlets are available. Set out power strips, if needed.
5. Explain what wireless internet signals are available. Wireless internet access is very important for media, especially for those required to provide game updates on social media.
6. If possible, provide media with rosters, programs, statistics, etc., and any other information you have been able to assemble prior to the game.
7. Explain to photographers where they may shoot from. In baseball and softball, this includes any "dead ball" areas inside the playing field fence, pending approval by the head umpire. The umpire has authority in this area. See the full photography regulations in this brochure.
8. Explain postgame interview procedures to coaches and media before the game.

For football playoff games, host sites shall use the OHSAA press box priority seating memo posted on the OHSAA's football webpage.

Broadcast Fees

During OHSAA tournament contests, game managers collect broadcast rights fees, when applicable. The broadcast fees chart is posted on the OHSAA's "News & Media" page at OHSAA.org. Special video restrictions apply for tournament contests and when the OHSAA's official television partners are covering a game. Also, some radio stations have been approved to pay fees directly to the OHSAA, or have fees waived as OHSAA Radio Network affiliates. Contact the OHSAA Communications Department to check the status of a station.



Tips for Effective Media Relations

Cooperation and a positive attitude are the cornerstones of developing relationships with the media and getting good exposure for athletic programs and tournament sites. Being prompt, following through on scheduled interview times, providing statistics or access to coaches and/or student-athletes all go a long way to having a positive relationship with the media. In return, that should result in cooperation from the media when their help is needed for making public announcements or getting exposure for a good story.

Media Needs — Understanding deadlines and specific needs of the media will go a long way toward creating good relationships. **Consistency in Results Reporting** — Coaches and tournament managers (or an assigned person) should contact the media report the final score immediately after the game.

Availability — Let media know when you're available, such as in your voicemail greeting or email auto-reply.

Uniforms and Jersey Numbers — Media (and fans) rely on clearly visible jersey numbers. When ordering new uniforms, please have numerals be a contrasting color to the jersey.

Mailing/School Website — When schedules are finalized, alert your local media or let them know it is posted on school website. Rosters and statistics are also a tremendous help. Sending stats to the local media or posting them on the school's web site can cut down on the number of requests for that information.

Photo/Media Days — Publicizing your team picture day can help the media with photos and interview opportunities.

Advance Notice Helps — When possible, give reporters as much advance notice about events and be sure to notify when there are postponements and cancellations.

Negative News — Deception, denial or dishonesty will never help ease negative news. It is much better to deal with it right away. Never say "no comment," as that implies a negative situation. It's always better to cooperate with the media and give your side of the story than be silent and let the media speculate. You can also use an interview as a chance to educate the media or explain the situation. In addition, assume that everything you say will be quoted. At no time is any statement "off the record."

Reporting OHSAA Tournament Scores and Postponements

It is essential that tournament managers (or their assigned person) report the final result of each tournament contest as soon as possible. In some sports, that involves entering the score online into the myOHSAA bracket and/or contacting the Associated Press.

Contact the Associated Press for Football, Basketball, Softball and Baseball

During the tournament, the Associated Press compiles nightly score lists in these sports. The AP also requests regular-season results in football and basketball. Results can be reported to the Associated Press using several methods:

Toll Free: 800-300-8340 E-mail: apscores@ap.org

Fax: 888-832-0338 Text: 801-252-6046

Please be sure to say or type the sport, the gender and "Ohio" in the subject line of your information.

Update Brackets in myOHSAA for Soccer, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Basketball, Lacrosse, Softball and Baseball

For instructions on entering scores into myOHSAA, please contact Brenda Murray at the OHSAA office at 614-267-2502, ext. 120, or bmurray@ohsaa.org

Additional Postgame Responsibilities

1. Ensure that interviews take place per the procedures you explained prior to the game.
2. Allow media members a minimum of 60 minutes after the game to work at press row or the designated media work area.
3. If inclement weather is an issue and you have an indoor space available for media to work, explain where it is located and any important details associated with that space.

Utilizing Social Media for Scores

Schools are encouraged to use their social media accounts to report scores. When reporting a score, please be sure to include the sport, gender, opponent and level of competition (varsity, JV, freshman, etc.).

OHSAA Tournament Policy/Public Address Announcement on Spectators Taking Photos and Videos

Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this contest by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats that have been purchased. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at this event are for personal use only. The use of photographs for commercial or scouting purposes is strictly prohibited.

For more information or questions, please contact Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Communications, at tstried@ohsaa.org or 614-267-2502, ext. 124.