

# 2016-17 Handbook

for Member Schools Grades 7 to 12

## OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214

(614) 267-2502; Fax: (614) 267-1677; [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **OHSAA Mission Statement**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association provides educational opportunities for students through participation in interscholastic athletics programs while also providing leadership and support for member school administrators and coaches and contest officials.

#### *The OHSAA Believes That . . .*

- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs is a privilege, not a right.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs complements a student's school experience and teaches lifelong lessons of hard work, teamwork and self-discipline.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs promotes citizenship and sporting behavior, instills a sense of community and promotes a lifetime appreciation for sports and healthy lifestyles.
- All students, regardless of ethnicity, race or gender, should have an equal opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Sporting and ethical behavior are expectations in interscholastic athletics by all participants, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators.
- Coaches, administrators and contest officials should serve as positive role models who are critical to a student's development and success.
- In order to minimize health and safety risks and maintain ethical standards, it is mandatory that interscholastic athletics participants are free from use of anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- All rules, regulations and facilities for and supervision of interscholastic athletics programs should ensure maximum protection of the health, safety and well-being of each participant.
- Limitations should be placed upon the length of sport seasons and the number of interscholastic contests played by participants.
- Students should engage in a well-rounded experience that encourages participation in a multitude of extracurricular activities.
- All attempts should be made to accommodate students with disabilities in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Compliance with all school, OHSAA and state regulations along with contest playing rules is essential for everyone involved in interscholastic athletics programs.
- Student academic achievement and success take priority over athletics achievement and success.
- The success of a team is more important than individual awards.
- Interscholastic athletics programs exist to prepare students for the next level of life, not the next level of sports.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics programs can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and create memories that will last forever.

#### *The OHSAA Is Committed To . . .*

- Establishing and regulating regular season and tournament standards in order for competition to be fair and equitable.
- Administering exceptional interscholastic athletics tournaments.
- Promoting that interscholastic athletics participation complements a student's educational experience.
- Providing unparalleled leadership and customer service to our various constituents that is objective, responsive and inclusive.
- Providing rulings that are swift, fair, consistent and impartial.
- Operating with openness and demonstrating fiscal accountability.
- Honoring our tradition of excellence, which has served our member schools for the past 100-plus years.
- Honoring our ultimate purpose, which is to promote lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in safe and sporting environments.

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## OHSAA Commissioners

1925-1944.....	Horace Raymond (H.R.) Townsend
1944-1958.....	Harold Emswiler
1958-1963.....	W.J. McConnell
1963-1969.....	Paul E. Landis
1969-1977.....	Harold A. Meyer
1977-1980.....	George D. Bates
1980-1989.....	Richard L. Armstrong
1990-2004.....	Clair Muscaro
2004-.....	Daniel B. Ross

# The History of the Ohio High School Athletic Association

*OHSAA Celebrated Its Centennial During 2006-07 School Year*

*By Timothy L. Hudak, Sports Heritage Specialty Publications*

The earliest days of interscholastic athletics in Ohio's high schools, most probably starting in the immediate post-Civil War years, were a bit disorganized, to say the least. Boys (girls would have to wait a while) from one school would get a team together and challenge the boys from a neighboring school. No coaches, no set schedule, no uniforms and probably no practices, either. As time marched on, more and more schools began to participate in these interscholastic sporting events, which most likely consisted mainly of track and field events or baseball in those earliest days. These activities were totally unsupervised by school authorities, many of whom felt that they had no place in a young person's education. Some administrators went so far as to prohibit the contests altogether.

However, as the popularity of these sporting events grew among Ohio's high schoolers, as demonstrated by their spread to schools throughout the state, many school authorities began to feel a need to organize these interscholastic sporting events. The Western Ohio Superintendent's Round Table took the lead in this movement as early as 1887, but nothing of any consequence was done about the situation for almost another 20 years. Finally, in October of 1906, the Round Table of the Central Ohio Teacher's Association endorsed a plan that had been adopted by the Western Ohio Superintendent's Round Table earlier that same year. By this plan interscholastic athletics were formally made a part of Ohio's high school landscape. As Paul E. Orr wrote in his 1956 history of the OHSAA, "renewed enthusiasm was aroused (in interscholastic athletics) and many, many schools all over the state entered the new organization with great zeal."

The newly established Board of Directors, whose duty it was to supervise athletics across the state, held its first meeting on November 9, 1907, now recognized as the birth date of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. George R. Eastman of Dayton Steele High School served as president, with W.H. Rice of Chillicothe serving as secretary-treasurer and William McClain of London, S.H. Layton of Piqua and F.C. Kirkendall of Piqua also present. At its very next meeting, held on December 26, 1907, the Board of Directors set the date for its first championship event, a state track and field meet to be held on May 23, 1908, at Beaver Field at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Over 100 athletes, representing 23 of the then 30 member schools, participated in the meet. North High School of Columbus amassed the most points and "won the loving cup which was awarded as a token of the championship of this, the first state-wide contest" of the Ohio High School Athletic Association.

The enthusiasm generated by that first event quickly spread across the state, and many more schools quickly joined the organization.

The next several decades saw the OHSAA continue to grow its organization, putting into place much of the "machinery" that would run the OHSAA on a day to day basis, as well as help to lay the foundation for future changes and expansion of its programs. By the mid 1930s the organization had become recognized as a highly respectable and influential organization on the state high school scene. One of the most significant changes in the organizational structure of the OHSAA took place in 1925, when the business affairs of the Association were transferred from the Board of Directors to a full-time commissioner. The first commissioner was Mr. Horace Raymond (H.R.) Townsend, who held that post from 1925 until his death in 1944. The current commissioner, the ninth, is Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.

Among the other areas to which the OHSAA directed much of its attention during these years were officiating and the overall health and well being of student-athletes.

While the state track and field meet was very popular and remained an annual event, it would not be until 15 years later when the next state championship tournament was announced, that being for boys basketball. Boys golf was added to the "tournament trail" in 1927, with boys cross country, boys swimming and diving and baseball joining the tournament list in 1928.

Unfortunately, the young ladies of Ohio would still have to wait another five decades to participate in their first state-wide tournament. This had less to do with OHSAA policies and desires, and more to do with the overall question, in the public eye, of the advisability or inadvisability of the participation of young girls in interscholastic sports in general. A survey by the OHSAA of the state's high schools in 1937 showed that 55 percent of the schools provided interscholastic basketball for girls, but that same survey also showed that 67 percent of the responding schools favored dropping

the sport for girls. Based in part on this survey, interscholastic basketball for girls was discontinued at OHSAA member schools in 1940. This was the death knell for all interscholastic sports for girls, at least in Ohio. It would be another quarter century or more before interscholastic sports for girls once again became “popular,” and almost 35 years before state tournaments for girls made the scene. Ironically, the OHSAA now sponsors 24 championship sports, 12 each for boys and girls. As the saying goes, “You’ve come a long way, baby!”

The war years of 1941-45 provided some areas of particular concern for the OHSAA. First and foremost was whether or not the state tournaments, and athletics in general, should be discontinued for the duration of the war because of the restrictions placed on the general populace due to rationing. However, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and most of his administration urged that not only should the athletic programs be maintained, but that they be expanded as “a war defense measure.” The Board of Directors concurred, stating that “from a psychological standpoint, athletics in the face of the national emergency can be justified,” and the member schools were urged to continue their athletic programs as a patriotic duty.

However, as the war dragged on, it became increasingly difficult to continue with interscholastic sports, much less expand them. Rationing of rubber and gasoline made the use of school busses for transportation to events almost impossible, and many schools were without their coaches, who were now serving in the armed forces. However, except for the state cross country meets in 1942 and 1943, all of the state tournaments went on as usual.

The situation started to return to normal on September 1, 1945, when the restrictions on the use of school busses were lifted. Coaches started returning to their schools the following spring when they were discharged from military service following the conclusion of the war.

In the years following WWII, the OHSAA dealt with many issues, a number of which had been tabled due to the war. These included such things as practice sessions, schedules, out-of-state play, length of seasons, etc. The question of allowing girls to participate in interscholastic sports again came up, with limited activity under very strict rules being granted – but still no state tournaments. By early 1956 less than half of the schools in the state were providing interscholastic sports opportunities for their female students.

With the exception of wrestling in 1938, no new sports had been added to the OHSAA’s tournament list since the late 1920s (although boys gymnastics was held between 1926 and 1937, was reinstated in 1965 and dropped again after the 1994 championships). All of this changed during the decade of the 1970s, when the proverbial floodgates opened and 12 new sports were elevated to state championship tournament status, nine of which were girls’ sports.

The importance of this newfound recognition of Ohio’s female athletes notwithstanding, the biggest of these new tournaments was that for football, which was established in 1972. This represented the third, and final, phase in how the state high school football champions were determined. The first phase saw the state champion being declared by acclamation; that is, if enough football authorities (schools, newspapers, etc.) decided that a certain school was the champion, then it was pretty much accepted by one and all that they were the state champion. This process lasted between 1895-1946. In 1947 started the era of the “poll champions,” the winner being decided by a vote of selected newspaper writers and coaches from around the state, the vote being conducted by both the Associated Press (AP) and United Press International (UPI). This system decided the “official” state football champion until 1972, when the state playoffs began. The AP poll is still conducted, but the officially recognized state football champions are those teams that win the title through the playoff process. While the number of football playing schools has not changed much since 1972, the playoff format has progressed from 12 total qualifiers in three classes to 192 qualifiers in six divisions.

Only four sports have been elevated to state tournament status since 1985: girls soccer (1985), girls golf (1993) and boys and girls bowling (start of 2006-07 school year). Also, a team wrestling tournament (to complement the long-standing individual wrestling tournament) was added in 2013 and the OHSAA will sponsor boys and girls lacrosse starting in the spring of 2017. There are several other sports that are currently being participated in by anywhere from a handful to over 100 schools. Among them are archery, crew, boys volleyball and rugby.

Over the last several decades the OHSAA has continued to monitor high school athletics in the state, changing and amending the rules and regulations of the Association as needed. Its motto of “Respect the Game” places an emphasis on good sportsmanship, ethics and integrity when it comes to how schools, coaches, athletes and parents conduct themselves when participating in the arena of high school athletics. When needed, the OHSAA has not failed to act in levying penalties on those

who violate these principles. The Association has also established many awards to honor those who uphold the highest standards of this motto, as well as for those who contribute to the betterment of the organization and athletics in Ohio's high schools. In addition, the OHSAA grants over \$100,000 annually in scholarships to deserving student-athletes to help further their education and athletic endeavors at the college level.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is one of the oldest and most respected organizations of its type in the country. While it was established to organize high school athletics in Ohio, it is best known through the championship tournaments that it sponsors throughout the school year. With the schools divided by size into as many as six divisions, these tournaments give every student-athlete in the state a chance at winning a state title. At the bigger schools this helps to solidify the school's family, while at the smaller schools, whole communities come together to cheer on and support their local athletes.

**Note:** Former OHSAA Associate Commissioner Fred Dafler contributed to this article.

## About The OHSAA

Now in its 110th year, the Ohio High School Athletic Association is a non-profit service organization that regulates and administers interscholastic competition in a fair, consistent and impartial manner. This means the OHSAA ensures that everyone has a chance to compete on an even playing field.

Approximately 822 high schools and 800 7th-8th grade schools belong to the OHSAA, which represents over 350,000 students competing in 26 sanctioned sports (13 for boys and 13 for girls). Schools voluntarily become members of the OHSAA.

Each member school has an equal voice in determining the bylaws and constitution of the OHSAA. Regardless of the size of the school or whether the school is public or non-public, each member school has one vote. When a school becomes a member of the OHSAA, it agrees to follow the regulations as approved by the membership.

The OHSAA Board of Directors is charged with employing the administrative and support staff; determining contest rules and regulations; organizing a series of statewide tournaments, and establishing an appeals process for rulings that are made by the commissioner or his staff. Board representatives are members of the teaching profession, are employed full-time by a member school and are elected to their positions.

The OHSAA commissioner and his staff are charged with enforcing the regulations and promoting the purpose of interscholastic athletics. Among their duties are to answer questions from the member schools and make interpretations on the regulations; prepare for and conduct tournaments; serve as an educator by conducting meetings, clinics and workshops for officials, coaches, administrators and student-athletes, and manage the fiscal affairs of the association. There currently are nine administrators and 13 support staff members employed by the OHSAA, with the office located in Columbus.

The OHSAA is organized into six geographic regions called athletic districts. Each nine-member District Athletic Board assists the OHSAA in conducting sectional and district tournaments.

The OHSAA receives no tax money. The primary source of financial support comes from tournament gate receipts. Schools are assessed no fees to maintain membership within the OHSAA or to enter OHSAA tournaments. They are provided rule books, educational materials and other printed items along with catastrophic accident insurance coverage that is paid for by the OHSAA at an annual cost of over \$600,000. Additionally, the OHSAA reimburses schools for many of their tournament expenses, which averages approximately \$2.6 million annually, and allows schools the opportunity to keep some of the receipts from the sale of tournament tickets.



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214

Phone: 614-267-2502; Fax: 614-267-1677; Website: ohsaa.org

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.



## OHSAA Board of Directors

**Andy Bixler**, *Board President*  
Superintendent, Anna Local Schools  
(Class A Representative);  
**B:** 937-394-2011

**Jeff Snyder**, *Board Vice President*  
Superintendent, Lincolnview Local  
Schools, Van Wert (Class AA  
Representative); **B:** 419-968-2226

**Tony Deem**, Superintendent, Southern  
Local Schools, Racine (Class A  
Representative); **B:** 740-949-2669

**Angelita Forté**, Youth Services  
Coordinator, Steubenville  
City Schools (Ethnic Minority  
Representative);  
**B:** 740-282-2481 ext. 4121

**Tom Martin**, Athletic Administrator,  
Gahanna Middle Schools (7th-8th  
Grade Representative);  
**B:** 614-479-1631

**Paul Powers**, Athletic Administrator,  
Aurora High School (Class AA  
Representative); **B:** 330-954-2008

**Scott Reeves**, Executive Director,  
Secondary Academic Affairs,  
Westerville City Schools (Class  
AAA Representative);  
**B:** 614-797-5934

**Rhonda Rickelman**, Director of  
Auxiliary Planning, Gates Mills  
Gilmour Academy (Female  
Representative); **B:** 440-684-4524

**Chad Shawger**, Principal, Dresden  
Tri-Valley High School (Class AAA  
Representative); **B:** 740-754-2921

**Bruce Brown**, Executive Director,  
Ohio Interscholastic Athletic  
Administrators Association (ex-  
officio); Ohio Interscholastic  
Athletic Administrators Association  
Representative); **P:** 330-352-9848

**Jeremy Marks**, Director of Federal  
Programs/Federal Liaison, Ohio  
Department of Education (ex-  
officio, State Department of  
Education representative)  
**B:** 614-466-8693

## OHSAA Staff

(To e-mail staff, use first initial of first  
name, followed by entire last name,  
followed by @ohsaa.org,  
Ex.: thoehm@ohsaa.org)

**Todd Boehm**, Comptroller

**Tyler Brooks**, Program Coordinator  
(Officiating)

**Jenn Close**, Program Coordinator (Sport  
Management)

**Molly Downard**, Executive  
Administrative Assistant

**Ben Ferree**, Administrative Assistant  
(Officiating)

**Dale Gabor**, Sport Administrator (Cross  
County and Track & Field)

**Emily Gates**, Program Coordinator  
(Sport Management)

**Bob Goldring**, Associate Commissioner  
for Operations

**Dave Gray**, Interim Commissioner

**Andrea Heiberger**, Administrative  
Assistant/Receptionist

**Jeff Jordan**, Chief Financial Officer

**Ken Kaiser**, Sport Administrator (Tennis)

**Angie Lawler**, Program Coordinator  
(Officiating)

**Deborah B. Moore**, Associate  
Commissioner for Compliance

**Brenda Murray**, Administrative  
Associate (Technology and Special  
Projects)

**Steve Neil**, Assistant Commissioner

**Roxanne Price**, Assistant Commissioner

**Lauren Prochaska**, Program  
Coordinator (Sport Management)

**Andrea Reich**, Assistant Comptroller

**Kristin Ronai**, Program Coordinator  
(Compliance)

**Daniel B. Ross**, Commissioner

**Beau Rugg**, Assistant Commissioner

**Jerry Snodgrass**, Assistant  
Commissioner

**Tim Stried**, Director of Communications

**Chris Walker**, Production Supervisor

**Jacki Windon**, Program Coordinator  
(Member Services)

## OHSAA District Athletic Boards

### Central District

**Bob Britton**, Superintendent,  
Ridgedale Local Schools, Morral  
(Class A Representative-2021);  
**B:** 740-382-6065, ext. 101

**Ryan Fitzgerald**, Athletic  
Administrator, Columbus Hamilton  
Twp. High School (Class AA  
Representative-2017);  
**B:** (614) 491-8044 ext. 1808

**Chad Little**, Athletic Administrator,  
Carroll Bloom-Carroll High School  
(Class AA Representative-2022);  
**B:** 614-834-6750

**Troy McIntosh**, Head of School,  
Worthington Christian Schools  
(Class A Representative-2020);  
**B:** 614-431-8215

**Scott Reeves**, Executive Director,  
Secondary Academic Affairs,  
Westerville City Schools (Class  
AAA Representative-2018);  
**B:** 614-797-5934

**Mark Shively**, Director Personnel  
- Classified & Support Services,  
Newark City Schools (Class AAA  
Representative-2019);  
**B:** 740-670-7045

**Tony Tucker**, Assistant Principal,  
Pickerington High School  
Central (Ethnic Minority  
Representative-2020);  
**B:** 614-548-1800

**Beth Hill**, Principal, Newark  
Catholic High School (Female  
Representative- 2019);  
**B:** 740-344-3594

**Tom Martin**, Athletic Administrator,  
Gahanna Middle Schools (7th-8th  
Grade Representative-2021);  
**B:** 614-479-1631

Secretary-**Doug Ute**  
**B:** 740-670-7002; dute@ohsaa.org

Treasurer-**Jim Hayes**  
**P:** 740-474-8336; jhayes@ohsaa.org

### East District

**Dan Leffingwell**, Superintendent,  
Noble Local Schools, Sarahsville  
(Class A Representative-2021);  
**B:** 740-732-2084

**Bill Love**, Dean of Students/Athletic  
Administrator, Gnadenhutten Indian  
Valley High School (Class AA  
Representative-2017);  
**B:** 740-254-9275

**Chad Shawger**, Principal, Dresden  
Tri-Valley High School (Class AAA  
Representative-2019);  
**B:** 740-754-2921

**Walt Skaggs**, Superintendent, St.  
Clairsville-Richland City Schools  
(Class AAA Representative-2020);  
**B:** 740-695-1624

**Angelita Forté**, Youth Services  
Coordinator, Steubenville  
City Schools (Ethnic Minority  
Representative-2019);  
**B:** (740) 282-2481 ext. 4121

**Gina Franks**, Assistant Principal,  
Dover High School (Female  
Representative- 2021);  
**B:** 330-364-7147

**Three Positions To Be Filled:**  
Interim Class A Representative-2017  
(2022); Interim Class AA  
Representative-2017 (2018); Interim  
7th-8th Grade Representative-2017  
(2020)

Secretary-**Don Spinell**  
**P:** 330-205-0851; dspinell@ohsaa.org

Treasurer-**Richard Hall**  
**P:** 740-541-5583; rhall@ohsaa.org

### Northeast District

- Brian Banfield**, Athletic Administrator, Poland Seminary (Class AA Representative-2020);  
**B:** 330-757-7021
- Jeff Cassella**, Athletic Administrator, Mentor High School (Class AAA Representative-2021);  
**B:** 440-974-5304
- Andy Jalwan**, Athletic Administrator, Strongsville High School (Class AAA Representative-2022);  
**B:** 440-572-7102
- Rocco Nero**, Superintendent, Southington Local Schools (Class A Representative-2017);  
**B:** 330-898-6069
- Dr. William (Bill) R. Nye Jr.**, Superintendent, Grand Valley Local Schools, Orwell (Class A Representative-2018);  
**B:** 440-437-6566
- Paul Powers**, Athletic Administrator, Aurora High School (Class AA Representative-2019);  
**B:** (330) 954-2008
- Sean Jackson**, Athletic Administrator, Lakewood High School (Ethnic Minority Representative-2021);  
**B:** 216-529-5988
- Rhonda Rickelman**, Director of Auxiliary Planning, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy (Female Representative-2020);  
**B:** 440-684-4524
- Steve Watkins**, Principal, Doylestown Chippewa Middle School (7th- 8th Grade Representative-2019);  
**B:** 330-658-2214, ext. 404
- Secretary-**Larry Acker**  
**H:** 330-345-6926; lacker@ohsaa.org  
Treasurer-**Mark McGuire**  
**B:** 440-349-6247; mmcguire@ohsaa.org

### Northwest District

- Mike Bute**, Principal, Antwerp High School (Class A Representative-2017);  
**B:** 419-258-5421, ext. 2101
- Brad Cooley**, Principal, Norwalk High School (Class AAA Representative-2021);  
**B:** 419-660-6500
- Gary Kreinbrink**, Athletic Administrator, Leipsic High School (Class A Representative-2022);  
**B:** 419-943-2164, ext. 4088
- Joe Roberts**, Athletics/Activities Director, Lexington High School (Class AAA Representative-2020);  
**B:** 419-884-2101
- Jay Selgo**, Principal, Ottawa-Glandorf High School (Class AA Representative-2019);  
**B:** 419-523-5702
- Jeff Snyder**, Superintendent, Lincolnview Local Schools, Van Wert (Class AA Representative-2018);  
**B:** 419-968-2226

- Jose Hernandez** (Ethnic Minority Representative-2020);  
**P:** 419-601-1316
- Brenda Frankart**, Principal, Findlay Liberty-Benton High School (Female Representative-2019);  
**B:** 419-424-5351
- Kevin Katafias**, Principal, Genoa Middle School (7th-8th Grade Representative-2021);  
**B:** 419-855-7741, ext. 31101
- Secretary-**Kevin Calver**  
**B:** 419-342-5065; kcalver@ohsaa.org  
Treasurer-**Bill Hanna**  
**H:** 419-523-0047; bhanna@ohsaa.org

### Southeast District

- Bo Arnett**, Dean of Students/Athletic Administrator, Waverly High School (Class AAA Representative-2018)  
**B:** 740-947-7701
- Tony Deem**, Superintendent, Southern Local Schools, Racine (Class A Representative-2019);  
**B:** 740-949-2669
- Mark Knapp**, Superintendent, Wheelersburg Local Schools (Class AA Representative-2021);  
**B:** 740-574-8484
- Tony Mantell**, Superintendent, Clay Local Schools, Portsmouth (Class A Representative-2020);  
**B:** 740-354-6645
- Leonard Steyer**, Principal, Chillicothe Southeastern High School (Class AA Representative-2022);  
**B:** 740-774-2003, ext. 3162
- Mark LaFon**, Athletic Administrator, Ironton High School (Ethnic Minority Representative-2019);  
**B:** 740-532-5235
- Stephanie Evans**, Assistant Principal/ Athletic Administrator, Belpre High School (Female Representative-2021);  
**B:** 740-423-3000, ext. 204
- Rick Barrett**, Athletic Administrator, Coal Grove Dawson-Bryant Middle School (7th-8th Grade Representative- 2020)
- One Position To Be Filled:** Interim Class AAA Representative-2017 (2017)
- Secretary-**Dan Brisker**  
**H:** 740-682-7018 or 3234; dbrisker@ohsaa.org  
Treasurer-**Rick Edwards**  
**B:** 740-797-0064; redwards@ohsaa.org

### Southwest District

- Andy Bixler**, Superintendent, Anna Local Schools (Class A Representative-2019);  
**B:** 937-394-2011
- Tim Cook**, Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator, Mt. Orab Western Brown High School (Class AAA Representative-2017);  
**B:** 937-444-2544, ext. 11007

- Doug Foote**, Athletic Administrator/ Dean of Students, New Richmond High School (Class AA Representative-2020);  
**B:** 513-553-3191, ext. 10003
- Scott Kaufman**, Assistant Principal/ Athletic Administrator, West Chester Lakota West High School (Class AAA Representative-2022);  
**B:** 513-682-4111
- John Kronour**, Superintendent, Northeastern Local Schools, Springfield (Class AA Representative- 2021);  
**B:** 937-325-7615
- Pat McBride**, Superintendent, Newton Local Schools, Pleasant Hill (Class A Representative-2018);  
**B:** 937-676-2002, ext. 1002
- Joy Manning**, Athletic Administrator, Dayton Oakwood High School (Female Representative-2020);  
**B:** 937-297-5342
- Dave Dilbone**, Principal, Troy Junior High School (7th-8th Grade Representative-2019);  
**B:** 937-332-6720
- One Position To Be Filled:** Interim Ethnic Minority Representative – 2017 (2021)
- Secretary-**Dale Creamer**  
**H:** 937-833-4771; dcreamera@ohsaa.org  
Treasurer-**Bob Huelsman**  
**B:** 937-473-3463; bhuelsman@ohsaa.org

### Other Important Telephone Numbers

- Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association**, Bruce Brown, Executive Director;  
**P:** 330-352-9848; website: oiaaa.org
- Ohio Department of Education**  
**B:** 1-877-644-6338 or 614-995-1545  
website: ode.state.oh.us
- Ohio School Boards Association**  
**B:** 1-800-589-6722 or 614-540-4000  
website: ohio-schoolboards.org
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators**  
**B:** 614-846-4080;  
website: basa-ohio.org
- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators**  
**B:** 614-430-8311; website: oaassa.org
- Ohio Middle Level Association**  
website: ohioomla.org
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators**  
**B:** 614-794-9190;  
website: oaesa.org
- National Federation of State High School Associations**  
**B:** 317-972-6900; website: nfhs.org

# Board of Directors



## **Andy Bixler (Board President)**

Superintendent, Anna Local Schools  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2017  
(Class A Representative, Southwest District)

Andy is a 1988 graduate of Bellefontaine High School. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Miami University in 1992 and a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Dayton in 1996.

Andy began his career in education teaching mathematics at Brookville High School from 1992 to 1995. He then taught math for four years at Preble Shawnee High School. During his seven years in the classroom, he coached football, basketball and track at various levels. He was the head basketball coach at Preble Shawnee from 1997 to 1999. In 1999, he became high school principal at Preble Shawnee. Andy then moved to the high school principal's job at Anna High School in 2001 and served in that position for five years. In 2006, he accepted the superintendent's position at the Anna Local Schools and currently remains in that role.

Andy was initially elected to the Southwest District Board as a AA representative in 2004. He was re-elected to serve the board as a Class A rep in 2006. He has served continuously on the Southwest board for the past 11 years and this term on the Board of Directors is his first.

Andy and his wife, Kim, have been married for 19 years and have three children, Bart, Hope and Blake. Bart is a ninth grader at Anna High School; Hope is in seventh grade at Anna Middle School, and Blake is a third grader at Anna Elementary.

## **Jeffrey (Jeff) T. Snyder (Board Vice President)**

Superintendent, Lincolnview Local Schools, Van Wert  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2017  
(Class AA Representative, Northwest District)

Jeff is a 1988 graduate of Lincolnview High School. He earned a Bachelor of Education degree in health education and sports medicine from the University of Toledo in 1993 and a Master's of Science degree in athletic training from Ohio University in 1994. He also obtained his principal's license from the University of Findlay in 2003 and completed his superintendent's licensure from Bowling Green State University in 2010.

Jeff began his career in education as the head athletic trainer/professor/internship director of the sports medicine program at Defiance College in 1994. In 1997, he became the Presidential Fellow at Northwest State Community College in Archbold before moving back to Defiance College in 2000 as the director of athletic training education. He then accepted a position in 2001 as the health teacher and head athletic trainer for the Findlay City Schools. In the fall of 2003, Jeff accepted the 7-12 principal's position at Edgerton Local Schools, which he held for seven years. Next he became the principal at Tontogany Otsego High School before returning to his alma mater (Lincolnview Local Schools) as the superintendent, a position he has held since January 2013. Jeff is still a licensed athletic trainer in the state of Ohio.

Jeff first served as a Class A representative on the Northwest District Athletic Board from October 2007 through July 2010 when he was elected to fill an unexpired term. He then rejoined the Northwest Board on August 1, 2012, as a Class AA representative when he was elected to fill an expired term. He has served as the Northwest District's president the past two years (2013-14 and 2014-15) and has served as its vice president on two different occasions. Jeff has also served on the OHSAA District Athletic Board Review Committee. This is his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors.

Jeff resides in the Lincolnview district with his wife Stacey (Lincolnview alum), an office administrator for a dentist in Van Wert. They have five children (Colton, 18; Madeline, 16; Victoria, 14; Olivia, 9, and Willow, 2) who are all very active in academics and athletics.





## **Tony Deem**

Superintendent, Southern Local Schools, Racine  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2018  
(Class A Representative, Southeast District)

Tony is a 1984 graduate of Racine Southern High School. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Rio Grande College in 1989 and a master's degree in leadership studies from Marshall University in 1999.

He began his career in education teaching middle school science and math at Clay Local Schools in Portsmouth from 1989 to 1993. While at Clay, Tony coached varsity soccer for two years and basketball for four. He then went to Eastern Local Schools in Reedsville where he taught seventh- and eighth-grade math and science from 1993 to 1998. He was head basketball coach during that time and also coached volleyball and softball. In 1998 he became the assistant principal at Pomeroy Meigs High School before taking the district's elementary school principal's job in 2002. Four years later, he returned to his alma mater, Southern Local, where he served as high school principal for a year before moving into his current position as the

district's superintendent in 2007.

Tony was elected to the Southeast District Board in 2015. This is his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors. He and his wife, Wendy, have been married for 25 years and have two sons and one daughter. Taylor and Trenton both attend the University of Rio Grande and Alison is a senior at Southern High School.

## **Angelita Forté**

Youth Services Coordinator, Steubenville City Schools  
State Board of Directors, January 21, 2016 – July 31, 2017  
(Ethnic Minority Representative, East District)

Angelita is a graduate of Wintersville High School. In 1999 she graduated from West Liberty University with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. She played two years of basketball with the Hilltoppers. She began her career in education at Steubenville High School as a health and physical education teacher and became dean of students in 2004. Angelita also coached volleyball, basketball and track during her seven years with the Big Red. As the head girls basketball coach, she compiled a three-year record of 45-25 and was twice named Ohio Division II Coach-of-the-Year.

In 2006, Angelita moved to Ohio University to serve as an assistant coach for the Bobcats' women's basketball program. After serving two years in Athens, the entire women's basketball coaching staff moved to Boston College. Angelita was a part of the Eagles' coaching staff for three years before returning to Ohio in 2011.

Angelita spent one year coaching girls basketball at Pickerington High School Central before returning to Steubenville High School to continue her teaching career. In 2012, she resumed her position as dean of students and health and physical education teacher as well as basketball and track coach. She currently is the district's youth services coordinator and assists with the girls basketball program. She was elected to fill an unexpired term on the East District Athletic Board in January 2016 and is in her first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors.

Angelita resides in Wintersville and has an adult son Michael, who lives in Canal Winchester and participates with Special Olympics.



## **Tom Martin**

Director of Middle School Athletics, Gahanna-Jefferson Local School District  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2017  
(7th-8th Grade Representative, Central District)

Tom is a 1976 graduate of Tri-Valley High School in Dresden. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in education from The Ohio State University in 1980 and a master's degree in school administration from Xavier University in 1988.

Tom began his career in education as an eighth grade social studies teacher in 1980 at Gahanna Middle School West. He then became the head teacher/athletic director at GMSW in 1987 and then became assistant principal in 1988. In 1992, he was named assistant principal and athletic director at Gahanna Middle School East, and he held that position until retirement in 2013. Currently he serves as athletic director for Gahanna Middle School South, East and West in Gahanna, a position that was created in the district in 2013. He coached wrestling for five years at Gahanna Lincoln High School and GMSW.



In 2010, Tom was appointed to complete an unexpired term as the 7th-8th grade representative on the Central District Athletic Board. He was just recently re-elected for a second term in that position that will run through 2020. He served two terms as president of the Central District Athletic Board and this is his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors. He has also worked closely with the 46 member schools in the Ohio Capital Conference Middle School Association for the past 23 years and has been the treasurer of that group since 1997.

Tom and his wife, Roxanne, have been married for 31 years and have two children. Scott is a graduate of the University of Missouri and UM Law School. Katie is a graduate of Miami University and is living and working in South Carolina.

## **Paul R. Powers, CAA**

Athletic Administrator/Facilities Coordinator, Aurora City Schools  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2018  
(Class AA Representative, Northeast District)

Paul is a 1986 graduate of Chesterland West Geauga High School. He has been an athletic administrator for the past 23 years and is currently the director of athletics/facilities coordinator for the Aurora City School District.

Before coming to Aurora in 2008, Paul spent 10 years as the director of athletics/student activities and special events for the Bedford City School District. He started his career in athletic administration in 1993 as the athletic director/community education director at his alma mater, West Geauga. Powers earned his bachelor's degree in sport management from Ohio Northern University. In 2006, he became a certified athletic administrator through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and has successfully completed 34 of the 39 professional development training courses offered through the NIAAA.

Besides his daily duties in which he oversees 71 teams in 23 sports and coordinates the scheduling of five buildings, Paul has been active in many professional organizations. He is currently the president of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) and has been active with the OIAAA executive committee for the past six years in various officer positions. He has also been a member of the Northeast District OIAAA for the past 21 years, served as that association's president between 2009 and '11 and is a longtime OHSAA tournament manager.

Paul has been elected to the Northeast District Athletic Board (NEDAB) twice and is serving in his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors. He is the NEDAB's officiating chair. Paul is married to Kathi, who is superintendent for the Twinsburg City School District. They reside in Twinsburg with their cockapoo, Tanner.



## **Scott Reeves**

Executive Director – Secondary Academic Affairs, Westerville City Schools  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2017  
(Class AAA Representative, Central District)

Scott is a 1987 graduate of Columbus Eastmoor High School. He went on to The Ohio State University, where he was a member of the track & field and basketball teams. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Ohio State in social studies education in 1992 and master's degree in education administration from Ashland University in 2002.

Scott began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher with the Columbus City Schools in 1992. He was the varsity basketball coach at Northland and Independence high schools and was selected the Columbus City League Coach of the Year in 2002. In 2002, Scott began his tenure as assistant principal at Reynoldsburg High School. He then was hired to be the principal of Pickerington High School Central in 2007 before accepting his current position in 2010 as executive director-secondary academic affairs for the Westerville City Schools, where he supervises

the academic and athletic programs of the district's four middle schools, three high schools and alternative learning center.

Elected to the Central District Athletic Board in 2012 as a Class AAA Representative, Scott served as president of the CDAB during the 2014-2015 school year. This is his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors. Scott has also served on The Ohio State University Men's Varsity 'O' Alumni Association Board of Directors and on the board of the Trey Burke Foundation.

Scott and his wife, Valarie, have been married for 18 years and have three children, McLeena (married to Andrew Elliott), Michael and Madison, and two grandchildren, Xavier and Lawson.

## Rhonda Rickelman

Director of Auxiliary Planning, Gates Mills Gilmour Academy  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2018  
(Female Representative, Northeast District)

Rhonda is a 1974 graduate of Holy Name High School in Parma Heights. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education from Miami University in 1978 and a master's degree in administration from Ursuline College in 1992.

Rhonda began her career in education as a health and physical education teacher in 1978 at Notre Dame Academy, an all-girls school in Chardon. She later became certified in computer science and also taught that for 10 years. In 1979, she was named Notre Dame Academy's athletic director. When Notre Dame merged traditions with the now closed Cathedral Latin School to form a new co-educational school, Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School in 1988, Rhonda became the athletic director of the new school and by 2000 helped the program grow to 13 varsity sports and 30 teams. In the transition to a co-ed program, she oversaw the building of a new gymnasium, football stadium and track, two baseball and softball fields and three soccer/football practice fields. From 1979 to 1992 she coached basketball and softball.

In 2006, Rhonda was named athletic director at Magnificat High School in Rocky River. She held that position for eight years before accepting the position of director of auxiliary planning at Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills in 2015.

Rhonda was elected to the Northeast District Athletic Board in 2014. She has also worked with the Northeast Ohio Alliance of Catholic Athletic Administrators for 20 years and has been the treasurer of that group since 2006. This is her first term on the OHSAA State Board of Directors.



## Chad Shawger

Principal, Dresden Tri-Valley High School  
State Board of Directors, August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2018  
(Class AAA Representative, East District)

Chad is a 1993 graduate of Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans High School, where he is a member of the school's athletic hall of fame. He graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education and from Salem University in 2006 with a master's degree in educational administration.

Chad began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher at West Muskingum High School just outside of Zanesville in 1997. He served as the Tornadoes' head baseball and head golf coach as well as assistant varsity basketball and football coach. He was the varsity girls basketball coach from 2004 to 2006 at Rosecrans High School, where he earned East District Coach of the Year honors and District 12 coach of the year honors. Chad was hired as the assistant principal at Crooksville High School in 2006 and then became the assistant principal at Tri-Valley High School in Dresden in 2007. He moved to Tri-Valley Middle School as

principal in 2010, a position he held for three years before being named to his current position in 2013 as Tri-Valley High School principal.

Elected to the East District Athletic Board in 2013 as a Class AAA representative, Chad is currently serving as that board's president. This is his first term on the OHSAA Board of Directors.

Chad and his wife, Jane, have been married for 17 years and have four children, Alyssa (16), Katie (14), Ty (11) and Jessica (8). They live in the Tri-Valley school district, where all four children are active in academics and athletics.

## Bruce Brown

Executive Director, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association  
State Board of Directors Since August 1, 2013  
(Ex-Officio, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association)

Bruce is a 1968 graduate of the former Pleasant View High School (now Galloway Westland) and received his Bachelor of Education degree from Bowling Green State University. He received his master's degree in education along with his Ohio educational administration certification from Ashland University in 2002.

Bruce began his career in education and coaching at Hubbard High School in 1972 and then became head boys basketball coach at Columbus Franklin Heights in 1973. He continued his coaching career over the next two decades including a stint as assistant men's basketball coach at Bowling Green State University from 1981-84. His high school teams earned over 220 victories during his head coaching career.

In 1998, he assumed the dual role of head basketball coach and athletic administrator at Uniontown Lake High School and then became exclusively the athletic



administrator and facilities coordinator in 1999 until retiring after the 2013-14 school year. Since starting at Lake, he has been involved with many aspects of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA). In the spring of 2012, he was selected as the first executive director of the OIAAA and remains in that capacity today.

At the national level, Bruce has been involved with the National Federation of State High School Associations' Coach Education Program and has presented at several national conferences. He continues to work closely with the OHSAA in the development of the Ohio Coach Education Program along with leadership training and certification for athletic administrators.

In 2007, he was named "*Ohio Athletic Director of Year*" by the OIAAA and was the recipient of the NFHS' "*Citation Award*" in 2015. In 2011, he was chosen as the national "*Coach Educator of the Year*" by the NFHS.

Bruce and his wife, Cindy, reside in Strasburg. They have four children (Blaire, Megan, Logan and Lauren) and two grandchildren (Kendra and Graham).



## **Jeremy Marks**

Director, Office for Federal Programs, Ohio Department of Education  
State Board of Directors Since February 1, 2014  
(Ex-Officio, Ohio Department of Education Representative)

Jeremy became the director of the Office of Federal Programs at the Ohio Department of Education in January 2014 after being named interim director in August 2013.

He has over 20 years of state and federal legislative and policy experience and has been a key staff member for the Ohio Department of Education since January 2001. Prior to being named director, Jeremy served 10 years as the federal legislative liaison at the Ohio Department of Education, developing and advocating the federal legislative recommendations to Congress and federal stakeholders. In addition to managing the agency's federal education advocacy, he spearheaded the agency's implementation of one-time federal funds; administered the agency's Controlling Board requests; coordinated the development of federal applications and guidance, and ran the state's participation in the U.S. Green Ribbon schools competition.

Prior to service at the Ohio Department of Education, Jeremy served between 1998 and 2001 as a legislative liaison for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs, senior legislative aide to the chairman of the Transportation and Public Safety Committee at the Ohio House of Representatives and a Legislative Service Commission fellow.

Jeremy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, with a concentration in business administration, in 1994 from Ohio University, where he minored in Spanish. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Columbus.

# Administrative Staff

## Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.

Commissioner of the OHSAA since August 1, 2004



Dan is the ninth commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. His passion and enthusiasm for secondary education, combined with his tireless efforts to promote the important role that interscholastic athletics and extracurricular programs play for students, have helped the OHSAA become one of the most respected high school associations in the country.

He has extensive experience as a school administrator in Ohio, having served as a superintendent, principal, teacher, counselor and coach for 30 years, and he also has experience as a college instructor, in manufacturing and as a contest official.

A native of Portsmouth and graduate of Columbus St. Charles High School in 1967, he earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Ohio Dominican College in 1971.

He began his career in education in 1971 as an elementary school teacher at Portsmouth Catholic Elementary School. The following year he moved to the Scioto County Joint Vocational School in Lucasville. He served as a social studies teacher there for two years and as a counselor for three more years. Also during that time, Dan earned his master's

degree in guidance and counseling from Xavier University in 1973.

Dan left the education profession for a year in 1977 to serve as a production supervisor with the Didier-Taylor Corp., a manufacturing company in South Shore, Ky. He returned to education the following year when he became the principal at Portsmouth Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School.

After three years at Notre Dame, Dan moved to Bowling Green in 1981 and served as an instructor at Bowling Green State University while working on his doctorate degree. He completed his Ph.D. at BGSU in 1983 in educational administration and supervision.

For 21 years prior to joining the OHSAA, he served as superintendent at three different school districts, leading the Patrick Henry Local Schools in Hamler (Henry County) for three years from 1983 to 1986, the Pickerington Local Schools (Fairfield County) for 11 years from 1986 to 1997 and the Avon Lake City Schools (Lorain County) for seven years from 1997 to July 31, 2004.

Dr. Ross, who has completed additional postgraduate work at the University of Tennessee and Ohio, Ashland and Columbia Universities, also has experience as a coach, serving as the freshman and assistant varsity boys basketball coach at Portsmouth Notre Dame.

In addition, Dan was registered for 20 years as an OHSAA official, where he had five boys state basketball and two girls state basketball tournament assignments and also worked in the sports of volleyball and baseball. While living in Portsmouth, he started a local chapter of the volleyball officials association. He was inducted into the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame in 2006.

Dr. Ross was the recipient of the 2003 Superintendent of the Year Award by the Ohio Parent Teacher Association. That same year he also was named the Outstanding School Administrator by the Ohio Music Education Association. Dan was also named a 2008 Friend of Education that was presented by the Ohio Association of Local School Superintendents, and he was the 2014 recipient of the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators' Distinguished Service Award.

Dan served on the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Review Committee and chaired the National Federation of State High School Associations' (NFHS) 2008-11 Strategic Planning Committee. He has recently been serving on the NFHS' Hall of Fame Screening Committee and the Basketball Rules Committee along with the NFHS Foundation Board of Directors.

He is also past president and was a member of the executive committee of the Ohio Association of Local School Superintendents, and, as president of the Avon-Avon Lake Rotary Club, he represented Northeast Ohio on a Rotary International service project in Costa Rica.

In addition, Dr. Ross was an adjunct professor at Ohio University, Bowling Green State University and Baldwin-Wallace College.

Dan and his wife, Kristine, have four grown children. Daughter Heather and her husband, Adam, reside in Eric, Colo., and have two children, Brayden and Mia. Heather earned her bachelor's degree at Cleveland State University and her master's degree from Mississippi State University. Son Nathan is a graduate of Ohio University and resides in Delaware, Ohio, with his wife, Valerie, and their two children, William and Ruby. Son Joseph is a graduate of Bowling Green State University. He and his wife, Michelle, live in San Diego with their children, Jackson and Maya. Son John graduated from Bowling Green State University and completed his M.B.A.s at Cleveland State and Northwestern universities. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Cleveland with their children, Alayna, Evan and Natalie.

### Dan Ross' Professional Experience

Years	Position	School/Company, Location
8/04-	Commissioner	Ohio High School Athletic Association
8/97-7/04	Superintendent	Avon Lake City Schools, Avon Lake, Ohio
9/86-8/97	Superintendent	Pickerington Local Schools, Pickerington, Ohio
8/83-9/86	Superintendent	Patrick Henry Local Schools, Hamler, Ohio
9/81-8/83	Instructor	Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio
8/78-9/81	Principal/Exec. Head	Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School, Portsmouth, Ohio
8/77-8/78	Production Supervisor	Didier-Taylor Corp., South Shore, Kentucky
8/74-8/77	Counselor	Scioto County Joint Vocational School, Lucasville, Ohio
9/72-8/74	Social Studies Teacher	Scioto County Joint Vocational School, Lucasville, Ohio
9/71-9/72	Fifth Grade Teacher	Portsmouth Catholic Elementary School, Portsmouth, Ohio



## Dave Gray

Interim Commissioner since June 14, 2016

Dave is serving as the Interim Commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. He was appointed to his position on June 14, 2016, and is the temporary replacement for OHSAA Commissioner Dan Ross, who is recovering from a series of health issues.

Dave has both extensive experience as a school administrator, where he most recently served 20 years as a superintendent, and extensive ties to the OHSAA, where he is a past Board of Directors president and vice president, was a member of the OHSAA's Southwest District Athletic Board for 29 years and served the past three years as chair of the OHSAA Appeals Panel that makes decisions on requests to overturn student eligibility rulings.

A graduate of Arcanum High School located west of Dayton, Dave was a member of the school's Class A state championship basketball team during his senior season in 1969. He set a small-school state record with 45 points in the semifinals and he also helped the Trojans reach the state tournament as a sophomore. He received his bachelor's degree in 1973 from Earlham College, where he also played basketball and is still the school's all-time leading scorer (2,323 points) and rebounder (1,375 rebounds). He averaged a career

double-double (20 points and 11.9 rebounds per game), was named a NAIA All-American as a senior and was inducted into the Earlham College Hall of Fame in 1995. Dave received his master's degree in educational administration from the University of Dayton in 1981.

Following graduation, Dave began his career in education at the Twin Valley Community Local School District in West Alexandria as a K-8 physical education and health teacher in 1973. He also coached seventh grade boys basketball, eighth grade boys basketball, junior high boys and girls track & field and was an assistant junior high football coach. After two years, he moved to the Franklin Monroe Local Schools in Pitsburg, where he spent 37 years. He was the school's boys varsity basketball coach for six years, girls varsity track & field coach for five years and athletic director for five years before being named high school/middle school principal in 1981. Dave became the district's superintendent in 1991 and served in that role for 20 years before retiring following the 2011-12 school year.

Dave began serving on the OHSAA's Southwest District Athletic Board as a Class A representative in 1983 and, during his 29 years, served as that board's president and vice president numerous times. He also served roles as the board's coordinator for both officials' assignments and the scholar-athlete scholarship program. He was selected twice to two-year terms on the OHSAA Board of Directors, was board vice president during the 1992-93 school year and president in 2010-11.

Dave and his wife Susan live in Greenville and have three grown children. Daughter Melissa and her husband Mike have a son, Jordan, and a daughter, Madison; son Jim and his wife Cortney have a son, Carter, and a daughter, Taylor, and daughter Kim and her husband Jason have two daughters, Trista and Lani.

## Bob Goldring

Associate Commissioner for Operations since August 7, 2008

Assistant Commissioner from June 9, 2005, to August 6, 2008

Director of Information Services from October 2, 1995, to June 8, 2005

Bob joined the Ohio High School Athletic Association in the fall of 1995 as Director of Information Services. He was promoted to Assistant Commissioner in June 2005 and served in that role until August 2008. During those 13 years, he was responsible for media and public relations; publications, and had oversight of the media at state tournaments and of the office webmaster. In that time he helped enhance the Association's relationship with the media by providing more and timely information such as news releases, publishing the *OHSAA Working With the Media Handbook* for athletic administrators and tournament managers and the *OHSAA Public Relations Guide for Coaches* and creating and chairing the OHSAA Media Advisory Committee; upgraded all publications including state tournament souvenir programs, the quarterly *Athlete* magazine and the *Year-in-Review* magazine, and oversaw the enhancement of the OHSAA website and state tournament records and archives.

Promoted to Associate Commissioner for Operations prior to the 2008-09 school year, Bob's main duties are to serve as the office's chief liaison with the membership and staff in the absence of the Commissioner; plan in- and out-of-office staff and Board of Directors meetings; oversee the Director of Communications and his staff; assist in the areas of media and public relations, publications, marketing and promotions and budget planning, and oversee special projects. He has been involved in several OHSAA committees, including Media Advisory; Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity; Competitive Balance; Expanding Opportunities; District Athletic Board Review; Division I Football Tournament; Cross Country Tournament, and Association Outreach. Bob served as the OHSAA's acting commissioner for a three-month period that ended in June 2016.

A 1977 graduate of Orrville High School, he holds two degrees from The Ohio State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism in 1981 and a Master of Arts degree in sport management in 1982.

Bob's previous work was in collegiate sports information offices. He was sports information director and assistant public relations director at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, Ind.) from June 1983 to May 1984; assistant sports information director and athletic publications coordinator at Purdue University from June 1984 to April 1990, and assistant sports information director at Ohio State from May 1990 to September 1995. His publications at those institutions won 22 national and 16 district awards from the College Sports Information Directors of America. While at Ohio State, he taught a graduate course in the sport management program on sports public relations.

Bob and his wife, Terri, a middle school teacher with the Worthington City Schools, have two sons, Sam (21), a college student, and Max (14), a high school freshman. They reside in Powell. Bob has been a youth coach for his sons' sports teams and has served on the Olentangy Local School District's Communications Committee.





## **Deborah B. Moore**

Associate Commissioner for Eligibility since August 7, 2008  
Assistant Commissioner from June 5, 1989, to August 6, 2008

A member of the OHSAA staff since June 1989, Debbie served as an Assistant Commissioner with the OHSAA before being promoted to Associate Commissioner for Eligibility in August 2008. Among her main duties are to oversee the office's eligibility department, which provides interpretations of the OHSAA Bylaws and Constitution for member school administrators and makes rulings on student eligibility issues. She also is the office's chief administrator for the sports of volleyball, field hockey, gymnastics and swimming & diving.

Debbie received a high school diploma from Newark Senior High School in 1970. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education in 1974 from Kent State University, a Master of Arts in physical education teacher education in 1978 from The Ohio State University and Ph.D. in physical education teacher education in 1980 from The Ohio State University.

Debbie began teaching and coaching in the Buckeye Valley Local Schools in 1974. She coached volleyball, gymnastics and track and field while teaching health and physical education. She was on the faculty of Wilmington College, where she also coached intercollegiate volleyball for five years, Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and Kent State University. She was a seasonal employee of the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department in the aquatics division for 19 summers, 13 of those seasons in management.

Debbie is an avid runner, skier and triathlete. She and her husband, Bobby, Senior Director of Strategic Engagement of Battelle for Kids in Columbus, reside in Plain City.

## **Jeff Jordan**

Chief Financial Officer since August 1, 2011

Jeff was selected as the first chief financial officer of the OHSAA on August 1, 2011. His primary areas of focus are oversight of internal and external financial operations and practices, the annual budget and tournament financial operations and practices. He works closely with the Association's independent auditor and serves as the financial liaison to Ohio's school treasurers and the OHSAA Foundation.

Prior to joining the OHSAA, he served as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's ex-officio representative to the Board of Directors from 2001 to 2011. From January 2006 to June 2011, he served with the Ohio Department of Education as the Director of Finance Program Services, where he was responsible for providing specialized expertise in school finance for Ohio's nearly 2,000 traditional school districts, community schools, non-public schools and other educational entities as well as managing the oversight of districts in fiscal caution, watch and emergency. During his tenure, 55 school districts successfully recovered from financial distress and were terminated from fiscal emergency, watch or caution. Additionally, he solely administered the EdJobs grant program that was responsible for saving an estimated 5,000 teacher jobs in Ohio. From 2001 to 2010, Jeff was responsible for the Office of Federal and State Grants Management, the division that manages financial management of over \$1 billion in Federal and state grant funds each year, and was the co-developer of the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) used by Ohio's school districts to plan program resources and obtain grant funding for federal and state educational programs. Prior to employment at the Department of Education, he served with the Ohio Auditor of State from 1995 to 2001 as an Assistant Auditor, Auditor-in-Charge, and Deputy Auditor managing audits of the Departments of Education and Taxation, Rehabilitation Services Commission, Ohio Air Quality Development Authority and the Treasurer of State.

Jeff graduated from Galion Northmor High School in 1990 as class salutatorian. He received his bachelor's degree in business administration from The Ohio State University in 1995, majoring in accounting. During his time at the university, Jeff was a member and squad leader in The Ohio State University Marching Band and member of Phi Eta Sigma/Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honoraries and university athletic bands as well as an intramural softball umpire and intramural basketball and flag football official.

Jeff served as the first two-time president of The Ohio State University Marching Band (TBDBITL) Alumni Club from 2007 to 2009 after serving as the club's treasurer and vice president. He served as the TBDBITL Alumni Club's secretary from 2013 to 2014, becoming the first person in club history to serve in all officer roles for the organization. In February 2012, he began a five-year term as a member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently serves as the awards committee chair after serving two years as board treasurer and the finance and investment committees chair. Additionally, Jeff became an OHSAA registered basketball official in 1991 and officiated in the OHSAA Girls State Basketball Tournament in 2008. Since 1991, Jeff has served as a Judicial and State Government Section Consultant and Counselor for the American Legion Buckeye Boys' State program, a non-partisan government and leadership workshop for high school seniors. He has been a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations CFO/Finance Director Working Group, Government Finance Officers Association, the Association of Education Federal Financial Administrators, Association of Government Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors and an affiliate member of the Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants. Jeff was named as a recipient of the William Oxley Thompson Award by The Ohio State University Alumni Association for distinctive career achievement and civic involvement prior to age 36 in 2007, as the Elvin Donaldson Most Inspirational Alumni Band Member in 2009 and a recipient of the OHSAA Central District Distinguished Officials Award in 2014.

Jeff resides near Mount Gilead with his wife Robin and sons Myles (12) and Chase (8).





## **Steve Neil**

Assistant Commissioner since August 6, 2005

A member of the OHSAA staff since August 2005, Steve's main responsibilities include business development and strategic and corporate partnerships, which also involves merchandise, licensing and marketing activation for the Association. He also oversees tournament site and partner contracts while serving as the office's main administrator for the sport of ice hockey.

Steve obtained a high school diploma from Walnut Hills High School in the Cincinnati Public School District. He graduated from Miami University with a B.S. in health and sports studies, following the thematic sequence in educational leadership. While at Miami, he also participated as a collegiate baseball player and was an intern in the athletic department.

He completed an M.S. in sports studies while working in the athletic department as assistant director of event management/operations. Steve served as the director of athletic events and community relations, then transitioned into a position as assistant director of corporate relations and ticket sales.

Steve completed the NCAA Leadership Institute for Ethnic Minority Males, which focused on leadership and administration, finance and fundraising, along with booster and public relations.

He served as tournament manager in all aspects of OHSAA tournaments in the Southwest District in the sports of football, girls and boys basketball, baseball and softball. Steve also serves as a registered OHSAA official in the sports of basketball and baseball.

Steve enjoys assisting with personal and business development, community involvement, officiating baseball and basketball and playing sports, and is a fitness and wellness advocate.

Steve and his wife, Maria, Ph.D., founder of Women's Health Education Program ([www.WhepOhio.org](http://www.WhepOhio.org)), have two sons, James and Micah.

## **Roxanne M. Price**

Assistant Commissioner since August 9, 2007

Director of Membership Services February 21, 2006, to August 8, 2007

Roxanne joined the OHSAA as Director of Membership Services in February 2006 before being promoted to Assistant Commissioner in August 2007. She plays a vital role in the office's eligibility department, providing interpretations of the OHSAA Bylaws and Constitution for member school administrators and making rulings on student eligibility issues. She also is the office's main administrator for the sports of girls and boys bowling and previously administered softball and tennis. In addition, she chairs the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee and plays a key role in the Association's biannual school enrollment update process.

She is known as a "Little Giant," having graduated from Fremont Ross High School in 1977. Roxanne can also be considered a Buckeye, Cavalier, Zip and Cougar, having worked over 20 years in intercollegiate athletics in the area of student support services. She began her professional career in 1985 at the University of Virginia (UVA) as assistant director of academic advising for student-athletes. From UVA, she moved on to the University of Akron and then to The Ohio State University (OSU), where she spent over eight years working with Buckeye student-athletes. Most recently, she worked at Columbus State Community College, where she was the director of student activities and athletics. While at Columbus State, Roxanne oversaw a 12-team intercollegiate athletic program in terms of compliance and student-athlete welfare. She also was responsible for campus programming—social, cultural and recreational—as well as the campus student leadership program and facilitating Columbus States' Student Code of Conduct hearings.

Roxanne graduated summa cum laude from OSU in 1981 and completed her master's degree from OSU in 1984 in counseling psychology. She is a member of Fremont Ross' Sports Hall of Fame for her achievements in basketball and track.

Roxanne enjoys writing in her spare time and is the author of three children's books: *Little Brutus Buckeye Makes New Friends* (limited release), *Troy and the Championship Trophy* (2007) and *Buckeyes, Bow Ties and Sweater Vests* (2010). These rhyming stories deal with bullying, sportsmanship and diversity, respectively.

Roxanne resides in Worthington.





## **Beau Rugg**

Assistant Commissioner since February 14, 2013

Beau joined the Ohio High School Athletic Association in the fall of 2012 as Interim Assistant Commissioner and was hired as Assistant Commissioner in February 2013. He oversees the OHSAA's officiating program, which includes working with the 17,000-plus registered officials, working with each sport's Director of Officials Development and overseeing and working with state and local rules interpreters, officiating instructors, officials assigners and local officials associations and secretaries, and he is the Association's administrator for the sports of football and wrestling.

Beau's previous full-time work was with The Ohio State University's (OSU) Department of Recreational Sports. Starting in 1986, he served as assistant director and moved into two different associate director positions before retiring after 25 years in 2011. He directed a comprehensive intramural sports program encompassing 33 sports before shifting his duties to fundraising and directing marketing, sponsorships, facility scheduling, membership and customer service.

Beau has also had a strong tie with the OHSAA over the years, serving as a registered OHSAA contest official in the sports of football (six state tournament assignments) and basketball for over 30 years, when he also has been an officiating instructor in those two sports; the manager of the OHSAA State Track & Field Tournament for 22 years; the head runner for the OHSAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament for 25 years, and a member of the scoring and timing staff at the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament for 17 years. In addition, Beau was an NCAA Division III football official for 10 years; has directed the track tournament in 25 of the 30 years in which he has volunteered for the Ohio Special Olympic Games, and has served on the timing staffs of OSU home football and men's basketball games for over 25 years.

A native of Newark, Ohio, Beau graduated from Deerfield Academy in western Massachusetts. He holds two degrees from Ohio State, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education in 1980 and a Master of Arts degree in sport management in 1981. He has also completed doctoral work in physical education/sport management with a minor in business management.

Beau and his wife, Morena, reside in Upper Arlington. They have a daughter Meredith (28) and a son Sam (25).

## **Jerry Snodgrass**

Assistant Commissioner since August 4, 2008

A 31-year veteran in education prior to joining the Ohio High School Athletic Association, Jerry was hired as an OHSAA Assistant Commissioner in August 2008. Jerry serves the member schools as the administrator for the sports of boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball and baseball, added softball in 2016 and he also serves a major role as the OHSAA's main liaison with athletic administrators across the state.

Jerry began his career in 1977 as teacher and coach in the Defiance City Schools, coaching baseball, basketball and football. He moved on to teach and become the head boys basketball coach at Morral Ridgedale High School between 1980 and 1982 before serving as a teacher and middle school athletic director in the Bryan City Schools during the 1982-83 school year.

Hired by the Findlay City Schools in 1983 to teach physical sciences, Jerry also served as an assistant boys varsity basketball coach at Findlay High School until 1991, when he was promoted to the schools' head boys' basketball coach, continuing in that role through the 1998-99 season. Overall, he spent 25 years at Findlay, the last 16 as the school's athletic director. Jerry was inducted into the OIAAA (Ohio Athletic Directors) Hall of Fame in October of 2010 and was selected as the OHSAA's Naismith Meritorious Service Award recipient in 2010. Jerry also oversees the OHSAA's nationally recognized "Golden Megaphone" program to promote sportsmanship within student sections of member schools' basketball games.

Jerry has served in various leadership capacities, elected to serve on the OHSAA's Northwest District Athletic Board while also serving as its president prior to his employment at the OHSAA. He was elected to a two-year term on the OHSAA Board of Directors between 2005-07, serving as the Board's president in 2006-07. He also has been a trustee with the OHSAA Foundation, is a member of the OHSAA's Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity Committee, and currently serves on the University of Findlay's Sport & Hospitality Management Advisory Board and the Wilson Football Hall of Fame. In addition, Snodgrass, served as an announcer and color analyst for WTLW-TV in Lima and Buckeye Cable Sports Network in Toledo, being honored by the District 8 Basketball Coaches' Association as its Media Award Winner in 2003.

A 1973 graduate of Upper Sandusky High School, Snodgrass earned his bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in 1977 and a master's degree for the University of Dayton in 1989.

Jerry and his wife Barb, a quality assurance consultant in the nursing field, have two grown children, a grandson and granddaughter.





## Tim Stried

Director of Communications since September 9, 2008

Tim joined the Ohio High School Athletic Association as Director of Communications in the fall of 2008. He handles media relations and communications for the association; oversees media operations at state tournaments; plays a key role in the production of various publications, including state tournament souvenir programs and *OHSAA Magazine*, and has oversight in the updating of the website.

Tim joined the OHSAA after five years in the athletics communications office at The Ohio State University. He was the sports information director for the men's soccer, fencing, women's gymnastics and softball teams, coordinated the basketball statistics crew and assisted with media relations for the football program, including four bowl trips.

From 1999 to 2003, Tim served as the sports information director at his alma mater, Bluffton University, in Northwest Ohio. He is a 1998 graduate of Bluffton and played football and baseball while majoring in computer science and secondary education. Tim taught at Elida High School during the 1998-99 school year. He is a 1994 graduate of Marion Pleasant High School, where he played football, basketball and baseball.

Tim and his wife, Anna, a mathematics teacher at Buckeye Valley High School in Delaware, reside in Powell. They have two sons, Gavin (6) and Graham (4). Tim enjoys running, hunting and fishing and following the Cincinnati Reds.



**OHSAA Mission**  
The Ohio High School Athletic Association provides educational opportunities for students through participation in interscholastic athletics programs while also providing leadership and support for member school administrators, coaches and contest officials.

## Ohio High School Athletic Association

*Serving member schools, coaches, student-athletes and contest officials since 1907*

Preparing Student-Athletes not for the next level of sports, but for the next level of life.

[www.OHSAA.org](http://www.OHSAA.org)



Presented By  


**The OHSAA is Committed To:**

- Establishing and regulating regular season and tournament standards in order for competition to be fair and equitable.
- Administering exceptional interscholastic athletics tournaments.
- Promoting that interscholastic athletics participation compliments a student's educational experience.
- Providing unparalleled leadership and customer service to our various constituents that is objective, responsive and inclusive.
- Providing rulings that are swift, fair, consistent and impartial.
- Operating with openness and demonstrating fiscal accountability.
- Honoring our tradition of excellence, which has served our member schools for the past 100-plus years.
- Honoring our ultimate purpose, which is to promote lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in safe and sporting environments.

 @OHSAAsports  
 [Facebook.com/OHSAA](https://Facebook.com/OHSAA)  
 YouTube




*Act with  
Courtesy  
Speak with  
Dignity  
Play with  
Pride*

# Association Districts

Central District — Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Pickaway and Union Counties.

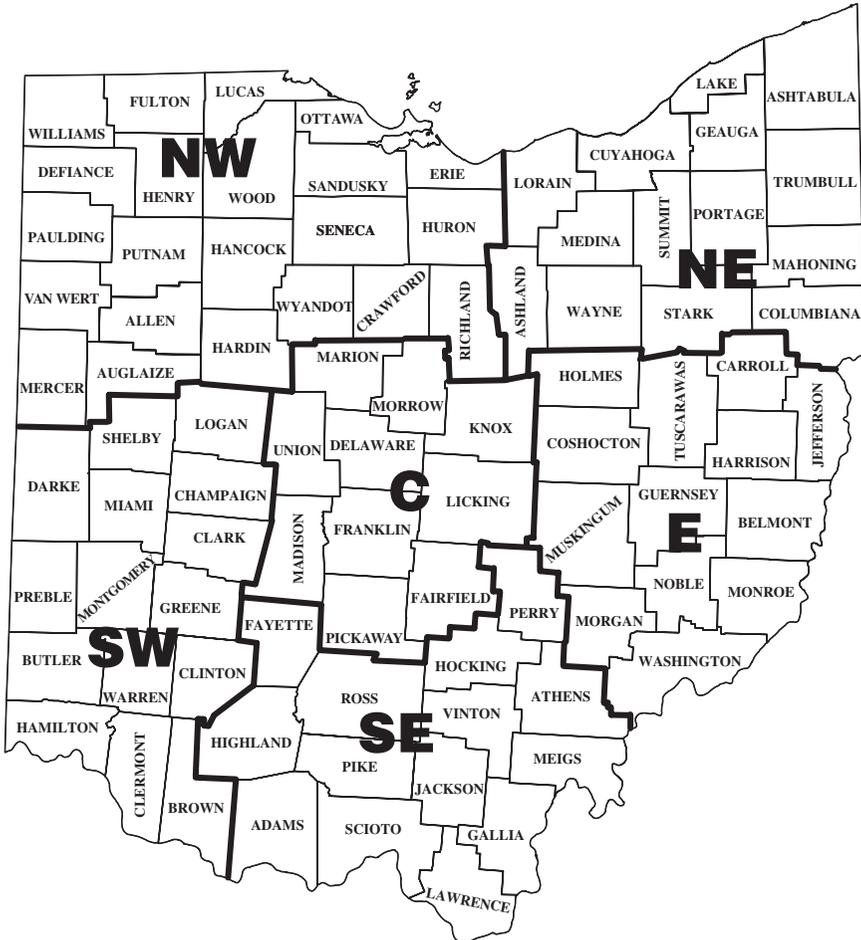
East District — Belmont, Carroll, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Tuscarawas and Washington Counties, also East Liverpool, Lisbon Beaver, Magnolia Sandy Valley and Minerva.

Northeast District — Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne Counties.

Northwest District — Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot Counties, also the city of Ashland.

Southeast District — Adams, Athens, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Perry, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties, also Belpre, Circleville, Lancaster Fairfield Union, Logan Elm, Marietta, Sardinia Eastern, Vincent Warren, Waterford and Williamsport Westfall Local.

Southwest District — Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby and Warren Counties.



# 2016-17 OHSAA Ready Reference Calendar - High Schools

Updated June 21, 2016. Dates and locations subject to change.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Number Regular Season Contests</b>	<b>Non-Intersch. Date</b>	<b>Tournament Draw/Seed</b>	<b>State Tournament Dates/Sites</b>
<b>Cross Country</b>	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 22	16	Sept. 19	Oct. 9	Nov. 5, National Trail Raceway, Hebron
<b>Field Hockey</b>	Aug. 1	4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 20	16	Sept. 19	Oct. 9	Nov. 4-State Semis/Upper Arlington H.S. Nov. 5-State Final/Upper Arlington H.S.
<b>Football</b>	Aug. 1	2 Scrimmages or 1 scrimmage/1 preview plus 1 Jamboree Game between Aug. 10 and 20	Aug. 22	10	Oct. 10	Playoff Qualifiers Announced Oct. 30	Friday Playoff Games: Divisions I, II, IV & VI Saturday Playoff Games: Divisions III, V & VII Nov. 4 & 5-Regional Quarterfinals Nov. 10 & 11-Regional Semis Nov. 18 & 19-Regional Finals Nov. 25 & 26-State Semifinals Dec. 1, 2 & 3-State Finals, Ohio Stadium, Columbus
<b>Golf</b>	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage any time during season	Aug. 5	20	Sept. 5	Sept. 18	Oct. 14-15 (BII, BIII, & GI/OSU & NorthStar, Sunbury) Oct. 21-22 (Boys Div. I & Girls Div. I/Ohio State)
<b>Soccer</b>	Aug. 1	4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 19	16	Sept. 26	Oct. 9	Nov. 8-Girls State Semifinals Nov. 9-Boys State Semifinals Nov. 11-Girls State Finals, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus Nov. 12-Boys State Finals, MAPFRE Stadium, Columbus
<b>Tennis (Girls)</b>	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Aug. 12	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Sept. 5	Sept. 25	Oct. 21/Lindner Family Tennis Ctr., Mason (1st & 2nd rnds.) Oct. 22/Lindner Family Tennis Ctr., Mason (SF & Finals)
<b>Volleyball</b>	Aug. 1	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Aug. 20	22	Sept. 26	Oct. 9	Nov. 10-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. II & I) Nov. 11-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. IV & III) Nov. 12-State Finals/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (all 4 divs.)
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Number Regular Season Contests</b>	<b>Non-Intersch. Date</b>	<b>Tournament Draw/Seed</b>	<b>State Tournament Dates/Sites</b>
<b>Basketball (Boys)</b>	Nov. 4	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Dec. 1	22	Feb. 6	Feb. 12	Mar. 23-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. II & IV) Mar. 24-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. III & I) Mar. 25-State Finals/OSU Schottenstein Center (all 4 divs.)
<b>Basketball (Girls)</b>	Oct. 28	5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview. Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage	Nov. 25	22	Jan. 30	Feb. 5	Mar. 16-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. II & IV) Mar. 17-State Semis/OSU Schottenstein Center (Div. III & I) Mar. 18-State Finals/OSU Schottenstein Center (all 4 divs.)
<b>Bowling</b>	Nov. 4	None permitted	Nov. 18	24	Div. I - Jan. 23 Div. II - Jan. 16	Feb. 5	Mar. 3-4-Division II/Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl Mar. 10-11-Division I/Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Nov. 4	None permitted	Dec. 5	14	Jan. 16	Feb. 12	Mar. 3-Team/Hilliard Bradley H.S. Mar. 4-Indiv. & AA/Hilliard Bradley H.S.
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Nov. 4	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview (after Nov. 18)	Nov. 25	35	Jan. 23	Feb. 8	Mar. 11-State Semis/Nationwide Arena, Columbus Mar. 12-State Finals/Nationwide Arena, Columbus
<b>Swim/Dive</b>	Nov. 4	None permitted	Nov. 28	16	Jan. 9	Jan. 29	Feb. 22-23, 25-Diving/Canton Branin Natatorium Feb. 22-25-Swimming/Canton Branin Natatorium
<b>Wrestling</b> <b>Team Dual</b> <b>Wrestling Individual</b>	Nov. 11	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Dec. 2	20 points (see Handbook for event points)	Dec. 26	Dual Team: Jan. 4 & 5 Individual: Jan. 29	Feb. 17/OSU St. John Arena (team dual) Mar. 9-11/OSU Schottenstein Center (individual)
<b>SPRING</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Number Regular Season Contests</b>	<b>Non-Intersch. Date</b>	<b>Tournament Draw/Seed</b>	<b>State Tournament Dates/Sites</b>
<b>Baseball</b>	Feb. 20	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 25	27 (see Handbook for indiv. contest limits)	Apr. 17	April 30	June 1-State Semis/Huntington Park, Columbus (Div. III & II) June 2-State Semis/Huntington Park, Columbus (Div. IV & I) June 3-State Finals/Huntington Park, Columbus (all 4 divs.)
<b>Lacrosse (Girls)</b>	Feb. 20	3 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 17	18	Apr. 17	May 7	May 13-20 Regional Qualifying & Quarterfinals May 22-27 Regional Semis & Finals May 30-June 3 State Semis & Finals - SITES TBD
<b>Lacrosse (Boys)</b>	Feb. 20	3 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 17	18	Apr. 17	May 7	May 13-20 Regional Qualifying & Quarterfinals May 22-27 Regional Semis & Finals May 30-June 3 State Semis & Finals - SITES TBD
<b>Softball</b>	Feb. 20	4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages plus 1 preview	Mar. 25	27 (see Handbook for indiv. contest limits)	Apr. 17	April 30	June 1-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stadium (Div. I & IV) June 2-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stadium (Div. III & II) June 3-State Finals/Akron Firestone Stadium (all 4 divs.)
<b>Tennis (Boys)</b>	Mar. 6	1 scrimmage prior to first match	Mar. 24	22 (see Handbook for match type)	Apr. 10	April 30	May 26/Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason (1st & 2nd rnds.) May 27/Lindner Family Tennis Center, Mason (SF & Finals)
<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	Mar. 6	None permitted	Mar. 25	16	Apr. 17	April 30	June 2-3/Ohio State Jesse Owens Stadium (Div. III, II, I)

# 2016-17 OHSAA Ready Reference Calendar - 7th-8th Grade Schools

Updated 6-28-16

<b>FALL</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Regular-Season Contests and Postseason</b>
Cross Country	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 22	12 plus one league or conference championship meet
Field Hockey	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 20	14
Football	Aug. 1	1 Scrimmage after 10 days of practice and before 1st contest or 2 scrimmages if only playing 7 contests	Aug. 18	8 (or 7 if playing 2 scrimmages)
Golf	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 5	14
Soccer	Aug. 1	1 scrimmage after practice begins or 1 preview	Aug. 19	14 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Tennis (Girls)	Aug. 1	None permitted	Aug. 12	16 (see <i>Handbook</i> for match type)
Volleyball	Aug. 1	2 scrimmages after practice begins or 1 scrimmage and 1 preview	Aug. 20	20 (on 16 dates) plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Regular-Season Contests and Postseason</b>
Basketball (Boys)	Nov. 4	2 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Dec. 2	16 plus 1 post season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Basketball (Girls)	Oct. 28	2 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview	Nov. 25	16 plus 1 post season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Bowling	Nov. 4	None permitted	Nov. 18	24
Gymnastics	Nov. 4	None permitted	Dec. 5	12
Ice Hockey	Nov. 4	None permitted	Nov. 18	15 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 3 contests
Swim/Dive	Nov. 4	None permitted	Nov. 28	12
Wrestling	Nov. 11	2 scrimmages after practice begins or 1 scrimmage and 1 preview	Dec. 2	17 points (see <i>Handbook</i> for event points)
<b>SPRING</b>	<b>First Practice</b>	<b>Scrimmages &amp; Previews</b>	<b>First Contest</b>	<b>Regular-Season Contests and Postseason</b>
Baseball	Feb. 20	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 25	17 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Softball	Feb. 20	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 25	17 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Lacrosse (Girls)	Feb. 20	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 17	14 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Lacrosse (Boys)	Feb. 20	2 scrimmages after practice begins	Mar. 17	14 plus 1 post-season tournament not to exceed 4 contests
Tennis (Boys)	Mar. 6	None permitted	Mar. 24	16 (see <i>Handbook</i> for match type)
Track & Field	Mar. 6	None permitted	Mar. 25	12 plus one league or conference championship meet, plus OHSAA state meet
<b>NOTE: Dates and locations are subject to change</b>				

# Ohio High School Athletic Association Standing Committees and Adjunct Associations

## Standing Committees

- OHSAA Audit Committee
- OHSAA Boys Lacrosse Advisory Committee
- OHSAA District Athletic Boards Review Committee
- OHSAA Diversity Committee
- OHSAA Expanding Opportunities Committee
- OHSAA Field Hockey Advisory Committee
- OHSAA Finance Committee
- OHSAA Football Tournament Committee
- OHSAA Girls Lacrosse Advisory Committee
- OHSAA, Ohio State Medical Association and Ohio Athletic Trainers Association Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine
- OHSAA Media Advisory Committee
- OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee
- OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Committee
- OHSAA NFHS Hall of Fame Committee
- OHSAA Pension Board of Trustees
- OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Schools Committee
- OHSAA Soccer Advisory Committee
- OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee
- OHSAA Tournament Officials Procedure Committee
- OHSAA Track and Field Advisory Committee

## Affiliated Associations

- Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
- Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Field Hockey Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Football Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Gymnastics Advisory Committee
- Ohio High School Ice Hockey Advisory Committee
- Ohio High School Lacrosse Association
- Ohio Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association
- Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Swimming Coaches Association
- Ohio Tennis Coaches Association
- Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches
- Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association
- Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials

## 2016-17 Coaches Associations Timelines for Proposals

State Coaches Associations shall work with their respective OHSAA staff sport administrator on the specific proposal(s) they would like to make to the OHSAA Board of Directors. The sport administrator shall determine:

- 1.) If the proposal(s) has merit and should be moved forward.
- 2.) If the proposal(s) should be moved forward, whether a presentation should be made to the Board of Directors or presented when the sport administrator reviews changes to the sport or tournament regulations.
- 3.) If the proposal(s) should be moved forward, the next steps that are needed (i.e. should the OHSAA assist in crafting a survey, including the pros and cons of the proposal(s) that will be sent to head coaches, principals and athletic administrators).

Should the sport administrator determine that the proposal(s) should be presented to the Board of Directors, State Coaches Associations will have the opportunity to present a proposal(s) once\* during an academic year to the Board of Directors and are not subject to adhering to a specific assigned date.

Recommendations approved by the Board of Directors to become effective on the date established when adopted.

\* Unless another proposal(s) is deemed necessary due to extenuating circumstances.

## **2016-2017 OHSAA Catastrophic Accident Insurance**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has purchased excess catastrophic accident insurance for the 2016-2017 school year. Information on the OHSAA catastrophic insurance plan is annually provided to the membership and posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). Note: The OHSAA no longer provides catastrophic insurance coverage for students who participate in sports not recognized by the Association. Information regarding coverage for non-recognized sports is also annually provided to the membership and is available on the OHSAA website.

### **Policies And Principles Governing The Administration of High School Interscholastic Athletics**

Competitive sports are an inherent part of the total education program for students in secondary schools. When properly organized and conducted, inter-school athletics provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in activities which promote growth and development, teach social and recreational skills and develop leadership qualities. These values are more readily attained when the program is based upon accepted standards and practices developed by professional leaders in education and when competing teams are members of and follow the regulations approved by a state high school athletic association. These regulations for high school interscholastic athletics of the Ohio High School Athletic Association are based upon the following principles and policies:

1. The major emphasis on interscholastic athletics should be upon skilled play and good sportsmanship. Competition should be equitable in order that full learning and enjoyment may be realized from game participation.
2. Every attempt should be made to provide favorable playing conditions in order that the competitive experiences of the students may be wholesome and result in the attainment of desirable attitudes and conduct.
3. The interscholastic program should be offered in conjunction with a comprehensive instructional physical education and intramural program. It should encompass a variety of activities.
4. The program should be financed by budgeted organizational and school funds rather than solely by admission charges.
5. The contest rules, regulations and supervision of the program should insure the maximum protection of the health and safety of the players.
6. Limitations should be placed upon the length of the sport season, the number of practice periods and the number of interscholastic contests played.
7. It is recommended that a student be a member of no more than one interscholastic team at any one time.
8. Athletic events shall be played according to the contest rules and regulations approved and adopted by the Board of Directors.

## **Ohio High School Athletic Association Philosophy on 7th & 8th Grade Athletics**

**Recommended by the OHSAA 7th & 8th Grade Schools Committee  
Adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors on December 6, 2007**

The purpose of seventh and eighth grade educational based athletics is to provide rich and wholesome activities for as many students as possible. As a result, students will develop to the greatest degree the talents and skills such as leadership, teamwork and discipline, which will enable them to become responsible citizens in our society while demonstrating good sporting conduct.

We believe in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school program reflecting the needs of the school, the community and the student.

We believe the potential values to the students and coaches to be very essential. Competition under prescribed regulations and policies provides adolescents with the opportunity to develop ideas and habits of health, fair play, initiative, achievement, emotional control, good sporting conduct, social adaptability and good citizenship. Athletics fosters team and school spirit and a sense of community.

We believe each coach should make every effort to provide opportunity for participation by all students involved in a sport. The students shall be taught the fundamental skills necessary for further growth and improvement in their respective sports. These skills are to be taught by an educated/trained coach. We believe that high quality skill development for students at the seventh and eighth grade level is of utmost importance.

## **The National Federation of State High School Associations**

The National Federation consists of the fifty individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia. Also affiliated are 10 interscholastic organizations from the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland-Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Saskatchewan as well as the Canadian School Sports Federation and the associations of the Republic of the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam and St. Thomas.

These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action which eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and which increase efficiency through the pooling and coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in the administration of high school athletic and activities programs.

### **Origin and Growth**

The national organization had its beginning in a meeting at Chicago on May 14, 1920. L. W. Smith, secretary of the Illinois High School Athletic Association, issued invitations to neighboring states and state association representatives came from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss problems which had resulted from high school contests which were organized by colleges and universities or by other clubs or promoters. In many cases, little attention was paid to the eligibility rules of the high school associations or to other school group regulations and chaotic conditions had developed. At this first meeting it was decided that the welfare of the high schools required a more active part in the control of such athletic activities be exercised by the high school through the state associations, and this control necessitated the formation of a national organization. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted and the group decided on the name "Midwest Federation of State High School Athletic Associations." Principal George Edward Marshall, Davenport, Iowa, was elected president and Principal L.W. Smith of Joliet, Illinois, was elected secretary-treasurer.

In 1921, four states, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin, continued their interest and became charter members through formal ratification of the Constitution. Largely due to their efforts the national organization grew during the early years.

In 1922, the Chicago annual meeting was attended by representatives from 11 states, and the name of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations was adopted. A number of college and university representatives who attended the meeting expressed sympathy for and interest in the efforts to introduce a high degree of order in the regulation of interscholastic contests.

Since that time, the National Federation has had a healthy growth to its present nationwide membership. By 1940, a national office with a full-time executive staff became necessary and such office was established in September of that year.

The legislative body is the National Council made up of one representative from each member state association. Each representative must be a state association executive officer or member of the state Board of Directors. The executive body is the Executive Committee of at least eight members from the eight territorial sections as outlined in the Constitution. Their election is by the National Council at its summer meeting.

## **Statement of Philosophy**

The purpose of the National Federation of State High School Associations is to coordinate the efforts of its member state associations toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic activities. It shall provide a means for state high school associations to cooperate in order to enhance and protect their interscholastic programs. In order to accomplish this, the National Federation is guided by a philosophy consistent with the accepted purposes of secondary education. Member state associations' programs must be administered in accordance with the following basic beliefs:

Interscholastic activities shall be an integral part of the total secondary school educational program which has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum, which will develop learning outcomes in the areas of knowledge, skills and emotional patterns and will contribute to the development of better citizens. Emphasis shall be upon teaching "through" activities in addition to teaching the "skills" of activities.

Interschool activities shall be primarily for the benefit of the high school students who participate directly and vicariously in them. The interscholastic activity program shall exist mainly for the value which it has for students and not for the benefit of the sponsoring institutions. The activities and contests involved shall be psychologically sound by being tailored to the physical, mental and emotional maturity levels of the youth participating in them.

Any district and/or state athletic meet competition to determine a so-called champion shall provide opportunities for schools to demonstrate and to evaluate the best taught in their programs with the best taught in other schools and in other areas of the state.

Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted cooperatively by the schools through their state associations, and those additional standards established by each school for its own students.

The state high school associations and the National Federation shall be concerned with the development of those standards, policies and regulations essential to assist their member schools in the implementation of their philosophy of interscholastic activities.

Nonschool activities sponsored primarily for the benefit of the participants in accordance with a philosophy compatible with the school philosophy of interscholastics may have values for youth. When they did not interfere with the academic and interscholastic programs and do not result in exploitation of youth, they shall be considered as a worthwhile supplement to interschool activities.

The welfare of the schools demands a united front in sports direction policies and the high school associations provide opportunity for this unity. They must be kept strong.

The National Federation headquarters building is located at 690 West Washington Street in Indianapolis, Phone: 317-972-6900. The mailing address is P.O. Box 690, Indianapolis, IN 46206, the fax number is (317) 822-5700 and the web site address is [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org). The Executive Director is Bob Gardner.

The National Federation is the major rules writing body for interscholastic sports in the United States. Playing rules for junior high and high school competition as written, published and printed by the National Federation have been adopted by the OHSAA in all sports except golf, tennis and girls gymnastics.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has been a member of the National Federation since 1924.

# Ohio High School Athletic Association

## Student Eligibility Appeals Process – 2016-2017

### INTRODUCTION

In accordance with OHSAA Bylaw 3-1-1 and the Board of Education Resolution by which each school renews its membership in the Ohio High School Athletic Association (“OHSAA”), the principal in each member school has primary responsibility for enforcement for all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics including issues of eligibility. Notwithstanding this, however, the member schools through their Constitution, Bylaws and Board of Education Resolution have charged the Commissioner’s Office of the OHSAA with the ultimate authority in deciding “all questions and interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations, and shall impose and enforce penalties.” *Constitution Article 6, Section 6-1-2.*

Frequently, the first time anyone in the Commissioner’s Office has even heard of your situation is after an administrator in your school has made an initial determination. Thus, in most cases, when the Commissioner’s Office first entertains your case, it is actually upon an inquiry resulting from the member school’s decision based upon the school’s interpretation and enforcement of the bylaws to which the school has agreed to be bound.

All eligibility questions presented to the Commissioner’s Office are investigated by the Commissioner or someone from the Commissioner’s staff, albeit different levels of investigation are dictated by the nature of the issue presented. Oftentimes all relevant facts necessary for the Commissioner’s Office to make its eligibility determination are produced in the very same correspondence (letter, telephone call or email exchange) in which the issue is raised. Other matters may require further investigation, and in some instances, the Commissioner may hire an outside investigator and conduct an investigation that is more formal.

On occasion, school administrators, parents and/or students form the opinion that the decision of the Commissioner’s Office was in error and as a result a desire to appeal that decision arises. The Constitution of the member schools of the OHSAA anticipates this and authorizes the Board of Directors to establish an appeals process for such occasions. In May 2012, the member schools further modified this process by authorizing the Board of Directors to establish an Appeals Panel with exclusive jurisdiction to hear student eligibility appeals. At its June 2016 meeting, the Board of Directors re-authorized the Appeals Panel process for the 2016-17 school year.

The OHSAA will publish on its website at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) the dates on which the Appeals Panel will hear student eligibility appeals (note that these dates are subject to change). There is no fee to file for an appeal. However, in the event that the Commissioner’s Office agrees and is able to expedite a student eligibility appeal to accommodate the appellant(s), a filing fee of no less than \$300 will be assessed the appellant. This fee is payable to the OHSAA.

Accordingly, for school year 2016-17, all appeals of decisions made by the Commissioner’s Office regarding the eligibility of student-athletes shall be heard by this Appeals Panel. In discharging its obligations under the Constitution, the Appeals Panel is bound by the limitations set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws and, like the Commissioner’s Office and the Board of Directors, the Appeals Panel does not have any authority to alter, amend, change, delete or add to the Bylaws. Only the member schools have the authority to do this and only then through the referendum process. *Constitution Article 8, Section 8-1-2.* Below are some frequently asked questions that may assist you in understanding this Appeals Process.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Q1. Who may pursue an appeal of a ruling made by the Commissioner’s Office?**

A. Eligibility appeals rendered by the Commissioner’s Office may be pursued by students, parents of the student, school administrators, coaches or any other person (subject to FERPA) having a vested interest in the Commissioner’s Office’s decision from which the appeal stems, provided the appeal is initiated by a school administrator. (See additional information on how to begin the appeals process in Q3.)

#### **Q2. To whom are appeals of a decision rendered by the Commissioner’s Office made?**

All rulings made by the Commissioner’s Office pertaining to athletic eligibility (Bylaw 4) shall be appealed to the Appeals Panel. The Commissioner’s Office shall establish dates on which the Appeals Panel will convene for the purpose of conducting these hearings, and the dates will be published on the OHSAA website. In addition, emergency hearing dates and other contingencies may be established in order to provide for the effective and efficient disposition of eligibility appeals when an OHSAA tournament is underway or ready to begin and an appeal is necessary relative to the removal of a team from competition.

#### **Q3. How does someone appeal a decision made by the Commissioner’s Office?**

A. To appeal an eligibility ruling by the Commissioner’s Office, a school official from your school must notify the Commissioner’s Office in a timely manner of your desire to appeal an eligibility ruling that the Commissioner’s

Office has made. The “notice” requirements for this appeal include: (1) names and contact information of the persons involved in the appeal; (2) the bylaw and eligibility ruling at issue, and (3) the sport(s) in which the particular student desires to participate. After the initial notice of the desire to appeal an eligibility decision has been made, further information may be required before the hearing time and date are established.

**Note:** While the initial notice of appeal must be submitted by a school official from your school, it is not necessary that the school/school official support or endorse your appeal. Furthermore, unless compelled to attend pursuant to the authority vested in the Commissioner’s Office, the school official need not participate in the appeal hearing.

#### **Q4. Who may attend the hearing on appeal to the Appeals Panel?**

A. In order to protect the privacy of students and their families, and in compliance with the rights afforded students and their families pursuant to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), these hearings are closed to the public.

A representative of his/her/their choosing may accompany the appellant(s). Other immediate family members or interested parties may also be permitted to observe the appeal hearing – not to exceed five (5) persons – at the discretion of the Appeals Panel with the understanding, however, that the Appeals Panel shall have the authority to require the separation of witnesses as they may deem appropriate. The appellant or representative shall have the opportunity to present evidence through witnesses or documentary evidence, supporting the position as to why the appeal should be granted.

The Commissioner’s Office does not have subpoena power and thus cannot issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses for this hearing. It is incumbent upon you to make all arrangements necessary for the attendance of any/all witnesses you desire in support of your appeal.

The Commissioner’s Office has the authority to compel the attendance of school personnel at this hearing, and may exercise that authority if it is perceived that their attendance is necessary to assist in understanding facts relevant to the disposition of the appeal. In addition, the Commissioner’s Office will be represented by members of the staff who shall be present at and throughout the appeal – but not the deliberations of the Panel – as well as the OHSAA legal counsel. Staff and counsel will defend the decision from which the appeal is taken, and one should expect a vigorous defense of the same.

#### **Q5. What kind of record is made of the appeal proceedings?**

A. An “official record” of the proceedings shall be made by the Appeals Panel through a court stenographer. Likewise, any party to the appeal has the right to have his/her own court reporter present. However, that party shall be responsible for any and all expenses associated with their own reporter. If you would like a copy of the transcripts of your hearing, you must make arrangements for an original transcript of your hearing with the court reporter transcribing your hearing at your own cost. At the close of the hearing, the Appeals Panel shall require all documents/exhibits referenced in the hearing remain in the custody of the Commissioner’s Office for safekeeping. Such records shall be retained by the OHSAA for a period of not less than four (4) years.

#### **Q6. What is the standard of review used by the Appeals Panel during this appeal process?**

A. It is important that appellants understand that, unless specifically provided in the particular Bylaw, the Appeals Panel has no authority to waive the requirements of the Bylaws (i.e., the standard of review is not whether your case is “unique” or otherwise deserving of a “waiver” of the bylaw in question). The standard of review to be used by the Appeals Panel is simply to determine whether the Commissioner’s Office, in rendering its ruling, made a mistake of fact, mistake of interpretation/application of the Bylaw in question or neglected to consider another Bylaw that may be applicable.

A great deal of deference shall be given to the decision of the Commissioner’s Office. Notwithstanding this deference, appellants shall be permitted to introduce any new evidence they feel relevant to their case. Likewise, the Commissioner’s Office may introduce additional evidence in support of its decision.

The burden of proof shall rest with you, the appellant.

#### **Q7. When and how will the appellant be notified of the Appeals Panel’s decision?**

A. Typically, within 48 hours of the appeal hearing the Appeals Panel will render a decision in your cases. Sometimes, however, the Panel determines that more information from the school or other sources is necessary before rendering its final ruling.

Every reasonable attempt will be made to notify you of the Panel’s decision via telephone within 24 hours of the Panel rendering its decision. A more formal letter ruling by mail will be sent to you as soon as practicable thereafter. Because of the nature of the appeal, there may be instances where the school is first to learn of the outcome of any appeal. This notice procedure is meant to expedite the information in order to minimize any negative impact from such a decision and to maximize the positive impact (e.g. the appeal is granted and the student-athlete is eligible for that afternoon’s contest) it may have on student-athletes.

# Students With Disabilities

It is the policy of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) to support playing rules modifications, where appropriate, in order to accommodate students with disabilities so that they are able to participate in the interscholastic athletics programs sponsored by the member schools. To that end, the OHSAA shall receive requests for modifications to the interscholastic athletics programs in the 26 sports sponsored by the Association for students with disabilities, including those with hearing, visual and physical disabilities.

The OHSAA commends and supports these students who wish to compete in the sports that are sponsored by the OHSAA, and sincerely desires to work with the member schools to enable students with disabilities to enjoy participation opportunities.

The following procedures have been developed by the OHSAA to examine each individual case to insure that a request for modification does not give the student with the disability an advantage in the competition or put other competitors at a disadvantage or at risk. The OHSAA must consider the needs of all students involved in the competition.

## Evaluation Guidelines

The OHSAA will evaluate each modification request using the following guidelines:

1. Would the modification fundamentally alter the nature of the event?
2. Is the requested modification reasonable under the circumstances?
3. Is the requested modification necessary for the student to compete?
4. Can the student compete at the same time as the other participants?
5. Would the requested modification give the student an advantage over other competitors?
6. Would the requested modification cause the other participants to be at a disadvantage or at risk?
7. Would additional costs be involved, and if so, how would those costs be met?

## Requesting a Modification

A member school administrator shall contact the OHSAA if a student desires to compete in an OHSAA-sponsored sport. Please make your request in writing on official school letterhead as far in advance as possible (minimum of two weeks prior to the event). Please identify the exact nature of the requested modification in as much detail as possible. The OHSAA will not accept requests via the telephone, but will accept electronic submissions on school letterhead signed by an administrator.

Address the evaluation guidelines giving sufficient documentation regarding the disability and the need for the requested modification(s). Identify the modification(s) requested for the event and any modification(s) that the school makes for the student daily.

If the OHSAA approves a modification, it is the coach's responsibility to provide a copy of the OHSAA approval notification to all affected schools competing in the event and to the head contest official. Only one response letter from the OHSAA is necessary for the modification to be permitted for all interscholastic contests in that sport or event for the current school year. If the student advances to Regional or State tournament competition, it is the responsibility of the member school to notify the OHSAA immediately.

Please direct your request to the administrator who is the OHSAA liaison for the sport in which the student is seeking the modification. See the document "Who to Contact" on the OHSAA web site at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) for a reference.

# CONSTITUTION

August 1, 2016

Revised by Referendum — May 2016

## Article 1 — Name

**1-1-1** The name of this organization shall be the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

## Article 2 — Purpose

**2-1-1** The purpose of this non-profit organization shall be to regulate, supervise and administer interscholastic athletic competition among its member schools to the end that the interscholastic program be an integral factor in the total educational program of the schools. This shall be accomplished by cooperation with all agencies vitally concerned with the health and educational welfare of high school, middle school and junior high school students; determining qualifications of individual contestants, coaches, and officials; providing information through literature and other materials to facilitate athletic relations among member schools; establishing standards for sportsmanship and competition; furnishing protection against exploitation of school or student and in any manner directed by the member schools.

## Article 3 — Membership

**3-1-1** Membership in the OHSAA is voluntary and shall be renewed annually by each member school's Board of Education or similar governing body by execution of the Resolution Card approved by the Board of Directors.

**3-1-2** Member schools must either be chartered by the Ohio Department of Education or operate in accordance with the Ohio Department of Education Minimum Standards Chapter 3301-35-08 Non-Chartered Non-Tax Supported School.

**3-1-3** A school which loses its charter by action of the State Department of Education or which no longer operates in accordance with Ohio State Department of Education Minimum Standards Chapter 3301-35-08 Non-Chartered Non-Tax Supported School ceases to be a member of the Association.

**3-1-4** The annual membership period begins August 1 and continues until July 31 of the following year.

### 2 - Initial Membership

**3-2-1** The Board of Education or similar governing body must adopt a resolution authorizing membership for all 7th and 8th grades and high schools under its jurisdiction.

**3-2-2** An Application for Membership on the form prescribed by the OHSAA must be completed and signed by the superintendent of the school district (or the person acting in a similar capacity for any non-public school).

**3-2-3** The applicant must be able to certify that with respect to its student-athletes and sports programs, the school has conformed with all bylaws and regulations of the OHSAA for a minimum period of one year immediately prior to the date of application.

**3-2-4** The applicant must be able to certify that it has sponsored at least two varsity "recognized sports" (per Bylaw 1-5-1) per sports season in the school year immediately prior to the date of application and that it intends to continue with its sponsorship of these recognized sports upon becoming a member of the OHSAA. Furthermore, the applicant must certify that it intends to participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournaments for each of the sports for which applicant provides sponsorship.

### 3 - Continuing Membership

**3-3-1** The Board of Education, or similar governing body, must adopt a resolution authorizing continuing membership in the OHSAA for all 7th and 8th grade schools and high schools under its jurisdiction, which resolution shall be submitted to the Commissioner's office no later than July 31 of each year for the ensuing school year. When a new school is opened in a multi-high school/7th-8th grade school district or system, the Board of Education or similar governing body may add that school to its membership card.

**3-3-2** Prior to the start of each school year, the superintendent (or person acting in a similar capacity on behalf of a non-public school) shall sign and file with the Commissioner’s office any and all required membership forms for the ensuing school year. Furthermore, the principal of each member school must sign and file with the Commissioner’s office the required sports registration forms.

**3-3-3** A school that loses its charter by action of the State Department of Education or which no longer operates in accordance with Ohio State Department of Education Minimum Standards Chapter 3301-35-08 Non-Chartered Non-Tax Supported School ceases to be a member of the Association.

**3-3-4** Subject to Article 3-3-5 below, a member school must continue to sponsor two varsity “recognized sports” (per Bylaw 1-5-1) per sport season in the school year in order to maintain membership in the OHSAA. Exception: Schools that have restricted enrollment due to geographic placement and single gender schools may request an exemption from this sponsorship requirement. The exemption may be granted solely at the discretion of the Commissioner’s office.

**Note:** Schools that were members as of the 2009-2010 school year and did not meet the two-sport per season provision within this article are exempt from this two-sport per season requirement until such time when they do meet the two-sport per season requirement.

**3-3-5** In the event a member school is compelled to suspend sponsorship of its extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, due to levy failures or other economic hardships, that school’s membership in the OHSAA shall likewise be temporarily suspended until such time as the existing member school petitions to re-activate its membership in the OHSAA. During this period of suspended membership, all rights and privileges associated with membership shall be suspended.

**Article 4 — Membership Dues**

**4-1-1** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to levy any dues deemed necessary.

**Article 5**

**1 - Governance**

**5-1-1** The Board of Directors directs the Commissioner and establishes policy for the efficient operation of the Association.

**2 - Board of Directors**

**5-2-1** The Board of Directors shall be composed of one classification representative from each of the district athletic boards elected from an athletic district, three representatives from district athletic boards elected from an athletic district: one who is an ethnic minority, one who is a female and one who is a 7th & 8th grade representative, a non-voting ex-officio member from the State Department of Education and a non-voting ex-officio member from the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

**3 - Qualification for Board of Directors Membership**

**5-3-1** The district athletic board representatives shall be members of the teaching profession and employed fulltime (minimum of 180 days) by a member school or schools. They shall be elected members of the district athletic boards representing the classification of schools or a representation category (female, ethnic minority and 7th & 8th grade) and the athletic districts whose terms of office are set for the Board of Directors according to this table.

YEAR	C	E	NE	NW	SE	SW	C	E	NE	NW	SE	SW
2016-2017	AAA	AAA	AA	AA	A	A	7-8	M	F			
2017-2018	A	AAA	AA	AAA	A	AA			F	7-8	M	
2018-2019	A	A	AAA	AAA	AA	AA				7-8	M	F
2019-2020	AA	A	AAA	A	AA	AAA	M		7-8			F
2020-2021	AA	AA	A	A	AAA	AAA	M	F	7-8			
2021-2022	AAA	AA	A	AA	AAA	A		F		M		7-8
2022-2023	AAA	AAA	AA	AA	A	A				M	F	7-8
2023-2024	A	AAA	AA	AAA	A	AA		7-8	M		F	
2024-2025	A	A	AAA	AAA	AA	AA	F	7-8	M			
2025-2026	AA	A	AAA	A	AA	AAA	F				7-8	M
2026-2027	AA	AA	A	A	AAA	AAA				F	7-8	M

YEAR	C	E	NE	NW	SE	SW	C	E	NE	NW	SE	SW
2027-2028	AAA	AA	A	AA	AAA	A	7-8	M		F		
2028-2029	AAA	AAA	AA	AA	A	A	7-8	M	F			
2029-2030	A	AAA	AA	AAA	A	AA			F	7-8	M	
2030-2031	A	A	AAA	AAA	AA	AA				7-8	M	F

**5-3-2** The State Department of Education Representative employed by the State Department of Education and appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

**5-3-3** The representative of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Board of Directors.

**4 - Selection of Members to the Board of Directors**

**5-4-1** District athletic board members who are serving in the appropriate classification/ representation category shall automatically be nominated for the Board of Directors position. In the matter of nominees from the classification positions (A, AA, AAA), the respective District Athletic Boards shall select the representative to serve on the Board of Directors. The deadline for appointment shall be no later than the May meeting of the Board of Directors.

**5-4-2** When a vacancy or temporary incapacitation occurs for reasons other than expiration of term, the Board of Directors shall appoint a member for the remainder of that term or the duration of the incapacitation, who is qualified in accordance with this Constitution.

**5-4-3** In the event that a District Athletic Board may not have a candidate to fulfill the term of a female, ethnic minority or 7th & 8th grade representative at the time when that candidate’s term commences, the Board of Directors may appoint a candidate that meets the candidate’s qualifications for the duration of that term.

**5 - Term of Office**

**5-5-1** The term of office of a Board of Directors representative selected from a District Athletic Board shall be a full term of two years and begin on August 1.

**5-5-2** The term of office of a Board of Directors representative ceases immediately when the representative no longer meets the qualifications in Constitution 5-3.

**5-5-3** The term of office of the State Department of Education and the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association representatives shall be indefinite, and a vacancy shall be filled through appointment by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association leadership, respectively.

**6 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors**

**5-6-1** The powers and duties of the Board of Directors include but are not limited to:

1. Employ the Commissioner, Associate Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners.
2. Approve or disapprove the appointments by the Commissioner for all employees in the Association office.
3. Determine contracts with Association personnel.
4. Provide a retirement system for employees.
5. Determine the contest rules and regulations for each sport.
6. Organize and conduct all state sponsored interscholastic athletic tournaments and set entry fees as needed.
7. Establish an appeals process by which decisions of the Commissioner’s Office can be reviewed. This process may include holding hearings involving eligibility, qualifications, game contracts and controversies between or among schools and/or participants and officials regarding interscholastic athletics. This process may also include the appointment of an Appeals Panel separate from the Board of Directors for the review of eligibility decisions affecting student athlete participation only. If the Board appoints an Appeals Panel, the Appeals Panel shall have exclusive jurisdiction over those matters which pertain to student eligibility. Appeals decisions, whether rendered by an Appeals Panel or the Board of Directors, shall be final. Neither the Board of Directors nor an Appeals Panel, if one is appointed, has the

authority to waive, amend, or set aside any bylaw but rather must apply the bylaws precisely as they are written. The Board of Directors shall make the decision to appoint an Appeals Panel no later than the June meeting of the Board of Directors.

8. When appropriate, compel the attendance at any OHSAA hearing of the principal, athletic director, coach or such other school administrator from any school(s) affected or likely to be affected by the outcome of that hearing.
9. The Board of Directors may make regulations to promote the purpose of the Association.
10. The Board of Directors may declare a position vacant on a District Athletic Board when an elected member fails to attend three consecutive meetings and/or fulfill the requirements of the position.
11. The Board of Directors may suspend a school from membership in the Association.

**7 - Divisions of State into Districts**

- 5-7-1 The Board of Directors shall divide the state geographically into six districts to be known as the Central, East, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest districts. The responsibility of each District Athletic Board shall be to execute those powers and duties as stipulated in Constitution 7-7-1 and 7-7-2 for the member schools that are located in the geographic district bearing the same name.
- 5-7-2 All member schools shall be assigned to the athletic district in which the school is located.
- 5-7-3 Member schools requesting permission to transfer from one district to another district must submit, in writing, to the releasing and receiving district athletic boards and the Commissioner, letters stating reasons for the transfer. Both district athletic boards shall be given an opportunity to take advisory action which shall be completed within 90 days. The Board of Directors will take action to approve or deny the transfer request within a 90-day period. All petitions for transfer become effective at the beginning of the school year with no retrospective activation.
- 5-7-4 All member schools within an athletic district shall be assigned one of three classifications (A, AA or AAA) based upon the school's size of enrollment. One-third (1/3) or as near to one-third (1/3) as possible of the member schools will be assigned to each classification.
- 5-7-5 The classification of schools within a given athletic district shall be determined on a bi-annual basis.

**8 - Meetings**

- 5-8-1 Immediately following the June meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board shall elect a president and vice-president to serve a term of one year beginning on August 1 and ending the following July 31.
- 5-8-2 The regular meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or by any three voting members.

**9 - Quorum**

- 5-9-1 Five voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Article 6 — Commissioner**

- 6-1-1 The Commissioner shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and shall take the initiative in enforcing the Bylaws and Regulations and promoting the purpose of the Association.
- 6-1-2 The Commissioner or another administrative staff member designated by the Commissioner shall decide all questions and interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations, and shall impose and enforce penalties. The Commissioner may compel the attendance of the principal, athletic director, coach or such other school administrator of the member school/schools whom the Commissioner deems to have knowledge or information relevant to any issues in any hearing before the Commissioner or the Board of Directors.
- 6-1-3 The Commissioner shall provide for the preparation of forms for the use of schools, distribute reports and bulletins, arrange and conduct clinics, tournaments and other athletic contests.
- 6-1-4 The Commissioner shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Association, render reports as requested by the Board of Directors, and shall cause to be published annually the audited financial report

for the past fiscal year and shall be responsible for the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings.

**6-1-5** The Commissioner shall provide the Board of Directors with data pertinent to any phase of the Association’s work and perform other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

**6-1-6** The Commissioner shall assign duties and responsibilities to all employees.

**Article 7 - District Athletic Boards**

**1 - Membership**

**7-1-1** The district athletic boards shall be composed of nine members. Each of the three classifications (A, AA, AAA) of schools will be represented by two members on each district athletic board, and there will be three at-large members elected: one who is an ethnic minority, one who is a female and one who is a representative of a 7th & 8th grade school according to the following tables:

<b>District</b>	<b>Year of Election</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Starting Date</b>	<b>Ending Date</b>
CENTRAL	2016	AA	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	AA	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	AAA	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	AAA	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		Female	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	A	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		Minority	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	A	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
	2022	AA	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	AA	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	AAA	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030
	2025	AAA	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	A	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		Minority	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
	2027	A	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
EAST	2016	A	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	AA	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	AA	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	AAA	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		Minority	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	AAA	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	A	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		Female	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
	2022	A	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	AA	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	AA	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030
	2025	AAA	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	AAA	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
	2027	A	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
		Female	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
NORTHEAST	2016	AAA	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	A	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	A	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	AA	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	AA	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		Female	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	AAA	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		Minority	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027

District	Year of Election	Class	Starting Date	Ending Date
	2022	AAA	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	A	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	A	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030
	2025	AA	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	AA	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		Female	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
	2027	AAA	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
		Minority	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
NORTHWEST	2016	A	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	A	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	AA	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	AA	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		Female	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	AAA	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		Minority	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	AAA	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
	2022	A	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	A	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	AA	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030
	2025	AA	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	AAA	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		Minority	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
2027	AAA	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033	
	7th & 8th	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033	
SOUTHEAST	2016	AA	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	AAA	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	AAA	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	A	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		Minority	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	A	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	AA	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		Female	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
	2022	AA	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	AAA	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	AAA	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030
	2025	A	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
		Minority	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	A	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
	2027	AA	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
		Female	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
SOUTHWEST	2016	AAA	August 1, 2016	July 31, 2022
	2017	AAA	August 1, 2017	July 31, 2023
	2018	A	August 1, 2018	July 31, 2024
	2019	A	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
		7th & 8th	August 1, 2019	July 31, 2025
	2020	AA	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
		Female	August 1, 2020	July 31, 2026
	2021	AA	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
		Minority	August 1, 2021	July 31, 2027
	2022	AAA	August 1, 2022	July 31, 2028
	2023	AAA	August 1, 2023	July 31, 2029
	2024	A	August 1, 2024	July 31, 2030

District	Year of Election	Class	Starting Date	Ending Date
	2025	A	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
	2026	7th & 8th	August 1, 2025	July 31, 2031
		AA	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
	2027	Female	August 1, 2026	July 31, 2032
		AA	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033
		Minority	August 1, 2027	July 31, 2033

**2 - Qualifications for Election and Retention of a Position on the District Athletic Board**

- 7-2-1** Members of the district athletic boards shall be members of the teaching profession and employed fulltime (minimum of 180 days) with high school responsibilities in a member school or schools, within the respective athletic district they represent. A member of the teaching profession is defined as an individual who holds a professional license as a teacher or administrator or serves as an athletic administrator approved by the Board of Education or other governing board in a non-public school. The 7th & 8th grade representative on each district athletic board shall be a member of the teaching profession and employed fulltime with more than 60% of his or her duties in that 7th & 8th grade school.
- 7-2-2** All licensed teaching and administrative personnel assigned to only one high school who are standing for election to one of the classification positions on the district athletic board shall be eligible to represent either the boys or girls classification of the school at the time the term of office begins.
- 7-2-3** All other licensed teaching and administrative school employees who are standing for election to one of the classification positions on the district athletic board must represent the boys or girls classification of a high school in the school district where employed at the time the term of office begins.
- 7-2-4** Only one member of a district athletic board may be employed by the same city, exempted village or local school district Board of Education in a public school or similar governing body in a non-public school. The Board of Directors shall have the sole authority to resolve all election issues pertaining to the district athletic boards including, but not limited to eligibility of candidates and conflicts under this provision.
- 7-2-5** A district athletic board member who remains employed in the same school at which she/he was employed at the time of his/her election is entitled to serve his/her full term provided she/he continues to have high school responsibilities and regardless of change in classification of his/her school. 7th & 8th grade district athletic board members who remain employed in the same school district are entitled to serve the full term provided they continue to have at least 60% of their responsibilities at the 7th & 8th grade level.
- 7-2-6** A district athletic board member who changes employment (from one high school to another or one school district to another school district) may continue to serve the term of office to which elected provided the following conditions are met:
  - 1) the school/school district of new employment is assigned to the same OHSAA athletic district;
  - 2) the classification of the new school is the same as the school at which she/he was employed at the time of his/her election; and
  - 3) there is no conflict with 7-2-4. **Note:** At-large elected members may continue to serve provided they remain employed fulltime in a school within the same OHSAA athletic district and there is no conflict with 7-2-5.

**3 - Nomination**

- 7-3-1** Nomination for district athletic board membership shall be by petition, signed by at least six member high school principals other than the nominee, regardless of classification within the district involved. Nomination for the 7th & 8th grade membership shall be by petition, signed by at least six member 7th & 8th grade principals other than the nominee.

- 7-3-2** The nominating petition shall be obtained from the OHSAA Commissioner's office and shall contain the name and school of the candidate and specify the term of office. In order to be valid, a petition in a regular election must be received by April 30 at the OHSAA office no later than 4:00 p.m.

#### **4 - Elections**

- 7-4-1** The election of representatives to the district athletic boards shall be held during the second week of May. Ballots listing the names and schools of certified candidates shall be sent to member high school principals in the district to be represented based on the classification the voting member's school will hold during the subsequent school year. In order to be counted, ballots must be received by May 15 no later than 4:00 p.m.

- 7-4-2** District athletic board candidates who are running for one of the classification positions shall be elected by a vote of the principals of member high schools of their classification within their district. At large district athletic board candidates shall be elected by a vote of all the principals of the member high schools within their athletic district (female and minority representatives) or the principals of the member 7th & 8th grade schools (7th & 8th grade representative).

- 7-4-3** In case of a tie in election of board members, the tie shall be broken by a run-off election. In the event there is a tie vote in the run-off election, the tie shall be broken by a "toss of coin" at Association headquarters under the supervision of the Commissioner.

#### **5 - Term of Office**

- 7-5-1** A full term of office for District Athletic Board members shall be six years beginning August 1.

#### **6 - Vacancies**

- 7-6-1** The term of office of a district athletic board representative ceases when the representative no longer meets the qualifications in Constitution 7-2.

EXCEPTION: If the district athletic board representative is retiring and, prior to the effective date of retirement he/she has received a commitment from an employer that said employer will employ him/her, the term of office of that representative shall continue PROVIDED the Board of Education or similar governing body takes affirmative action to employ the representative within 30 days of the effective date of retirement and the re-employment effectively begins within 65 days of the effective date of retirement.

- 7-6-2** When a vacancy occurs for an elected representative on the district athletic board for reasons other than expiration of the term, the Board of Directors shall appoint an interim representative who meets all of the requirements of the position and who shall serve until such time as the newly elected representative, elected during the next regularly scheduled election, takes office. This appointment shall take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors after the vacancy occurs.

#### **7 - Powers and Duties**

- 7-7-1** The district athletic boards shall assist the Board of Directors and the Commissioner in promoting the purposes of the Association, in organizing and conducting interscholastic athletic tournaments, and other duties as directed by them.

- 7-7-2** Each district athletic board shall be responsible for forwarding to the Commissioner's office, financial and other specified reports on sectional and district tournaments, and all other materials and records as required to support the Association's annual audit.

#### **8 - Meetings**

- 7-8-1** The annual organizational meetings of the district athletic boards shall be held in August at which time one of its members shall be elected president and one vice-president, both of whom shall serve for one year.

- 7-8-2** District athletic board meetings will be determined by each board to fulfill their responsibilities.

- 7-8-3** Special meetings of the district athletic boards may be called by the President, or by any three members of the board.

**9 - Quorum**

**7-9-1** Five members of a district athletic board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**Article 8**

**1 - Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws**

- 8-1-1** In the event of a proposed or adopted legislative action or court order that modifies an existing bylaw or article of the constitution, the Board of Directors may immediately authorize the change in the bylaw or constitution so that the bylaws and/or constitution of the OHSAA will be in compliance with Ohio state law or the proposed legislative action. In addition, the Board is authorized to circulate an emergency petition for referendum vote to amend the Constitution and/or Bylaws in the event of circumstances that arise that cause conflict within the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
- 8-1-2** The constitution and bylaws of this Association may be amended by a referendum vote of the member schools in which the principal of the member school shall cast the vote of the school.
- 8-1-3** With respect to a matter which concerns only 7th & 8th grade member schools, principals of 7th & 8th grade member schools may vote. With respect to all other matters, only the principal of a member high school shall vote.
- 8-1-4** Any proposed amendment shall be adopted if it receives a majority of the votes cast.
- 8-1-5** An amendment may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by petition signed by the principals of no less than 75 member schools with a minimum of five signatures required from each district.
- 8-1-6** Prior to circulation of the petition for signatures, the originators of the petition shall consult with the Commissioner's office to ensure that the petition is accurate and constructed in such a manner that it will change all related provisions of the constitution and/or bylaws of the OHSAA and file the proposed petition with the Commissioner's office prior to obtaining signatures. The originator(s) of a petition may be any person(s) who is employed as an administrator, teacher or coach in an OHSAA member school. The school or school district where employed must be noted with the name on the petition.
- 8-1-7** Petitions to be submitted for referendum vote must be filed with the Commissioner's office between August 1 and December 1 inclusive.
- 8-1-8** Voting on referendums to amend the constitution and bylaws shall be conducted between May 1 and May 15. Ballots shall be received in the OHSAA office no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 15.
- 8-1-9** The member school principal shall return the referendum ballot to the OHSAA office by the deadline specified in article 8-1-8. Failure to return the referendum ballot shall result in a fine to the member school which failed to return the ballot. The Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw 11, shall establish the fine.
- 8-1-10** All referendums to amend the constitution and bylaws will be presented for public explanation and discussion at a spring meeting of any principals and/or superintendents Associations at the request of the respective Association. In addition, similar public explanation and discussions should occur at other meetings of school administrators prior to the vote in May.
- 8-1-11** Amendments to the constitution and bylaws which receive a majority approval shall become effective August 1 following the vote unless the Board of Directors establishes another date, which date is indicated on the ballot.
- 8-1-12** No amendment submitted by petition for referendum vote may be resubmitted within three years of the previous vote, except by Board of Directors action.

# BYLAWS

## Revised by Referendum — May 2016

### BYLAW 1 — COVERAGE

#### Section 1. Application of Bylaws and Sports Regulations

- 1-1-1 The bylaws and sports regulations apply to all participants in interscholastic athletic contests involving students in grades seven through twelve and include matters of eligibility, contracts, qualifications, responsibility and behavior of various personnel.
- 1-1-2 Students enrolled below the seventh grade are ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics. Students enrolled in grades 7 or 8 are ineligible for interscholastic competition on the same squad with students in grade 9 or higher. EXCEPTION: A student who attains the age of 15 prior to August 1 is eligible for interscholastic athletics only at the high school level not to exceed eight semesters.
- 1-1-3 These bylaws cannot be waived, modified or amended by mutual consent between or among contesting schools.

#### Section 2. Sponsorship

- 1-2-1 All practices, games, previews and other interscholastic athletic contests must be under the direct or indirect control, sponsorship and supervision of schools involved and be the financial responsibility of such schools.
- 1-2-2 This bylaw applies to all sports recognized by the OHSAA.

#### Section 3. Penalties

- 1-3-1 Penalties for violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations shall be assessed in accordance with Bylaw 11 unless a specific penalty is provided in the Constitution, Bylaws and Sports Regulations. In such cases the specific penalty shall apply.

#### Section 4. Interscholastic Competition

- 1-4-1 Interscholastic athletic contest, as used throughout the Bylaws and Sports Regulations of the OHSAA is defined as a sports event in which student-athletes from at least one school are engaged in sports-related activities with students from at least one or more schools or non-inter-scholastic programs. This includes, but is not limited to, scheduled contests, practices between two or more schools, sports day, electronic contests, invitational contests, alumni games and interschool scrimmages.
- 1-4-2 Instructional clinics and demonstrations designed for the teaching of fundamental skills and conducted for learning theory, techniques, rules, game procedure and strategy shall not be counted as a scheduled contest.
- 1-4-3 Interscholastic competition shall be conducted using contest rules adopted by the Board of Directors. Modifications or changes in sport rules are not permitted except those provided in the rule book and approved by the Board of Directors.

#### Section 5. Recognized Sports

- 1-5-1 A recognized sport is one adopted by the Board of Directors and for which the OHSAA sponsors a tournament. (Note: baseball, basketball, bowling, cross country, girls field hockey, football, golf, girls gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, girls softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, wrestling are recognized sports this year.)
- 1-5-2 If and when a school or school district sponsors or authorizes a varsity, subvarsity, 7th or 8th grade squad/team that competes with other interscholastic squads in a recognized sport, the school or school district shall be responsible for assuring that any and all such squads/teams comply with all OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations, particularly those related to scholarship, age limitations and contest limitations. For purposes of this bylaw, a “sponsored” team or squad shall include any “club” sport or team/squad.

## Section 6. Team Membership

- 1-6-1** Girls may play on a boys team if there is no girls team or if the overall opportunities for interscholastic competition are less for girls.
- 1-6-2** A girl that is a member of a boys team shall follow all contests rules and regulations regarding the sport as specified for the boys.
- 1-6-3** Boys may not play on girls teams unless the overall opportunities for interscholastic competition for boys are less than for girls and the competing schools mutually agree.
- 1-6-4** Interscholastic teams/squads sponsored by a member school may not consist of students from more than one school unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code or in accordance with the exception below:  
EXCEPTION: Member schools containing grades 7 and 8 may combine students from two or more schools within the school district to form one interscholastic team in a sport. Requests for permission to combine students from two or more schools in the same non-public or public school system must be submitted annually to the OHSAA in writing by the superintendent of the non-public or public school system.  
The written request must contain the following:  
1 — Names of schools involved.  
2 — Total number of students from each school involved in the sport.  
3 — Total number of boys or girls in each grade of each school in the combination.  
4 — The name of the principal, name of the school and the complete address of the Administrator responsible for the conduct and operation of the combined team or teams.

## Section 7. Team Competition Between Sexes

- 1-7-1** Teams of the opposite sex shall not compete against each other in any interscholastic athletic contests.

## BYLAW 2 — CLASSIFICATION AND ORGANIZATION

**Note:** As a result of the May 2014 referendum, Bylaw 2 relating to classification and organization has been significantly amended, effective for the 2017-18 school year. Please visit the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) for the specific bylaw language changes and for further details on the competitive balance plan, which should help administrators understand how to proceed in preparing for these changes. While the bylaw has an effective date of 2017-18, 'roster data' collection will begin in 2016. Please continue to check the OHSAA website for updates and guidance so that the transition will be as seamless as possible.

### Section 1 — Classification of Schools

- 2-1-1** One-third (1/3) or as near to one-third (1/3) as possible of the member schools in each athletic district will be assigned to each classification.
- |           |   |                       |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| Class A   | — | Lower third of total  |
| Class AA  | — | Middle third of total |
| Class AAA | — | Upper third of total  |
- 2-1-2** School teams or individuals may compete in OHSAA-sponsored tournaments only in the tournaments to which assigned.
- 2-1-3** Enrollment information used for classification shall be provided by the State Department of Education's *Education Management Information System* (EMIS) to the OHSAA. All boys and girls in grades 9, 10 and 11 included in the school's October EMIS report shall be counted for enrollment purposes with the exception of students who are identified as children with disabilities within the multiple-handicap category. The Board of Directors is authorized to adopt policy for assigning students, who are not specified as belonging to a particular high school, to the appropriate member high school and to publish the policy in the *OHSAA Handbook* and on the Association's website.
- The policy, first prepared in April 2007 and since modified, is posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).
- 2-1-4** High schools that consolidate during the school year will be classified on the basis of school enrollment of boys or girls in grades 9-10-11 at the legal date of consolidation. In the event of the

opening of a new high school or transfer of territory under Section 3311.38 of the Ohio Revised Code, member school classification assignments will be based upon actual number of boys or girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the current year.

- 2-1-5** In the case of the opening or closing of a high school in a multi-high school district, the member high school classification assignments for all high schools within the district shall be based upon the actual number of boys and girls enrolled in grades 10, 11 and 12 as of September 10 of the current year.

**Section 2. Tournament Assignment – Team Sports of Football, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball**

- 2-2-1** Teams in the sports of football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball shall be assigned to a division based upon that school team’s Adjusted Enrollment Count. For purposes of this section, Adjusted Enrollment Count is the count as determined by adding the Initial Enrollment Count (EMIS reported number of boys or girls) and the Additional Roster Count for the given sport (Initial Enrollment Count + Additional Roster Count = Adjusted Enrollment Count).

- 2-2-2** The Additional Roster Count is determined by multiplying each student on the given sport’s Initial Roster (all students in grades 9-12 who were on the roster of the freshman team, junior varsity team, varsity team, etc., at any time during the course of the school year), by the specific factor or Tier and adding them together.

**Note:** The annual submission of the Initial Roster Count for each respective sport shall be utilized to help determine the division to which that team shall be assigned the following school year.

- 2-2-3** Factors shall be assigned three levels of points: Tier 0, Tier 1 and a Tier 2. The purpose of the Factors is to determine from where the student-athletes come, from what system of education they come or if they are non-enrolled students in accordance with state law, and to make appropriate adjustments accordingly.

- 2-2-4** For public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

—Tier 0 – the student and at least one parent currently reside within the school district/designated/assigned attendance zone (unless the student is non-enrolled and participating in accordance with state law).

—Tier 1 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone but the student has been continuously enrolled in the district since the beginning of 7th grade (unless the student is non-enrolled and participating in accordance with state law).

—Tier 2 – the student and at least one parent currently reside outside the school district and/or designated/assigned attendance zone and the student has not been continuously enrolled in the district since 7th grade or the student is a non-enrolled student participating in accordance with state law.

- 2-2-5** For non-public member schools, Factors shall be assigned as follows:

—Tier 0 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of the 7th grade and attended one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

—Tier 1 – the student attended the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade but did not attend one of the designated/assigned feeder schools continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

—Tier 2 – the student did not attend the same system of education continuously since the beginning of 7th grade.

- 2-2-6** The Tier 2, or Sport Specific Factors, shall be as follows:

—Two (2) in the sport of football.

—Five (5) in the sports of volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball.

—Six (6) in the sport of soccer.

- 2-2-7** The Board of Directors and the Commissioner’s Office of the OHSAA shall adopt and publish from time to time such rules as deemed necessary and proper for the timely, accurate and transparent (verifiable) reporting of the roster data in order to give effect and meaning to this section.

### **Section 3. Organization of Schools**

- 2-3-1** Four year high schools may elect to have all students in grades 9-12 eligible to participate in varsity, junior varsity, reserve and class teams.
- 2-3-2** Ninth grade students in all schools are high school students and shall compete in athletics in accordance with high school bylaws and regulations.
- 2-3-3** Ninth grade students are not permitted to compete in interscholastic competition on the same team or squad with students below ninth grade.

## **BYLAW 3 — ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL**

### **Section 1. Primary Responsibility**

- 3-1-1** The principal of the school shall be held primarily responsible in all matters pertaining to interscholastic athletics involving the school. The principal has the responsibility to educate the member school’s students, coaches, school personnel, boosters and other appropriate persons involved in interscholastic athletics regarding OHSAA bylaws and sport regulations that could affect them. Further, the principal shall monitor the school’s compliance with OHSAA bylaws and sports regulations and conduct an appropriate inquiry if information arises concerning a possible violation of OHSAA bylaws and/or sports regulations.
- 3-1-2** All school administrative and athletic personnel have a duty to immediately report violations that may affect the status of an athlete, team or contest.
- 3-1-3** The principal, at his or her discretion, may assign other members of the administrative team to sign contracts and any other paper work requiring an official school signature.
- 3-1-4** 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 officer(s). The meeting shall consist of (a) a review of the student-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.

**Note:** See General Sports Regulation 4 for penalties for non-compliance of this bylaw.

### **Section 2. School Representative Must Accompany Team**

- 3-2-1** The principal or representative(s) authorized by the principal, in addition to the coaches, shall be present throughout all varsity football and varsity basketball games. In all other sports, the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education shall be present throughout the contest.
- 3-2-2** When a male coach is assigned to a girls team, an adult female (non-high school student) should be present at the contest. When a female coach is assigned to a boys team, an adult male (non-high school student) should be present at the contest.

### **Section 3. Courtesy to Officials and Visiting Schools**

- 3-3-1** Recognized law enforcement officials should be given specific instruction by the school administrator as to duties before, during and after the contest. This will include keeping spectators from the field or floor during the contest, supervision of parking and safe conduct of contest officials and visiting team from the contest area. Failure to protect the contest, the teams or the officials constitutes a violation of the bylaws.

### **Section 4. Student Participation and Physical Examination Forms**

- 3-4-1** Athletic participation forms for participants in any of the grades 7-12 shall be signed by a medical examiner (Physician [M.D., D.O., or D.C.], Advanced Nurse Practitioner or Physician’s Assistant), the participant and by a parent or guardian. These forms must be on file with the principal or designee before any candidate for a team may participate in a practice. These forms shall

require the medical examiner to certify the individual's physical fitness no less than once each calendar year.

**EXCEPTION:** If the preparticipation athletic evaluation is conducted between May 1 and June 1, the preparticipation evaluation, signed by the medical examiner, is valid for one calendar year plus the remainder of the next school year.

**NOTE:** The Privit Profile™ is the OHSAA legal and medical standard of care for high school students. The OHSAA strongly recommends that based on the goal of risk minimization and best-practice medical standards, that all high schools use this Digital Pre-Participation Evaluation system for clearing students for participation in interscholastic athletics.

**3-4-2** If a student athlete transfers to another school, the physical examination forms shall be transferred to the new school.

**3-4-3** Section 3313.73 of the Ohio Revised Code reads in part as follows: "This section does not require any school child to receive a medical examination (preparticipation physical evaluation) or receive medical treatment whose parent or guardian objects thereto." A form certifying this objection shall be signed by the parent or guardian and attached to the required parental consent forms. However, nothing in Section 3313.73 of the ORC would preclude a school from adopting a Board of Education policy that would deny participation in interscholastic athletics for any student whose parent or guardian refused to permit a preparticipation physical evaluation.

### **Section 5. Eligibility Certificates**

**3-5-1** At the beginning of each sport season each school's administration shall prepare an eligibility certificate listing only those students eligible under OHSAA rules to represent the school in each sport. This eligibility certificate and the information contained therein shall be verified and signed by the principal of the member school. Said eligibility certificates shall be prepared separately for each sport in which that school participates and available for inspection upon request.

**3-5-2** Corrections, additions and deletions may be made as the sport season progresses and filed in the appropriate school office.

### **Section 6. Duties Regarding Appeals**

**3-6-1** All school administrative and athletic personnel, including interscholastic coaches, and student-athletes themselves, have a responsibility to cooperate fully with the Commissioner, the Commissioner's staff and members of the Board of Directors in all matters which are the subject of any investigation, hearing or appeal. In addition, any retaliation or threatened retaliation against an individual or individuals, either inside or outside of the school's employment or community, who provide information in connection with any investigation shall be regarded as a major violation of this bylaw provision, subject to Bylaw 11 sanctions including, but not limited to, membership suspension.

**3-6-2** When requested by a member of the Board of Directors, or the Commissioner, the principal shall attend any and all hearings or appeals conducted on behalf of the OHSAA.

## **BYLAW 4 — STUDENT ELIGIBILITY**

The eligibility rules in this Bylaw 4 are an integral part of the member schools of the OHSAA and the Commissioner's Office in order to create, administer and maintain the valuable and unique form of competition interscholastic athletics has to offer. This unique form of competition is a carefully constructed system that promotes competitive balance and serves the mission and purpose of education-based sports and activities. Interscholastic sports and activities are intended to foster a sense of community as well as to teach teamwork, citizenship and discipline. Other sporting organizations (and other forms of competition) exist to promote free player movement and are primarily designed to promote athletic development of the individual and provide a showcase for the athletic talents of those individuals. These organizations do not share the primary purposes of the member schools of this Association or the Commissioner's Office and therefore cannot provide the unique type of competition created and maintained by the OHSAA through its member schools. Efforts randomly to impose adjustments or favoritism on these eligibility rules damage and undermine the very purposes for sponsorship of interscholastic competitions, the member schools and their Association and, in turn, damage all the stu-

dents who either participate in an Association sport/activity or who support them. The member schools of the OHSAA and the Commissioner's Office established by these member schools and charged with the ultimate authority to enforce these eligibility rules are committed to maintain this unique form of competition.

### **Section 1. Eligibility**

- 4-1-1** Each student shall meet all requirements in this bylaw to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition. Notwithstanding any provision of this Bylaw 4 to the contrary, if a student has met all of the substantive eligibility requirements of this Bylaw 4 but is declared ineligible due solely to an administrative error on the part of the school/school personnel, the Commissioner's office may, in its absolute and sole discretion, restore eligibility to that student (prospectively and retroactively), provided it can be shown that the student's actions or failure to act did not contribute in any way to the administrative error that caused the declaration of ineligibility in the first place. Notwithstanding the restoration of eligibility, the school may be subject to additional penalties as prescribed in Bylaw 11.

**Note:** The authority to correct administrative errors is limited to correcting student eligibility issues as codified within Bylaw 4 – Student Eligibility. Students who have not met the high school or middle school 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, this Bylaw shall never be used in conjunction with Bylaws 4-4-1 or 4-4-5.

- 4-1-2** If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information (includes but is not limited to: name, address, transcripts, birth certificate, etc.), or if an attempt is made to establish eligibility for a student by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed.
- 4-1-3** A student is a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a squad member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage.

### **Section 2. Age Limitation**

- 4-2-1** Once a student attains the age of 20, the student will no longer be eligible for interscholastic athletic competition notwithstanding where that 20th birthday falls in relation to the sports season.
- EXCEPTION 1:** If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner's office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that:
- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
  - b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
  - c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
  - d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.
- 4-2-2** If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade interscholastic athletics for the school year commencing in that calendar year.

**EXCEPTION 1:** If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous

with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner's office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student has repeated any grade from kindergarten through grade 3 at the recommendation of the student's teachers or other educational professionals and for purely academic reasons and, as a result of repeating any of these grades, the student cannot meet the age limitations of this bylaw in the student's eighth grade year with the 7th & 8th grade school, the Commissioner's office may declare the student eligible notwithstanding this bylaw 4-2-2 if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the following criteria can be met:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes of her/his grade level; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of "red-shirting" or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

**4-2-3** An 8th grade student may, at the student's option, become eligible for interscholastic athletics at the high school level when the student attains his/her 15th birthday before August 1 of the ensuing school year. The student who chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight is eligible at the school where the student is expected to enroll at the ninth grade level. A student opting to commence her/his eligibility at the high school level shall have no more than eight semesters of high school eligibility taken in order of attendance in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3. **NOTE: This means that a student's senior year of eligibility will be affected if the student chooses to commence high school eligibility while still enrolled in grade eight. Furthermore, if the student does not opt to become eligible at the high school level, she/he shall be ineligible on account of her/his age at the 7th-8th grade level of interscholastic competition.**

**4-2-4** In determining the age of a student, the date of birth as recorded in the school records shall be considered as final, except that when birth records, filed within six years after date of birth, are available in the State Bureau of Vital Statistics or a comparable governmental agency, it shall be used. If this information is not available and if the school records do not agree, the earliest date of birth shall be considered the valid date of birth.

**4-2-5** Family Bibles, physician's statements, parents' affidavits, baptismal certificates etc., will not be accepted in lieu of birth certificates. Amendments to birth certificates filed after six years from date of birth will not be considered.

### **Section 3. Enrollment and Attendance**

For purposes of this section and the interpretations there under:

1. A student cannot attend a school without being officially enrolled;
2. A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school at any given time, and
3. Once a student is enrolled and attending a new school, the OHSAA shall consider the student withdrawn from the former school.

**Note:** Notwithstanding these exceptions to Bylaw 4-3-1, all high school students must also comply with the transfer Bylaw 4-7.

**4-3-1** All students participating in a school-sponsored sport must be enrolled in and attending full-time in accordance with all duly adopted Board of Education or similar governing board policies of that school.

**EXCEPTION 1:** A student enrolled in the ninth grade separate from the high school (grades 10-12) is eligible to participate with the school squad of the high school the student will be assigned to attend.

**EXCEPTION 2:** A student enrolled in a joint vocational school is eligible at the high school where the students' records are maintained.

**EXCEPTION 3:** A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the high school where the student's records are maintained, provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student enrolled in an alternative school that is sponsored by a Board of Education or similar governing board is eligible to participate at the member school operated by the district sponsoring the alternative school provided the alternative school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student is counted on the EMIS report for the member high school.

**EXCEPTION 5:** A student who is receiving home instruction in accordance with division (A) (2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code and is enrolled in a non-public member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of the governing board of that non-public school may be eligible at the non-public school where the student is enrolled and attending. Such partial enrollment policy requires that at least one of the courses be taken at the school's physical location.

**Note:** A student entering a member non-public school from a home school must do so at the beginning of the school year after having been home educated for at least one calendar year. Failure to meet this one-year provision requires the student to be enrolled for a minimum of one grading period before the student can be declared eligible.

**Note:** State law permits home educated students in accordance with ORC 3312.04 (A)(2) to be afforded the opportunity to participate at the public school in the district of residence of the parents without any enrollment obligation. If the residential public school district does not offer the sport, the home educated student MAY participate at another non-residential public school provided the superintendent of that district permits such participation.

**EXCEPTION 6:** Unless otherwise mandated within the Ohio Revised Code.

See this document for an explanation of the current mandates:  
<http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/GuidelinesForNon-EnrolledStudents.pdf>

**4-3-2** For purposes of the semester bylaws 4-3-3 and 4-3-4 only, enrollment and attendance in a school shall be deemed continuous until such date when a student has been officially withdrawn from the school in accordance with that school's policies.

**4-3-3** After a student completes the eighth grade, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not. A student in grade 7 or 8 who attains the age of 15 before August 1 shall be eligible only at the high school level for a period not to exceed eight semesters commencing with the semester of the student's first participation at the high school level.

**EXCEPTION 1:** The Commissioner's Office may permit a student who completes the eighth semester of eligibility during the season of a sport to complete the sports season of the sport in which the student is participating provided the student is enrolled in school. If such extension is granted, the student is ineligible for further interscholastic participation when the sports season, regular and tournament, has ended.

**EXCEPTION 2:** If the student is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student's inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner's office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

EXCEPTION 3: The Commissioner’s Office, in its sole discretion, may permit a student who began high school in another country to have eight semesters of high school eligibility in the United States when evidence can be presented that the student’s placement in high school outside the United States was inappropriate for the student’s age and academic capabilities.

**4-3-4** After a student completes the sixth grade and before the student enters the ninth grade, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed four semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

EXCEPTION: If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEA requirements and the student’s specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner’s office, the Commissioner’s office determines that:

- a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and
- b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and
- c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and
- d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

**4-3-5** A student who is enrolled 15 or more school days in any semester, or who participates in an interscholastic contest prior to or during a semester, shall have that semester count as one semester of eligibility. In addition, the following situations shall count as a semester of eligibility:  
 1: A student who does not attend school in a semester due to a suspension or an expulsion shall have that semester(s) count in the total of eight that are permitted.  
 2: A student who does not attend school due to enrollment in a postsecondary institution that is not part of the **College Credit Plus Program** (dual credit for both high school and postsecondary school) shall have that semester(s) count in the total of eight that are permitted.  
 3: A student who does not attend any school for a semester(s) due to truancy shall have that semester(s) count in the total of eight that are permitted.  
 4: A student who does not attend any school for a semester(s) due to withdrawal shall have that semester(s) count in the total of eight that are permitted.

EXCEPTION: The Commissioner may, in the exercise of the Commissioner’s sole discretion, disregard a particular semester of “enrollment” if extenuating circumstances of such enrollment are presented and are shown to have existed through no fault of the student-athlete.

**4-3-6** A student is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation and is declared a graduate by the Board of Education or a similar governing board. Notwithstanding the fact the student may be age eligible and have semesters of eligibility remaining, a graduate is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.

**4-3-7** A student who has received his or her education outside the United States is considered a graduate when the student has completed the work required for graduation or has completed the requirements for compulsory education as mandated by that country in which the student received his/her education. Notwithstanding the fact the student may be age eligible and have semesters of eligibility remaining, such a graduate is no longer eligible for interscholastic sports except for participation in the remaining contests of that semester.

EXCEPTION: If it has been determined that a student, who has been educated in a system outside the United States, has not met the substantive academic requirements of the NCAA initial eligibility center in regard to high school graduation (notwithstanding ACT/SAT scores or English proficiency), the student may be declared eligible at a member school at the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office.

#### Section 4. Scholarship

**Note 1:** The OHSAA will accept scholarship eligibility for students enrolling from outside Ohio if those students had met the eligibility standards of the state from which they transferred or the standards found in 4-4.

**Note 2:** For students who attend community/vocational/alternative schools sponsored by a school district and students who are home educated, the immediately preceding grading period determination shall be the grading period of the school for which the student wishes to compete.

**Note 3:** Scholarship Eligibility for the home educated student who was not home educated for an entire year, leaves a school for home education during a school year or who commences home education during the school year after being declared ineligible, shall be evaluated for eligibility based on ORC§3313.5312.

**Note 4:** No student who has failed a course or was not enrolled in a course during the grading period shall be able to use that course to fulfill the scholarship requirement if the course was not a course that the student was enrolled in and passing at the conclusion of the grading period.

#### 4-4-1

In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. For the purpose of this Bylaw 4, Section 4, the term "grading period" is defined as the school's Board-adopted calendar (e.g., six week, nine week, 12 week or semester) and does not mean an interim marking period. Furthermore, during the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) one-credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation. For the purpose of this bylaw, the term "immediately preceding grading period" refers to the grading period of the school which immediately precedes the grading period in question.

EXCEPTION 1: The Commissioner's office may waive this requirement for a student in her/his 12th and final year of school who (a) has accumulated sufficient credit hours to have graduated in the preceding semester; (b) maintains a grade point average in the top ten percent of the student's class; and (c) can demonstrate that the underlying purposes of this bylaw have been otherwise fulfilled by the student.

EXCEPTION 2: The Commissioner's office may waive the enrollment requirements of this bylaw provided the student has been withdrawn or removed from school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the principal of the school and be in writing. The appeal for waiver shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence.

EXCEPTION 3: If a student's failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an "incomplete" given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner's office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- b) the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and
- d) there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

**Note:** This exception only applies where an “incomplete” has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work.

**4-4-2** If, either through the due process procedure or the direct mediation process established by the Ohio Department of Education in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, it is determined that a school has failed to provide all of the support services as identified in a student’s IEP as necessary for the student to receive a “free and appropriate public education,” AND the Commissioner’s office determines that this failure to provide these necessary services caused the student to fail to meet the requirements of Bylaw 4-4-1 or Bylaws 4-4-4 or 4-4-5, the student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner’s office upon the student’s successful completion of the appropriate compensatory education as ordered by the Independent Hearing Officer (I.H.O.) or through the mediation process.

**4-4-3** The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth school day of the next grading period, at which time the grades from the immediately preceding grading period become effective. For the purposes of this bylaw, “school day” includes faculty in-service days, calamity days and regular school attendance days but not holidays or school breaks.

EXCEPTION 1: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.

EXCEPTION 2: A student coming off the “ineligible status” may become eligible 24 hours after the mandatory grade reporting date (a date established by Board policy which cannot be the same day as the end of the grading period) established by the Board of Education or other similar governing body for that school’s district, provided said grade reporting date is applicable to all students in that district. (See template for Board policy at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org))

**4-4-4** A student enrolled in the first grading period after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

**4-4-5** A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.

EXCEPTION 1: The Commissioner’s office may waive the enrollment requirements of this bylaw provided the student has been withdrawn or removed from school because of circumstances due to personal accident, illness or family hardship. An appeal for such a waiver must come from the principal of the school and be in writing. The appeal for waiver shall contain documents with school and medical supporting evidence.

EXCEPTION 2: If a student’s failure to meet the requirements of this bylaw are due to an “incomplete” given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner’s office once the “incomplete” has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:

- a) the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and
- b) the “incomplete” was given in accordance with Board of Education/other governing board adopted policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and
- c) the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an “incomplete” into a letter grade; and
- d) there is no evidence that the “incomplete” was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.

**Note:** This exception only applies where an “incomplete” has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work.

- 4-4-6** The primary responsibility for verifying eligibility rests with the receiving school. Eligibility shall be verified by reviewing school records or written verification from the sending school.
- 4-4-7** Summer school and other educational options may not be used to bring a student into compliance with Bylaws 4-4-1, 4-4-4 or 4-4-5.

**NOTE:** The prohibition in this bylaw is applicable both prospectively and retrospectively.

### **Section 5. Conduct, Character, Discipline**

- 4-5-1** In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are not involved, the school itself is to be the sole judge as to whether the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-2** In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which athletic contests and their related activities are involved, the principal and game officials shall file a report and the Commissioner's office shall have jurisdiction to determine additional penalties including whether or not the student may participate in athletics.
- 4-5-3** Physical attacks on any official shall be reported to the Association office immediately by the officials involved. The Commissioner's office shall conduct an investigation and determine the penalties involved.
- 4-5-4** Any students who are ejected or disqualified from an athletic contest in any sport for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation shall be immediately placed under the direct supervision of a school official.
- 4-5-5** Any student suspended or expelled from a member school shall be ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any member school for the duration of the suspension or expulsion. For the purpose of this bylaw, suspension refers to the denial of attendance at school for a period of not more than 10 days. Expulsion refers to the involuntary removal of a student for more than 10 days.

### **Section 6. Residence**

- 4-6-1** The districts for all public schools are established by the State Board of Education and defined for athletic purposes. In addition, school districts with multiple high schools may establish attendance zones within those districts. In determining one's residence for purposes of these bylaws, the following criteria shall apply: (a) where the parents and family members sleep the majority of the time, (b) where the mail is received, (c) where the meals are prepared and eaten, (d) where the parents are registered to vote, and (e) where important family activities take place during significant parts of each day. Note: It shall not be considered a "bona fide" change of residence as prescribed in Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 1, or Bylaw 4-7-4 (1) if the parents of a transfer student vacate the residence prior to one year from the date that the student's transfer is approved, and the student remains in the school into which the transfer was approved.
- 4-6-2** A student who is a "child with a disability" as that term is defined at 42 U.S.C. Section 12102 (ADA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder who is enrolled in a Special Education program at a school outside of the district of residence of parents is eligible at the school where the student attends classes or the school located in the district of residence of the parents, PROVIDED each of the following is met: (a) the student's parents reside in Ohio; (b) the school district in which the parents reside does not provide the required programs to meet the student's special education needs; and (c) there is a contractual agreement specifying the responsibility for educating a "child with disabilities" between the respective school boards or between the parents and the school the student with the disability will attend.
- 4-6-3** A student whose parents reside outside the state of Ohio will be ineligible for interscholastic athletics in a member school. (See Bylaw 4-8-1 for eligibility requirements for international students whose parents live outside the United States).

**EXCEPTION 1:** The Commissioner's office may declare a student who is the subject of a custody order issued by a court of proper jurisdiction conferring custody upon a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who resides in Ohio, if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that the purpose of this change in custody was not for athletic reasons, but purely for the best interest of the student in terms of the student's mental, physical and educational well-being. The Commissioner's office may grant eligibility to a student whose

legal custodian, pursuant to a court order, has had legal custody of the student for a minimum of one year and who has become a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio. Such a student is ineligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office.

**Note:** Upon enrollment of a student whose parents live outside the state of Ohio but within the United States, or if the parents move outside the state of Ohio prior to or during the student's high school career, the principal of that school in which the student is being enrolled shall notify the Commissioner's office of said enrollment, and the facts and circumstances regarding any change of custody so that the Commissioner's office can make an informed decision regarding the student's qualifications under this exception.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

**EXCEPTION 2:** If a student's parents move outside the state of Ohio at any time after the student has been enrolled and attending a minimum of 15 days at the beginning of the student's 11th grade school year, the student may be declared eligible for the remainder of the student's high school career at the high school he/she was attending at the time of the parents' move, provided:

- a) the student's enrollment at that high school has been continuous following the parents' move, and
- b) the student meets all other eligibility requirements of these Bylaws.

**EXCEPTION 3:** A student who enrolls at first grade level in a school consisting of grades 1-12 and who maintains continuous enrollment shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 in that school regardless of place or state of residence of parents.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student who resides within the boundaries of a parochial school system consisting of grades 1-12 that has multiple sites organized into elementary schools (1-8) and secondary schools (9-12), and who has enrolled by the beginning of the fourth grade level of an elementary school in that system and has maintained continuous enrollment in that school system through grade 8, shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 9-12 providing the secondary school attended by the student is the school designated by the school system for the continuance of the student's educational program.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

**EXCEPTION 5:** A student who resides within the boundaries of a public school district in a neighboring state; and who attends an Ohio public school system under an arrangement through which the entire grade of the out-of-state student attends the Ohio public school system; and for whom the tuition or cost of education for said out-of-state student is paid by the neighboring state's school district of residence; and who will be eligible to receive a high school diploma from an Ohio public school system shall be eligible for interscholastic athletics in grades 7-12 at the schools designated by the Ohio school system for attendance by the students from the neighboring state.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

**EXCEPTION 6:** A student who is enrolled in a member school that provides housing for the student and accepts the role of the parent in loco parentis.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been completed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

**EXCEPTION 7:** A student who has been enrolled in an Ohio school pursuant to the Interstate Compact of Educational Opportunities for Military Children may be declared eligible at a member school upon submission of a special power of attorney, relative to the custody or guardianship of a child of a military family and executed under applicable law. **The student shall be ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.**

**EXCEPTION 8:** A student who is a citizen of the United States may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics in the event that the student's parents are deported from the United States as long as the student maintains continuous enrollment in an Ohio school. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

**EXCEPTION 9:** A student may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics when the student's parents are citizens of the United States who reside outside the United States. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate documents.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

**EXCEPTION 10:** A student who has either dual citizenship between the United States and another country or is solely a United States citizen, and whose parents are non-citizens living outside the United States, may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

- a. The student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
- b. The student has not previously participated in any other visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other state within the United States, or attended any other high school in the United States. The period of participation in another visitor exchange program or the period of attendance at another high school in the United States shall count against the one-year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
- c. There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.
- d. The member school at which the student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate form(s) to the Commissioner's office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Commissioner's office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied, including the scholarship and age requirements.

**Note:** A student may travel freely back and forth between the United States and the home country with the proper U.S. passport. Thus a student could have attended high school in the United States previously without being part of any International Exchange Program. It is the responsibility of the school administration to verify that the student in these circumstances meets all the requirements of eligibility expressed above.

Please be advised that students who transfer into an Ohio high school under this residence exception must adhere to an exception to the transfer bylaw 4-7-2 or be prepared to sit out of all contests until the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests have been competed in any sport that they played in the 12 months immediately prior to the transfer.

### **Section 7. Transfers**

- 4-7-1** The transfer bylaws apply to all students enrolled in grades 9-12 who are transferring high schools whether the schools are public or non-public, member or non-member or whether the high schools are within the same school system or district.
- 4-7-2** A student is considered to have transferred whenever a.) enrollment is changed from one school to another school, or b.) the student participates in a practice, scrimmage or contest with a school-sponsored squad of a school in which the student has not been enrolled unless the non-enrolled student's participation is pursuant to O.R.C. §§ 3313.5311 (Ohio non-public school stu-

dents), or 3313.537 (Ohio community/STEM school students.) If a student transfers at any time after the fifth day of the student's ninth grade year or after having established eligibility prior to the start of school by playing in a contest (scrimmage, preview/jamboree, Foundation game or regular season/tournament contest), until the one-year anniversary of the date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred, the student shall be ineligible for all contests (including all scrimmages, preview/jamboree/Foundation games) until after the first 50 percent of the maximum allowable regular season contests in those sports in which the student participated (participation being defined as playing in a contest) during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer have been competed. Once eligibility is restored, the student shall be eligible for no more than 50% of the maximum allowable contests, quarters, halves or points, which are permitted, in any recognized sport. Maximum allowable DOES NOT MEAN what you have on your regular season schedule if the number of such contests is less than the "maximum allowable" permitted by Sport Regulation.

**Note 1:** For purposes of this bylaw, a student is considered to have participated in a sport if he/she has entered, if for only one play, a scrimmage or contests at any level of competition/contests (e.g. freshman, junior varsity and varsity).

**Note 2:** If a student transfers during the season of a sport in which he or she has participated, and Bylaw 4-7-3 requires that the student is ineligible for participation in the remainder of the contests in that sports season, at the commencement of that sport during the next school year, the student remains ineligible for the pre-season contests (scrimmages, preview/jamboree, Foundation games) and up to 50 percent of the regular season contests in that sport. The total number of regular season contests for which the student will be ineligible is a function of the number of regular season contests in which he or she was ineligible in accordance with 4-7-3.

**Note 3:** ORC 3313.5312 (Ohio home educated students) has been intentionally left out of the exclusions of subpart (b) addressing students participating in programs where they are not enrolled. Once a home-educated student participates with a school sponsored squad of a school in which the student is not enrolled, the student's eligibility is established at that school. Participating on any other schools' sponsored squad will be considered a transfer for which the balance of this bylaw and its exception would be applicable.

### Maximum Allowable Contests in All OHSAA-recognized Sports and Formula for Determining Eligibility under the 50% Transfer Consequence

Sport	Maximum # of Contests as per the OHSAA Board	Transfer Student Ineligible Until
Baseball	27 Games	Game 14
Basketball (Boys and Girls)	22 Games	Game 12 — then eligible for no more than 55 quarters for the remainder of the regular season.
Bowling	24 Matches	Match 13
Cross Country (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Field Hockey	16 Games	Game 9 — then eligible for no more than 21 halves for the remainder of the regular season.
Football	10 Games	Game 6 — then eligible for no more than 25 quarters for the remainder of the regular season.
Golf	20 Matches	Match 11
Gymnastics	14 Meets	Meet 8
Ice Hockey	35 Games	Game 18

(Continued on next page)

Sport	Maximum # of Contests as per the OHSAA Board	Transfer Student Ineligible Until
Lacrosse	18 Games	Game 10: GIRLS — then eligible for no more than 23 halves for the remainder of the regular season BOYS — then eligible for no more than 46 quarters for the remainder of the regular season
Soccer (Boys and Girls)	16 Games	Game 9 — then eligible for no more than 21 halves for the remainder of the regular season.
Softball	27 Games	Game 14
Swimming and Diving (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Tennis (Boys and Girls)	22 Matches	Match 12
Track and Field (Boys and Girls)	16 Meets	Meet 9
Volleyball	22 Matches	Match 12
Wrestling	20 Points	Point 11 — then eligible for no more than 10 points for the remainder of the regular season.

With respect to inter-district transfers, one or more of the following exceptions may apply:

**EXCEPTION 1:** If, as a result of a bona fide legal change of residence made by BOTH PARENTS (biological, adoptive or stepparents) from one public school district into another school district whether from outside the state of Ohio or within Ohio, the student is compelled to transfer to another high school, the Commissioner’s Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The requirement that “both parents” make the move may be waived by the Commissioner’s Office if the marriage of the parents has been or is in the process of being legally terminated or if the parents were never married. In addition, the Commissioner’s Office, in its sole discretion, may extend conditional eligibility for up to 90 days in cases where parents are making a bona fide move into a residence that is more than 100 miles from their former residence, and there are extenuating circumstances that are presented which prevent one of the parents from making the move immediately. This 90-day conditional provision may be extended for up to 90 more days ONLY in the case of medical or military obligations that prevent one of the parents from making the move at the same time as the other parent.

If the person(s) making the bona fide move is not the biological or adoptive parent or stepparent of the student, the school administrator must disclose the custodial relationship, provide the court ordered documents and advise as to the whereabouts of the student’s biological or adoptive parents.

An *Affidavit of Bona Fide Residence* in the form requested by the Commissioner’s Office, must be submitted along with any request for the application of this exception.

**Note:** Please refer to Bylaw 4-6-1 for a definition of bona fide residence. Also, the student and the student’s parents must reside in this new residence for a period of one year from the date on which this exception was applied to a given student. The school district will have a continuing duty to monitor compliance with the residency requirements during this one year period. Exception one permits the choice of the public high school in the parents’ new public district of residence or any non-public high school. If, however, the new residence into which the family has moved is more than 100 miles from the residence from which the family moved as determined by mapquest.com or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of

Directors at its August meeting (using the most direct route), the student shall have the option to enroll contemporaneously with this move into any public high school.

**EXCEPTION 2:** If, as a result of a legal change of custody or guardianship as between a student's parents, who live in two different school districts, the student is compelled to transfer from one school district to another school district, the Commissioner's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. If custody of a student is changed to a non-parent, who lives in a different school district than the previous custodian, as a result of allegations of abuse, neglect or delinquency/unruliness which allegations result in an adjudication of one or more of those allegations, the Commissioner's Office may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sport seasons. The granting of a change of guardianship to a non-parent will not comply with this exception.

The Commissioner's Office, in its sole discretion, may waive the requirement of a court-ordered legal change of custody/guardianship for a student who is 18, when circumstances are presented that the student was compelled to transfer schools and reside with a parent who is a bona fide resident of the state of Ohio.

**Note:** By operation of statute, there cannot be a legal change of custody so long as a Shared Parenting Plan as defined in ORC §3109.04 is in effect. In order for there to be a change in custody, the Shared Parenting Plan must be terminated. Exception two permits the choice of a public high school in the legal custodian's public school district of residence or any non-public high school.

**EXCEPTION 3:** If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its entire high school educational program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible at that high school insofar as transfer is concerned. Likewise, if the bona fide residence of the student's parents is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Commissioner's office can rule the student eligible. **Note:** This exception shall be available to any student whose high school has closed as long as that high school was an OHSAA member school prior to the 2012-13 school year.

**Note 1:** For school closings in a multiple high school district, see Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding intra-district transfers.

**Note 2:** This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" such as a community school or a non-chartered non-public high school.

**EXCEPTION 4:** A student who does not live in the same school district as parents or legal guardian and who is financially self-supporting may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner at a school in the district where the student resides. The Commissioner is empowered to establish requirements for the student to be determined to be self-supporting. These requirements shall be established for each school year by May 15th of the preceding year. Self-support documentation must be submitted for approval every 30 days. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner. **Note:** Living with and/or being employed by a relative does not qualify for self-support under this exception.

**EXCEPTION 5:** A student transferred to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf shall be eligible upon enrollment.

**EXCEPTION 6:** The Commissioner shall have the discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for a student who has been enrolled in the district in accordance with ORC §§ 3313.64 (F)(6) or 3313.64 (F)(7). The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's Office.

**EXCEPTION 7:** If a student is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined at ORC §3313.666 (A)(2) which harassment, intimidation or bullying has been documented to the school district in accordance with the ORC, and as a result of this documented harassment, intimidation or bullying the student is compelled to transfer, the Commissioner's

Office, in its sole discretion, may waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided:

- 1) The District's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, Anti-Bullying policies and procedures adopted in accordance with ORC §3313.666 have been strictly followed and complied with; and
- 2) The District provides the Commissioner's Office with a copy of the duly adopted policies and procedures; and
- 3) The District secures the appropriate releases from the student/student's parents authorizing the District to provide a complete record of the events and circumstances on which the policies and procedures were initiated including:
  - a) A specific, detailed report of the prohibited incident(s);
  - b) An outline of the procedures used to respond to and investigate the reported incident(s);
  - c) A copy of the findings that were a result of the complaint process and investigation;
  - d) A specific, detailed disciplinary procedure for any individual found guilty of harassment, intimidation or bullying;
  - e) All reports of notification to parents or guardians of any student involvement in the incident(s);
  - f) A report of the intervention strategies and remedial action the school has undertaken to assist the student and redress the complaint.
- 4) The District provides the Commissioner's Office with all of the above-referenced records.

**EXCEPTION 8:** A student who has transferred to another high school to take advantage of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program may be ruled eligible upon approval of the Commissioner's Office. Such a student who transfers under this provision and who subsequently drops out of the Program shall be declared immediately ineligible and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with Bylaw 11-Penalties.

**EXCEPTION 9:** A student shall be entitled to one transfer to the public high school located in the public school district within which the student's parent residence is located regardless of whether the student is transferring from a public or nonpublic school.

**Note 1:** Use of this exception requires the submission of the Exception 9 Form to document the transfer as set forth in the exception. The form can be found at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**Note 2:** Exception 9 does not apply to transfers to and from high schools within a multiple high school district/system. Please see Bylaws 4-7-4, 4-7-6 and 4-7-7 for the transfer rules which apply to intra-district or system transfers.

**Note 3:** Exception 9 cannot be used to transfer from the public high school of the district in which one parent resides to the public high school of the district in which the other parent resides in a split-family situation. Likewise, a non-public student whose parents live in two different public school districts may have the option under this bylaw to transfer to either public school district in which the student's parents reside provided: a.) the student has never been enrolled in a public high school or b.) the student has been enrolled in the non-public school for a minimum of one semester.

**EXCEPTION 10:** A student who has been enrolled in and attending a member school in a school district that, through formal action by the school district's Board of Education, has elected to effectively cease with its sponsorship of its entire interscholastic athletic programs, may transfer to any other school district/system and have his/her eligibility restored upon application to the Commissioner's Office. Furthermore, if the school district formally elects, through Board of Education action, to resume its sponsorship of its interscholastic athletic programs, a student who transferred under the provisions of this Exception may transfer back to the member school from which she/he transferred under this provision provided this transfer back occurs prior to the start of the next school year following the school year in which resumption of the sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs occurred.

In consideration of all applications for the restoration of eligibility pursuant to this Exception, the Commissioner's Office shall give due consideration to all factors relating to the transfer and particularly the timing of the transfer in relation to the formal actions taken by the Board of Education in either the cessation and/or resumption of its sponsorship of these programs. For purposes of this Exception, "formal action" shall mean more than the mere threat of cessation of sponsorship, and resolutions that are contingent upon a future event or happening will not be regarded as "formal action" until such contingency has been met.

No student transferring under this provision shall be eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's Office.

**4-7-3** If a transfer takes place during the sport season in which the student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest in a sport, **the student is ineligible in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season** in the school into which the student has transferred. A student may not use any of the exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 or 4-7-4 to circumvent this bylaw except if the parents make a bona fide move into a new public school district as referenced in Exception 1 of Bylaw 4-7-2 AND the school building into which the student transfers is more than 50 miles from the school building from which the student transfers as determined by [mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com), or such other navigational system as adopted by the Board of Directors at its August meeting, using the most direct route. For purposes of this bylaw, "sport season" shall be determined by the sports regulations for that sport, beginning with the first date on which coaching may begin and concluding on the date when the season ends.

**4-7-4** The superintendent or person delegated by the superintendent of either a non-public or public school system may transfer students within the system without jeopardizing their eligibility only in the following circumstances:

- 1) The parent(s) or legal custodian of the student have made a bona fide move from one attendance zone into a new attendance zone within the school district and such move entitles the student to attend another district high school (Note: parents refers to both parents in an intact marriage and includes biological, adoptive and stepparents) OR
- 2) There has been a court-ordered change of legal custody from one individual to another individual living within a new attendance zone within the school district and the student shall live with the new custodian in the new attendance zone (Note: If the change of custody is to a non-parent, the custody order shall be accompanied by an adjudication of negligence, abuse or delinquency/unruliness) OR
- 3) The school closes or there was a mistake made in the student's initial placement
- 4) The student is a child with a disability whose program as prescribed by the student's I.E.P. has been changed to another high school
- 5) The student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the superintendent that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons. (Note: This exception will not apply to transfers from one poor performing school to another poor performing school.)

Such transfers are eligible only after approval by the Commissioner's office.

**4-7-5** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 4-7-2 and 4-7-4, if a student transfers pursuant to state or federal statutes addressing unsafe schools or academically poor performing schools, and the student can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commissioner's office that the transfer is for purely academic reasons and not athletic reasons, the Commissioner's office may declare such transferring student eligible upon application to the Commissioner's office. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office. **Note:** The student shall be entitled to one transfer only under the provisions set forth in this bylaw. In addition, this bylaw shall not be used to establish eligibility at another high school if the student transfers into and then back out of the poor performing school in an attempt to circumvent the transfer bylaw.

**4-7-6** If a student transfers to a high school within the same public school district within which the school from where the student transferred is a part, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner's office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the school district as a result of **redistricting** or a **specific change of program** the details of which shall be clearly stipulated in writing to the Commissioner’s office; and
- 2) The transfer takes place prior to the beginning of the school year; and
- 3) The District petitions the Commissioner’s office for the restoration of eligibility for the student no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year; and
- 4) The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s office.

**4-7-7** If a student transfers to a high school located within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system (e.g., Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) from another high school within that same system, the student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Commissioner’s office provided the following conditions have been met:

- 1) The student has been reassigned to the high school by the superintendent or other administrative authority of that school system as a result of a **specific change of academic program** the details of which shall be clearly stipulated in writing to the Commissioner’s office; or a material **change in economic circumstances** so as to create a hardship; or a material **change in transportation circumstances** so as to create a hardship; and
- 2) The transfer takes place prior to the beginning of the school year; and
- 3) The superintendent or other administrative authority of the system petitions the Commissioner’s office for the restoration of eligibility for the student verifying in detail the specific reason for the transfer in accordance with item #1 and certifying that the transfer is not for athletic reasons no later than 15 school days after the beginning of the school year; and
- 4) The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s office.

**4-7-8** In order for a transfer student to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition at a school, the student’s name must be listed on the eligibility certificate submitted at the tournament level in the sport.

**Section 8. International and Exchange Students**

**4-8-1** For the purpose of this bylaw, an international student is a student who is not a United States citizen and who is in Ohio receiving secondary education in an Ohio school. International students are ineligible for interscholastic athletics in Ohio unless they can meet one of the exceptions below.

EXCEPTION 1: An international student may be declared eligible if the student’s parents have made a bona fide legal change of residence into Ohio and the international student is enrolled and attending an Ohio member school. The student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner’s office. **Note:** This exception requires that both parents make the move into Ohio. If, however, the international student is moving with parents into Ohio from another high school within the United States, an affidavit of bona fide residence in support of transfer bylaw 4-7-2 exception one is required.

EXCEPTION 2: The international student who is a participant in a recognized visitor exchange program may be eligible for interscholastic athletics subject to the restrictions and conditions set forth below:

- a. The international student may be eligible for a maximum of one school year which is the first year of enrollment at the Ohio member school.
- b. The international student has not previously participated in any other visitor exchange program in the United States. If the international student has participated in another visitor exchange program in Ohio or any other state, the period of participation in that other program shall count against the one year maximum eligibility set forth in (a) above.
- c. The international student is in this country pursuant to a J-1 Visa. No other visa type, passport or other documentation shall qualify the student for eligibility under this exception.
- d. There shall be no evidence of a direct placement for athletic purposes into a specific member school in Ohio.

- e. No more than five (5) international students from the same visitor exchange program, in one member school, shall be permitted to be eligible during any school year.
- f. The member school at which the international student wishes to be declared eligible for interscholastic athletic participation must submit the appropriate forms to the Commissioner's office, and the student and school must cooperate with the Commissioner's office in determining that all other requirements for eligibility have been satisfied.

The international student described in this Exception 2 shall be ineligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate form.

**EXCEPTION 3:** An international student may be declared eligible for interscholastic athletics upon the submission of a court approved document certifying the student's adoption by a legal resident of the school district in which the student is attending. The student is not eligible until declared eligible by the Commissioner's office upon submission of the appropriate court documents.

- 4-8-2** An Ohio student returning from an international exchange program may resume interscholastic competition in the same Ohio member school from which the student left provided the student meets all requirements relative to age, semesters of eligibility as well as preceding grading period scholastic requirements upon return to the member high school.

These requirements mean that the student shall be considered to have used semesters of eligibility while studying abroad, and shall have received passing grades which count toward graduation in a minimum of five one credit courses or the equivalent in the final grading period of the exchange program (Bylaw 4-4-1). Such a student is ineligible until ruled eligible by the Commissioner's office.

**Section 9. Recruiting**

- 4-9-1** A student is considered a prospective athlete after enrolling in the seventh grade, or the grade corresponding to the seventh grade for a student from a foreign country, irrespective of whether the student is currently enrolled in a public 7th-8th grade school located within a public school district or a non-public school that is part of a non-public system. Any attempt to recruit a prospective student-athlete for athletic purposes shall be strictly prohibited.

- 4-9-2** For purposes of this Bylaw Section 9, the term "recruit" shall mean the use of influence by any person connected or not connected with the school to secure the enrollment of a prospective student-athlete.

The Commissioner's Office may suspend the privilege of participation in interscholastic athletics for up to 30 days during the pendency of any alleged recruiting violation.

**EXCEPTION 1:** It is permissible for coaches and other school employees of a public school system to have contact with seventh and eighth grade students currently enrolled in that public school district; however, coaches and other school employees in a multi-high school public school district may have contact with only those students in grades seven and eight who are assigned by that district to attend that high school where the coach or school employee works.

**EXCEPTION 2:** It is permissible for coaches and other school employees of a non-public school system to have contact with seventh and eighth grade students currently enrolled in a non-public school of the same type (Catholic Conference of Ohio, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Association of Christian Schools International or other category as denoted by the State Department of Education) provided the boundaries of that non-public school system are clearly defined and on file with the Ohio High School Athletic Association and the contact is restricted to students enrolled within that defined boundary.

- 4-9-3** "Mass marketing," though a form of recruiting students, may be permitted under this bylaw by any and all member high schools provided the mass marketing complies with the following forms:

1. Must involve the entire high school program and all of its elements and shall not be solely or primarily for the school's athletic program or programs.
2. If a mass mailing or electronic transmission is utilized, the mailing/transmission may not be directed to a specific individual or individuals by name.

3. Conducting an open house/information session for all prospective students, which SHALL be held on the campus of the member school, in a church or other house of worship that is a sponsor for that member school, or in one of the other schools sponsored by that same school system or district, is permissible provided all elements of the school program are presented. If, however, a Board of Education or other governing board in a non-public school or system prohibits the use of any of the aforementioned facilities for an open house, a school may be permitted to hold an open house at an alternative site provided:
  - a) the facility is open and accessible to the general public; and
  - b) the facility is not a private club, private room within a public facility or a private home; and
  - c) the school submits a request for a waiver to use this alternative site at least 30 days prior to the open house.
  - d) no open house or information session may be held in a private home.
4. Inviting prospective student to campus for activities that are related to all aspects of the school's educational offerings and not solely for athletic purposes is permissible provided the prohibition in item #2 is not violated.
5. Using the school web site or other forms of media such as billboards, newspaper advertisements, etc. to advertise all aspects of the school's educational offerings and not solely athletics information is permissible.
6. Providing athletic camp brochures that advertise athletic camps available to a general population is permissible as long as no direct mailing to specific individuals is conducted. (See #2)
7. The only time in which it is permissible to invite students and/or their parents to a high school contest or another athletic related event such as a banquet or recognition ceremony is when the invitation is extended to an entire group or team, such as a school's 7th or 8th grade team or a non-interscholastic group such as a C.Y.O. program in a specific sport, AND the participation is mutually agreed upon by the administration of both schools/organizations.
 

This invitation to attend a high school contest or athletic related event shall not include running out onto the contest venue with the team or standing on the sidelines and shall not include locker room visits, pre-contest meals with the high school team and/or any other interaction with the team prior to or after the contest.

**4-9-4** Forms of recruiting that are prohibited by this bylaw include but are not limited to:

1. Using direct mailings or electronic communication to send information to a specific individual or individuals by name.
2. Meetings with, functions for or marketing to a select athletic group or individual/individuals, i.e., eighth grade team or individual sports participant for the purpose of influencing enrollment at the high school.
3. Any coach or group of coaches having any contact with prospective student-athletes, except as permitted in Bylaw 4-9-3, who are not presently enrolled in the school's educational program, or their parents, prior to written acceptance notification, which cannot occur prior to January 2. **Note:** For the purposes of this section of Bylaw 4, the description of "coaches" as stated in Bylaw 6-1-1 and 6-1-2 shall be applicable. Furthermore, the mere fact that a coach may also have another job title with his/her employer does not relieve that individual from this prohibition.
4. Interscholastic coaches answering athletic questions from prospective student-athletes and/or their parents and describing their programs except within the school in accordance with approved administrative policies and procedures (i.e. via admissions offices) and consistent with the provisions set forth in Bylaw 4-9-3. **Note:** When an admissions officer is also a member of a coaching staff, that admissions officer shall have no contact with prospective enrollees except as specified within these bylaws as permissible for coaching staff members.

5. Member schools distributing athletic publications or advertising solely for athletics. All athletic materials must be accompanied by general school information prior to student registration.
6. Providing favors or inducements, such as T-shirts or caps, to prospective student-athletes or their parents.
  - a) EXCEPTION: A small token, such as a “goodie bag” containing an item or items, the value of which cannot exceed \$25 and which cannot be related to the school’s athletic program, may be given to prospective students who “shadow” or visit a member school in contemplation of enrollment.
7. Providing financial aid or scholarships to a student-athlete on the basis of athletic ability.
8. If a coach leaves a school to pursue a coaching opportunity at another school, the coach shall refrain from any communication with any students at his or her former school. Further as it relates to any student who might transfer to or enroll at the school where the coach is now approved as a member of the coaching staff, said transfer or enrollment shall create a rebuttable assumption of recruiting and render the student ineligible for one year from the date of enrollment unless the recruiting can be rebutted.

**4-9-5** Prior to enrollment, a student-athlete may visit a public or non-public school in contemplation of enrollment, as long as that contemplated enrollment is consistent with Board of Education or similar governing board policy formally adopted by that school district and arrangements for the visit are made through the principal and/or school administrator designated by the Board of Education or similar governing board.

**4-9-6** All questions relating to enrollment, attendance or the athletic program shall be handled through the school administration or the admissions office. If a coach is contacted by a parent or another individual who is advocating for a student, the coach is obligated to immediately disclose this contact to a school administrator and to cease all contact with the prospective student and/or parents until acceptance and/or enrollment into the school where the coach is approved to work.

**4-9-7** Any violation of the recruiting prohibitions as set forth in this bylaw shall cause the recruited student-athlete to be ineligible upon enrollment. Furthermore, the school into which the recruited student-athlete enrolls or the school the recruiting attempts were intended to benefit shall be subject to sanctions as set forth in Bylaw 11. If a coach has been found to have violated these recruiting prohibitions by the Commissioner’s Office, and is employed/approved to coach in the ensuing school year by another member school in the same sport in which the violations occurred, the school where the coach is employed/approved to coach shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in that sport for a minimum of one year.

**Section 10. Amateur**

**4-10-1** A student who represents a school in an interscholastic sport shall be an amateur in that sport. An amateur athlete is one who participates in the activities of his/her sport for the purpose of deriving the physical, mental and social benefits organized sports competition has to offer and not for any present or future pecuniary or commercial gains. Since the student is considered an integral member of the student body, a clear line of distinction between educationally based athletics and professional sports must exist and be maintained at all times. It shall be the shared responsibility of school personnel, the athletes and their parents to maintain this clear line of distinction.

**4-10-2** An athlete forfeits amateur status, and thus interscholastic athletic eligibility, if any of the following standards of amateurism are violated:

- a) Competing for money or other remuneration. Allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses may be accepted provided that these expenses are not conditioned on the individual’s or team’s place finish or performance or given on an incentive basis and such expenses are provided to all participants in the competition. EXCEPTION: If a student, who is competing in the amateur division within a competition where prize money is available, signs a Request for Retention of Amateur Status written declaration prior to the competition in which the student agrees that he or she will not accept any prize money, the student may accept allowable travel, meals and lodging expenses provided that these expenses are not contingent upon the student’s individual or a team’s finish or performance or given as an incentive to achieve

a specific goal or performance. Receipt of expenses received by the athlete shall be reported to the OHSAA so as to determine whether or not the expenses are in excess of those reasonable amounts for travel, meals and lodging. The written declaration form can be found here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/Bylaw4-10-2RequestRetentionofAmateurStatus.pdf>

- b) Capitalizing on the athlete's fame by receiving money, merchandise or services of value. An athlete "capitalizes" on his/her "athletic fame" by accepting money, merchandise or services of value based in whole or in part upon the notoriety the athlete received through his/her athletic skills and achievements. This includes using the athlete's skill, directly or indirectly, for pay in any form in that sport. "Pay" includes, but is not limited to, any direct or indirect remuneration, gratuity or other economic benefit in either the present or future, or any division or split of surplus (bonuses, games' receipts, etc.). Scholarships to institutions of higher education are specifically exempted;
- c) Signing a contract or making a commitment of any kind to play professional athletics, regardless of its legal enforceability or any payment received. This prohibits signing a contract during the interscholastic athletics season that is dated after the completion of the athlete's interscholastic athletic eligibility;
- d) Receiving, directly or indirectly, a salary, reimbursement of expenses, merchandise or services or any other form of financial assistance or benefits from a professional sports organization based upon athletics skills or participation.  
EXCEPTION: An athlete may receive reimbursement of expenses as per item (a) for a professional tryout;
- e) Competing with any professional athletics team, even if no pay or remuneration for expenses was received; or
- f) Entering into an agreement with a sports or marketing agent (O.R.C. §§4771.01 et seq.).

**4-10-3** The following activities do not jeopardize amateur status:

- a) Accepting a fee for instructing, supervising or officiating in an organized youth sports program or recreation, playground or camp activities;
- b) Receiving school-sponsored membership or participation fees in youth serving agencies, athletic clubs, community recreation centers, instructional programs or camps, etc. provided such fees are paid directly to the agency;
- c) Receiving an award, playing equipment or prize of monetary value which does not exceed the awards amount authorized by the Association;
- d) Receiving all non-monetary benefits and awards provided to members of an Olympic team beyond actual and necessary expenses, including entertainment, equipment, clothing, long distance telephone service, Internet access, and any other item or service for which it can be demonstrated that the same benefit is available to all members of the nation's Olympic team or the specific sport Olympic team in question;
- e) Accepting funds that are administered by the United States Olympic Committee pursuant to its Operation Gold Program; or
- f) Participating in member school, charitable or educational promotions or fund-raising activities that involve the use of athletic ability by student-athletes to obtain funds (e.g., swim-a-thons, lift-a-thons, shoot-a-thons) from donors, provided the student-athletes receive no compensation or prizes for their participation.
- g) Accepting scholarship funds that are administered by a national governing body, e.g. the United States Bowling Congress' Scholarship Program, provided such funds are paid directly to a postsecondary institution and the funds are not available until after the student has graduated from high school.

**4-10-4** A high school student who loses amateur status/athletic eligibility may apply to the Association for reinstatement in the interscholastic program. Such appeals shall be handled by the Commissioner in accordance with the bylaws. If a student-athlete in one sport violates a provision of the amateur bylaw as detailed above, the student-athlete may represent the member school in a different sport.

## **BYLAW 5 — AWARDS**

### **Section 1. Awards, Gifts and Prizes — Approved**

**5-1-1** Awards, gifts and prizes directly resulting from participation in any sport in which the student is

an interscholastic athlete may be accepted by a student from any source provided the award does not exceed in value \$400 per award.

- 5-1-2 College scholarships may be accepted provided the amount of the scholarship is paid for college expenses.

### **Section 2. — Awards — Violations**

- 5-2-1 The penalty for violation for any member of a school squad, except a senior, shall be ineligibility in that sport for the ensuing season.
- 5-2-2 The penalty for violation for a senior shall be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics the remainder of the school year.
- 5-2-3 The school itself shall be held accountable to the Association for any violation of this bylaw, by individuals or groups before, at, or after graduation.

## **BYLAW 6 — COACHES**

### **Section 1. Requirements for Coaching**

- 6-1-1 School administrators are primarily responsible for the supervision of coaches prior to, during and after all interscholastic contests except as specifically referenced in national playing rules that are applicable during an interscholastic contest and enforced by contest officials for proscribed conduct only.
- 6-1-2 All coaches, paid and volunteer, shall meet the criteria established by the State Board of Education. For more information, visit the Coaches Corner on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).  
**Note:** See Sports Regulation 4 for penalties for non-compliance with this Bylaw and procedures to adhere to for verification of such.
- 6-1-3 All coaches shall be approved by the Board of Education or similar governing board in non-public schools.
- 6-1-4 The designated head coach and all assistant coaches (paid and unpaid) for each sport team or individual sport for which a member school provides sponsorship shall, in addition to teaching the skills and strategies of their sport, be for their athletes a proper role model for citizenship, ethics, integrity and sporting conduct.

### **Section 2. Salary of Coaches**

- 6-2-1 The Board of Education or other similar governing board shall have exclusive jurisdiction on matters of salary, stipend or compensation of its coaches.

## **BYLAW 7 — CONTRACTS**

### **Section 1. Contracts for Athletic Contests**

- 7-1-1 Regular season contests between two or more member schools should be memorialized in writing and signed by representatives authorized by the competing member schools. Not all disputes involving the contracts referenced herein that can be resolved between the member schools themselves shall be referred to the Commissioner's office for binding resolution.  
**Note:** As it pertains to this bylaw, electronic signatures are acceptable.
- 7-1-2 When schools come together to form a league or conference and said league or conference publishes a league or conference schedule of contests for its member schools, the league or conference schedule shall serve as a binding contract between the member schools of that league or conference in lieu of the single game contract referenced in Bylaw 7-1-1.
- 7-1-3 All member schools of a league or conference shall adopt a Constitution and Bylaws of said league or conference which Constitution and Bylaws shall serve, among other purposes, as a binding contract between each of the member schools of said league or conference.
- 7-1-4 The voiding of a contract can only be done upon the mutual consent of the contracting schools. The decision of a school to change league or conference affiliation does not void its previous contract

obligations with the league or conference and its member schools. Furthermore, all league or conference contract obligations shall take precedence over any contracts executed later in time.

- 7-1-5** The suspension or termination of a school's membership in the OHSAA shall render all contracts voidable by schools whose membership remains in good standing with the OHSAA.
- 7-1-6** When a new school district is created under Sections 3311.26 and 3311.37 of the Ohio Revised Code, all contracts for contests and officials made by the former school districts are declared null and void and new contracts for contests and officials should be negotiated by the new school district.
- 7-1-7** If contractual obligations cannot be fulfilled by reason of weather, strike, force majeure or similar such circumstances, the contracting school should:
- Void the contract by mutual consent of the parties involved, or
  - Reschedule the contest at another date mutually agreeable to all parties, or
  - Schools using the damage clause in game contracts would use the amount stated in the contract for financial settlement.
  - If steps a, b or c cannot be accomplished, determine the financial loss to the offended school and make a financial settlement. If the settlement cannot be agreed upon, the OHSAA will examine past records of games previously played and arrive at a settlement.

### **Section 2. Contracts with Officials**

- 7-2-1** The contract between the school and the contest official should be executed on an OHSAA Contract for Officials or similar form and signed for specific dates by the official and the home school administrator or a certified OHSAA officials assigner authorized by the home school.
- 7-2-2** The official's contract may be voided or terminated by mutual agreement of the official and the home school administrator or the certified OHSAA officials assigner authorized by the home school provided such voiding or terminating is executed in writing.

## **BYLAW 8 — OFFICIALS**

### **Section 1. Officials Required**

- 8-1-1** OHSAA officials shall be used in certain sports played in Ohio. The list of sports and officiating requirements will be found in the *Handbook for Officials* and in the specific sports regulations found in this handbook.
- 8-1-2** Schools that violate the provisions of this section shall be fined a maximum of \$100.00 payable to the OHSAA for each offense and will not be accepted as a member school the following year unless the fine is paid.

### **Section 2. Selection of Officials for Regular Season Contests**

- 8-2-1** The principal of the school, the official designee or a certified assigner shall attend personally to the selection of officials. Great care should be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and shall be mutually agreed upon by the schools involved.
- 8-2-2** When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials.

### **Section 3. Decisions by Officials**

- 8-3-1** Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the contest playing rules by officials will not be considered, and those decisions shall be final. The Commissioner's office does not have the authority or jurisdiction to order contests replayed, or to overturn decisions of contest officials regarding the decisions and interpretations of contest playing rules. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by the contest officials are final.

**Note: The Commissioner's Office may consider the use of any reliable, probative and substantial evidence to correct the misidentification of a participant who was ejected for the second time when such ejection results in ineligibility for the remainder of the sports season.**

- 8-3-2** The record of the official scorekeeper at the conclusion of the contest is final unless an error is discovered. Such error shall be corrected as covered by specific contest rules.

- 8-3-3** Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the Association.

#### **Section 4. Handbook for Officials and Directory**

- 8-4-1** The Board of Directors, upon recommendation of the Commissioner's office, shall approve on an annual basis a *Handbook for Officials* that shall outline the officiating code of ethics, officials/officiating requirements, officiating permit procedures, and such other matters as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Board of Directors. This *Handbook for Officials*, along with a *Directory of Officials*, shall be published for annual distribution to all member schools and registered officials.

#### **Section 5. Rules Examination**

- 8-5-1** The dates for applications and examinations on the rules of the various sports to become an official will be determined and published by the Commissioner's office.

#### **Section 6. Rules Meeting Requirements**

- 8-6-1** Officials are required to attend local rules discussion meetings and state rules interpretation meetings as scheduled. Specific requirements for each sport are listed in the *Handbook for Officials*. Officials who have allowed their OHSAA permit to lapse and those not attending the designated meetings may be reinstated as outlined in the *Handbook for Officials*.

#### **Section 7. Officials Uniforms**

- 8-7-1** The official uniform for officials in interscholastic sports shall be as specified in the officials manual in that sport or as adopted by the Board of Directors in that sport and specified in the *Handbook for Officials*.

### **BYLAW 9 — CONTESTS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION**

#### **Section 1. Contests with Non-Member Schools and Non-Interscholastic Teams**

- 9-1-1** Members of the Association shall observe all Ohio eligibility and contest rules in contests with non-member and non-interscholastic teams.

#### **Section 2. Contests with Out-Of-State Schools**

- 9-2-1** Schools may travel out of state to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, schools may travel out of state one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete in contests in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time. "School time" is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school 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.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make up for the missed school day(s), the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner's office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

- 9-2-2** School-sponsored teams and individuals may not travel out of state for practice purposes.

EXCEPTION 1: If the school's normal practice and/or competitive facility is located out of state, the school shall be permitted to practice/compete at that facility. Note: In all other cases, the Commissioner may grant permission to practice out of state in rare or limited circumstances.

The principal shall request this permission from the Commissioner's office in writing.

EXCEPTION 2: If the school is traveling outside the boundaries of the states/Province contiguous to Ohio for the one-time per season competition opportunity, the school squad may also practice during that journey. This provision is made provided there is no loss of school time and provided the squad is engaged in allowable competition as stipulated in that sport's regulations.

**9-2-3** Schools must secure sanction through the National Federation of State High School Associations of competition by a member school in any of the following contests:

- (a) Any interstate tournament or meet in which four or more schools participate;
- (b) Any interstate competition which involves schools from three or more state high school associations.

In (a) and (b) above, no sanction is required from the National Federation if all competing schools are from states which border the host state. However, schools must secure from each state association sanction for such events.

**9-2-4** In all interstate contests, each participating school shall follow the contest rules of the host state.

## **BYLAW 10 — PROTESTS AND FORFEITURES**

### **Section 1. Protests Relative to Eligibility**

**10-1-1** Concerns relative to the eligibility of a player on a competing team shall be presented, when discovered, to the principal for investigation. A written request for investigation of eligibility may be filed with the Commissioner in any sport.

### **Section 2. Forfeitures**

**10-2-1** All athletic contests in which ineligible players have participated shall be forfeited. All forfeitures shall be reported immediately in writing to the OHSAA and all opponents. Please follow the guidance at <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/GuidelinesForReportingUseOfIneligibleStudent.pdf> to file a report.

EXCEPTION: If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information, the student shall be declared ineligible (see Bylaw 4-1-2), and forfeiture of the contest may be required.

**10-2-2** Forfeitures of contests cannot be waived by mutual agreement.

**10-2-3** If an ineligible student participates in an OHSAA-sponsored tournament in a team sport (soccer, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, baseball or softball), the team shall be disqualified from the tournament and the last team defeated, or the next highest ranking team, may take its place in the tournament.

**10-2-4** A member of an eliminated team may participate in OHSAA individual tournament competition, if qualified.

**10-2-5** If an ineligible student participates in a regular season or an OHSAA-sponsored tournament contest in an individual sport (bowling, golf, cross country, gymnastics, tennis, swimming and diving, track and field or wrestling) the contest is forfeited and all points, records, awards and qualifying positions won by the ineligible student shall be forfeited. However, all eligible participants shall keep their points, records, awards and qualifying positions.

### **Section 3. Additional Penalties**

**10-3-1** Additional penalties may be assessed to the offending player, coach and/or school by the Commissioner.

## **BYLAW 11 — PENALTIES**

**11-1-1** Penalties for violation of the OHSAA Constitution, Bylaws and Regulations shall be imposed by the Commissioner or another administrative staff member designated by the Commissioner.

**11-1-2** Penalties include: suspension, forfeiture of games, forfeiture of championship rights, probation, reclamation of expenses for the conduct of investigations and all other fees/expenses associated therewith, public censure, denial of participation or fines not to exceed \$10,000 per occurrence or such other penalties as the Commissioner deems appropriate.

- 11-1-3** If property is damaged at a tournament site by competing school teams, student body or spectators, the school from which the students and/or spectators come shall be liable and pay the cost of repair or replacement.
- 11-1-4** If a lawsuit is commenced against the OHSAA seeking to enjoin the OHSAA from enforcing any or all of its Constitution, bylaws, sports regulations, decisions of the OHSAA, and an Order from a Court of proper jurisdiction is subsequently either voluntarily vacated, or stayed, or reversed or otherwise determined by the Courts that the equitable relief sought is not or was not justified, the Commissioner may impose any one or more of the following in the interest of restitution and fairness to other member school's athletes:
- Require that individual or team records and performances achieved during such participation be vacated or stricken.
  - Require that team victories be forfeited to opponent.
  - Require that team or individual awards earned during such participation be returned to the Association.
  - Require the return of any financial receipts realized from tournament participation.
  - Impose a monetary penalty commensurate with the expense to the OHSAA for the litigation.

#### **BYLAW 12 — SUSPENDED SCHOOLS**

- 12-1-1** When a school has been suspended as a member of the Association for violation of the constitution, bylaws or regulations of the Association, all contracts with other member schools are null and void.
- 12-1-2** Member schools of the Association shall not compete with schools which are under suspension by the Association.

#### **BYLAW 13 — PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

- 13-1-1** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern procedures in each situation not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws.

# OHSAA SPORTS REGULATIONS

## Introduction

Article 5-6-1 of the Constitution grants authority to the Board of Directors to determine the contest rules and regulations for each sport.

The Board of Directors has adopted the following contest rules and regulations effective August 1, 2016. The Commissioner is authorized to modify these regulations when it is deemed necessary by the Commissioner, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors.

These regulations apply to all interscholastic teams and contests, including but not limited to varsity, junior varsity, reserve, junior, sophomore, freshman and 7th & 8th grade teams. **For additional regulations specifically for grades 7 and 8, see General Sports Regulation 35.**

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1. Official Contest Rules

The official contest rules and rule books as published by the listed organization have been approved by the Board of Directors for all interscholastic athletic contests in the following sports. (Refer to Bylaw 1-4-3 which states “Interscholastic competition shall be conducted using contest rules adopted by the Board of Directors and modifications or changes in sport rules are not permitted except those provided in the rule book and approved by the Board of Directors.”)

CROSS COUNTRY	NATIONAL FEDERATION
FIELD HOCKEY	NATIONAL FEDERATION
FOOTBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION
GOLF	UNITED STATES GOLF ASSOCIATION
SOCCER	NATIONAL FEDERATION
TENNIS	UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION
VOLLEYBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION
BASKETBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION
BOWLING	UNITED STATES BOWLING CONGRESS
GYMNASTICS	U.S.A. GYMNASTICS
ICE HOCKEY	NATIONAL FEDERATION
SWIMMING AND DIVING	NATIONAL FEDERATION
WRESTLING	NATIONAL FEDERATION
BASEBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION
LACROSSE (BOYS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION
LACROSSE (GIRLS)	NATIONAL FEDERATION
SOFTBALL	NATIONAL FEDERATION
TRACK AND FIELD	NATIONAL FEDERATION

#### 2. Mandatory Attendance at OHSAA-Sponsored Rules Interpretation Meetings

- 2.1) Any school sponsoring a sport recognized by the OHSAA in which a state tournament is held, must have the head varsity coach or assistant varsity coach in that sport or the athletic administrator attend or participate in an OHSAA-sponsored state rules interpretation meeting in that sport if such a meeting is held in order for teams or individuals from that school to be eligible to enter the OHSAA-sponsored tournament.
- 2.2) Those attending a meeting in person will be responsible to be in attendance within 10 minutes of the start of the meeting and remain until the conclusion of the meeting to receive credit for attendance.

#### 3. Mandatory Requirement for Rating/Voting for Tournament Officials

To assist in the process in determining which contest officials will be assigned to OHSAA tournament contests the following school year, member high schools are required to rate and vote for officials.

Following each varsity contest, head coaches or athletic administrators are required to rate the contest officials. Athletic administrators have additional voting responsibilities. The sports in which rating and voting is required; the deadlines in which ratings and voting must be completed, and the

procedures on how to rate and vote for officials are published in the *OHSAA Officials Handbook* or the sport-specific OHSAA coaches/officials manual and provided in memos disseminated to athletic administrators.

Failure to participate in the required rating or voting process will result in the school being fined \$50 per occurrence. The fine will be reduced to \$15 per occurrence if rating or voting is submitted after the deadline.

#### 4. Penalties for Failure to Acquire Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit

High school and 7th-8th grade coaches who do not possess the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit, which is part of the State Board of Education requirements to coach in Ohio, shall not be permitted to coach at any level at an OHSAA member school. Further, high schools shall enter in *myOHSAA* the name of each board-approved coach along with the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit number in each of the 26 recognized sports. Further, any high school coach who does not possess this Permit at the first level of the tournament shall not be permitted to coach at any level of the tournament until such time that the Permit is obtained and verification of such permit is provided to the OHSAA. Falsification of this information shall result in a coach's removal from the OHSAA tournament.

**Note:** It is the intention of the OHSAA to perform random audits of these permits throughout the school year and to fine schools that have not complied with the bylaw in the amount of \$250 per coach.

#### 5. Penalties for Failure to Conduct Pre-Season Meetings

When it has been verified that the member school has failed to conduct a pre-season meeting(s) in accordance with Bylaw 3-1-4, the member school shall be fined \$500 for each violation.

**Note:** Please be advised that the OHSAA intends to do random audits of compliance with this standard. Please refer to the OHSAA website for a checklist of items that must be covered and sample agendas and other resources to assist with compliance. Each member school shall record on *myOHSAA* the date and location of each meeting as well as the person responsible for each meeting.

#### 6. OHSAA-Sponsored Tournaments Entry/Withdraw Procedures and Draw/Seed Meeting Dates

6.1) When schools annually submit their OHSAA participation information online and indicate they sponsor a varsity sport, they will also indicate each sport in which they plan to enter the OHSAA tournaments. Instructions for submitting the participation form will be provided to the membership.

6.2) A tournament entry/withdraw deadline will be established the week before the established draw/seeding date for each OHSAA tournament sport. The tournament entry/withdraw deadlines for each OHSAA tournament sport for the upcoming school year are listed below.

6.2.1) Schools may change their tournament participation in a sport prior to the established deadline without penalty. Changes to OHSAA tournament participation after the established deadline will result in a \$150 penalty issued by the Commissioner's Office.

6.2.2) Schools that desire to enter an OHSAA tournament after the deadline and before the draw/seeding date may do so by filing a "Petition Letter of Entry or Withdraw" with the Commissioner's Office (not the tournament manager or District Athletic Board) provided the school has met all tournament participation requirements prior to 12:00 noon on the Friday before the draw/seeding date. The Commissioner's Office shall have the authority to approve or disapprove such "Petitions of Entry." Decisions to disapprove an entry may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

6.2.3) Schools that withdraw from an OHSAA tournament after the deadline may do so by filing a "Petition Letter of Entry or Withdraw" with the Commissioner's Office (not the tournament manager or District Athletic Board).

6.3) All schools that enter the OHSAA tournaments shall complete all tournament and souvenir program forms (roster, pass lists, schedule, submission of team photo, etc.) online prior to the established draw/seeding meeting date. The draw/meeting dates for each OHSAA tour-

namement sport for the upcoming school year are listed below. Schools that fail to complete all tournament souvenir program forms online prior to the draw/meeting date will be fined \$150 by the Commissioner’s Office for each missed deadline.

- 6.4) A school coach or administrator shall attend a mandatory draw/seed meeting for each sport. The specific dates for each sport’s draw/seed meeting dates during the upcoming school year are listed below. Common tournament draw/seed procedures shall be used as approved by the Board of Directors and listed within each sport’s tournament regulations (District Athletic Boards shall determine placement of teams on brackets). District Athletic Boards will provide schools with seeding information, will notify schools of the exact locations and times of the meetings and will notify schools in what sports the meetings will not be conducted.
  - 6.4.1) Schools that fail to send a coach or administrator to a mandatory draw/seed meeting and/or fail to seed as instructed will be fined \$150 by the Commissioner’s Office for each offense. See the specific tournament regulations for additional procedures and/or penalties.
- 6.5) Schools that fail to participate in a tournament (individual or team) after indicating that they will enter a tournament may be ineligible to participate in that particular sport’s OHSAA-sponsored tournament the following year. Additional penalties may include: 1.) a fine of \$150 issued by the Commissioner’s Office; 2.) payment of officials’ fees for the missed contests; 3.) payment of the opponent’s travel expenses for the missed contests, and 4.) additional penalties as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner in collaboration with the respective District Athletic Board as appropriate. See General Sports Regulation 16.4 for additional information on “Failure to Appear.” The penalties rendered by the Commissioner’s Office may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

2016-17 Sport	First-Round Tournament	Tournament Entry/Withdraw	Tournament Entry/Withdraw (w/ Penalty)	Draw/Seed Meeting Date (all at 2:00 unless noted)
<b>FALL SPORTS</b>				
Golf	Sectional 9/26-10/1 & 10/3-10/8	7/1-9/12	9/13	9/18
Girls Tennis	Sectional 10/3-10/8	7/1-9/12	9/13	9/25
Soccer	Sectional 10/17-10/22	7/1-10/3	10/4	10/9 (G-3:00 p.m.)
Volleyball	Sectional 10/17-10/22	7/1-10/3	10/4	10/9
Field Hockey	State Qualifying 10/17-10/29	7/1-10/3	10/4	10/9
Cross Country	District 10/22	7/1-10/3	10/4	10/9
<b>WINTER SPORTS</b>				
Wrestling (Team)	Regional Quarters 1/25	7/1-12/8	12/9	1/4&5*
Swimming & Diving	Sectional 2/6-2/11	7/1-1/23	1/24	1/29
Gymnastics	District 2/13-2/25	7/1-1/23	1/24	2/12
Wrestling (Individual)	Sectional 2/20-2/25	7/1-1/23	1/24	1/29
Bowling	Sectional D II 2/12-2/19 D I 2/19-2/26	7/1-1/30	1/31	2/5
Girls Basketball	Sectional 2/13-2/25	7/1-1/30	1/31	2/5
Ice Hockey	District 2/13-3/4	7/1-1/30	1/31	2/8
Boys Basketball	Sectional 2/20-3/4	7/1-2/6	2/7	2/12

\*See the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) for additional seeding information. The January 4 and 5 dates indicate dates that seed voting is due to the OHSAA Office.

(Continued on next page)

2016-17 Sport	First-Round Tournament	Tournament Entry/Withdraw	Tournament Entry/Withdraw (w/ Penalty)	Draw/Seed Meeting Date (all at 2:00 unless noted)
<b>SPRING SPORTS</b>				
Softball	Sectional 5/6-5/13	7/1-4/24	4/25	4/30
Baseball	Sectional 5/6-5/13	7/1-4/24	4/25	4/30
Lacrosse	Regional 5/6-5/13	7/1-5/1	5/2	5/7 (Time TBA)
Boys Tennis	Sectional 5/9-5/14	7/1-4/24	4/25	4/30
Track & Field	District 5/15-5/20	7/1-4/24	4/25	4/30

**7. Non-School (Non-Interscholastic) Programs or Teams**

**7.1) Definitions**

7.1.1) **Definition of a Non-School Program or Team** – A non-school (non-interscholastic) program, also known as a non-school team, is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is not under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school does not sponsor (one that is Board of Education- or other governing board-approved), supervise or have financial responsibility for that non-school program or team.

The non-school program or team may be composed of participants in grades 7 through 12 and may be located within or operate outside the OHSAA member school. Admission may be charged and fees or expenses may be collected for training and/or competitions sponsored by that non-school program or team. It is not necessary for a coach to be present or for instruction to be given for a program or team to be considered a non-school program or team.

Examples of or names associated with non-school programs or teams are: church, intramural, rec (recreation), YMCA, CYO, AAU, USAVB, USSF, USASwimming, all-star, club, non-interscholastic or any combination of players involved in team play.

7.1.2) **Definition of a School Program or Team** – A school (interscholastic) program or team is one in which a student-athlete participates in team play or as an individual, and that program or team is under the direct or indirect control of the OHSAA member school. This means the OHSAA member school sponsors, supervises or has financial responsibility for that program or team.

7.1.3) **Definition of a Member of a School Team/Team Member (Bylaw 4-3-1)** – A student is a member of an interscholastic squad when the student participates in an interscholastic contest. Such status as a squad member continues until the start of the next school season in that sport. An athletic contest involving participants from another school or any non-interscholastic or any organized adult team is a game, preview or a scrimmage.

7.1.4) **Definition of a School Contest** – A school (athletic) contest is one involving participants from one school against participants from either another school or from a non-school program or team during the school season. Examples of school contests are games, meets, matches, previews, scrimmages, jamborees, Foundation Games or any other type of competition. See General Sports Regulation 24 for additional information on “Athletic Contests.”

7.1.5) **Definition of Coaching** – Coaching is providing instruction or being present with a team or individual during contests, tryouts, training and practices. If a school coach, whether paid, volunteer or designated, is approved for his/her coaching position by a Board of Education or similar governing board prior to June 1, the coach is accountable to all OHSAA rules and regulations beginning June 1. For additional regulations on school coaches, see Bylaw 6.

**7.2) Regulations Prohibiting Students from Participating on Non-School Teams During the School Team’s Season**

7.2.1) **Team Sports** – A member of a school team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may not participate in an

athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team in that same sport during the school team’s season.

**Note:** This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school program or team.

- 7.2.2) **Individual Sports** – A member of a school team in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling may not participate in an athletic contest with a non-school team or in non-interscholastic competition in that same sport during the school team’s season.

**7.3) Regulations Permitting Students to Participate on Non-School Teams Outside of the School Team’s Season**

- 7.3.1) **Selected Team Sports** – A member of a school program or team in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball may participate with a non-school program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school team’s season under the following condition:

- a) The number of team members on the non-school team who came from the same school or who participated in that sport as a team member at another school in the preceding season is limited to a maximum of 50 percent of the members of a team as defined in the playing rules of the sport. The 50 percent team limit is as follows:

<b>50% Limitation on Sport</b>	<b>Number of squad members</b>
Baseball	4
Basketball	2
Field Hockey	5
Boys Lacrosse	5
Girls Lacrosse	6
Soccer	5
Softball	4
Volleyball	3

**Exceptions:**

- a.) The team members limit for the sport of ice hockey shall be five (5).
  - b.) The 50 percent team limit is not in effect for the sports of basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball from June 1 through July 31.
  - c.) The 50 percent team limit is not in effect for the sports of baseball and softball from the Friday before Memorial Day through July 31 provided the members of the school team have completed their school team’s season.
  - d.) A member of a school team may continue to participate with a non-school team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the tournament but no later than Labor Day.
  - e.) Graduating seniors are exempt from the 50 percent participation limitation once their school season in the same sport has been completed.
  - f.) These regulations do not apply if the “members” of the non-interscholastic squad are all siblings (by blood or adoption) and no other player from the same interscholastic squad is a participant on behalf of the non-interscholastic squad.
- 7.3.2) **Selected Individual Sports** – A member of a school team in the individual sports of bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving and tennis may participate with a non-school program or team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school’s season with no restriction when coached by either a school coach or a non-school coach.
  - 7.3.3) **Other Individual Sports** – A member of a school team in the individual sports of cross country, track & field and wrestling may participate with a non-school team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices prior to and after the school’s season with no restriction when coached by a non-school coach.

- a.) A member of a school team in the individual sports of cross country, track & field and wrestling may participate with a non-school team in contests, tryouts, training and/or practices that is coached by the school coach with no restriction for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31.

**Notes:** Students from school teams shall not be required to attend the coaching/instruction. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.

If a student-athlete quits or is dropped from a school team and joins a non-school team during the school team's season, he/she may not rejoin that school team for the remainder of the season.

**7.4) Regulations Prohibiting Football Players from Participating on Non-School Teams**

7.4.1) A member of an interscholastic football team may not participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team in that same sport between August 1 and May 31. Flag football, touch football and arena football are examples of non-permissible events.

**Note:** This regulation applies to students invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practice at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school program or team. (General Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

7.4.2) From June 1 to July 31, a member of an interscholastic football team may participate in an athletic contest, a tryout or any type of team or group training or practices with a non-school team. This would include 7-on-7 participation. (See General Sports Regulation 7.5 regarding coach's involvement . . . the 10-day rule.)

**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

**7.5) Regulations Permitting Coaches to Coach Their Own Student-Athletes on Non-School Teams Outside of the School Team's Season (10-Day Rule)**

7.5.1) **Team and Selected Individual Sports** – Members of a school team's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball and the individual sports of cross country, track and field and wrestling may coach students from their school teams for a maximum of 10 days from June 1 through July 31. In addition:

- a.) The 10-day limitation applies to the entire coaching staff. Each individual coach is not entitled to 10 different days for coaching. Ten days refers to any amount of time utilized during those 10 days (i.e. the regulation does NOT permit 240 total hours of coaching... 10 days of 24 hours each).
- b.) In the sport of football, only non-contact football is permitted.
- c.) The Board of Directors may further limit the number of contact days during this period as specified in the specific sports regulations.
- d.) See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations pertaining to out-of-season instruction, which is different than this regulation on coaching.

**Exception 1:** A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board may coach students from his/her school teams without limitation from June 1 through July 31 so long as the 50 percent limitation is observed. See General Sports Regulation 7.3.1 for more details on the 50 percent limitation.

**Exception 2:** So long as the 50 percent limitation is observed, a paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board may coach students from his/her school teams team in a national qualifying tournament after July 31 until the team is eliminated from the tournament but no later than Labor Day.

**Exception 3:** Coaches employed by a Board of Education or other governing board to coach students in 7th and 8th grade may coach students from his/her school team without limitation so long as the 50 percent limitation is observed.

**Exception 4:** Graduating seniors are exempt from the 50 percent participation limitation and may be coached by a coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing board once the graduating senior’s school season in the same sport has been completed.

7.5.2) **Selected Individual Sports** – Members of a school team’s coaching staff in the individual sports of bowling, golf, gymnastics, swimming and diving and tennis may coach students from their school teams outside the school (interscholastic) season. In addition:

a.) Students from school teams shall not be required to attend the coaching instruction.

**7.6) Regulation Limiting Coaches to Coach Their Own Student-Athletes on Non-School Teams Outside of the School Team’s Season (“All-Star” Games)**

7.6.1) Interscholastic team coaches may coach players from his or her school in special “All-Star” contests. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the following provisions:

- a.) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
- b.) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
- c.) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school.

**Note on “All-Star” Games:** “All-Star” games are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3.

**7.7) Exceptions to Participation on Non-School Teams for Students**

7.7.1) **Special Olympics or Paralympics** – After a student becomes a member of a school (interscholastic) team sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board, the student may participate in tryouts and/or a contest(s) sponsored by either the Special Olympics or the United States Paralympics provided:

a.) A request for waiver is submitted to the Commissioner’s Office that includes that student’s name, nature of the disability and the date of the event(s) in which the student desires to compete. The waiver must be submitted by the school’s principal or another senior administrator.

7.7.2) **National Governing Body Selection** – After a student becomes a member of a school (interscholastic) team sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board, the student may participate as a member of a national team, as determined by the National Governing Body in that sport, or in a national or international competition by virtue of his/her past performance in an OHSAA sport.

- a.) The waiver process, should one exist for a specific sport, is contained within the specific regulations for that sport.
- b.) A specific waiver in the sport of golf is listed under Golf Regulation 5.2.
- c.) A specific waiver in the sport of lacrosse is listed under Boys Lacrosse Regulation 2.1 and Girls Lacrosse Regulation 2.1.
- d.) A specific waiver in the sport of tennis is listed under Tennis Regulation 6.2.
- e.) A specific waiver in the sport of swimming and diving is listed under Swimming and Diving Regulation 9.1.

**7.8) Penalties for Violation of Regulations in This Section**

7.8.1) The maximum penalty for violation of this regulation for any non-senior member of a school team shall be ineligibility in that sport for the remainder of the season or the ensuing season.

- 7.8.2) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations for a senior shall be ineligibility for all interscholastic athletics for the remainder of the school year.
- 7.8.3) The penalty for a coach for a violation of these regulations may include suspension, probation, public reprimand, a fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or any other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**8. Regulations for Participation in Camps, Clinics, Workshops and Programs Where Individual Skill Instruction is Provided**

**8.1) Definitions**

- 8.1.1) **Definition of Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction** – Instruction or coaching provided to a member of a school team in which the techniques and skills of the sport are being taught and the activity does not involve team instruction.
- 8.1.2) **Definition of Providing Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction** – It is considered to be providing individual skill/coaching instruction when the techniques and skills of the sport are taught in a one-on-one or individual setting. This means instruction or coaching comes directly to a student-athlete from a coach or instructor. A student-athlete watching video/film with a coach or instructor is also an activity defined as individual skill/coaching instruction.

In the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball and the selected individual sports of cross country, track & field and wrestling, individual skill/coaching instruction is permissible when no more than **four members of a school team** or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place (**see 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 below for an exception in the sport of football**).

**8.2) General Individual Skill Instruction Regulations**

- 8.2.1) Students from school teams receiving individual skill/coaching instruction shall not be **required** to participate in sessions where individual skill/coaching instruction is provided. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or similar governing board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.
- 8.2.2) There is no limit on the number of school coaches that may be present when individual skill/coaching instruction is provided to student-athletes.
- 8.2.3) Non-school coaches or instructors may provide individual skill/coaching instruction to a member of a school team provided the individual skill/coaching instruction does not violate any Board of Education (or similar governing board), school administrators' or school coaches' policies or the Ohio Revised Code.
- 8.2.4) Students from school teams may be used for out-of-season demonstration purposes if approved in advance by the Commissioner's Office.

**8.3) Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction – Team Sports of Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball and Volleyball and Selected Individual Sports of Cross Country, Track & Field and Wrestling**

- 8.3.1) **From August 1 through May 31 From School Coaches** – Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team at any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no-contact periods from school coaches provided that no more than four members of a school team or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place.

**Exception:** In the sport of football, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time prior to and after the school season and **outside the defined no-contact periods** from school coaches provided that no more than **seven members of a school team** or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place.

**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear is helmets and cleats.

8.3.2.) **From June 1 through July 31 From School Coaches** – Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided that no more than **four members of a school team** or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place. For additional coaching opportunities permitted from school coaches between June 1 and July 31, see General Sports Regulation 7.5.1.

**Exception:** In the sport of football, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided that no more than seven members of a school team or individuals are present at one time in all facilities where the individual skill/coaching instruction is taking place.

**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear is helmets and cleats.

**8.4) Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction – Selected Individual Sports of Bowling, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming & Diving and Tennis**

8.4.1.) Individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of a school team at any time from either school or non-school coaches or instructors.

**8.5) Penalties for Violation of Regulations in This Section**

8.5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations by a member of a school team shall be ineligibility for interscholastic athletics for a maximum of one year.

8.5.2) The maximum penalty for violation of these regulations by a paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or similar governing board shall be suspension from participation in camps, clinics, workshops and programs where individual skill/coaching instruction is provided to members of the school team where employed for a maximum of one year and any other penalties in Bylaw 11-1-2, Penalties, as deemed appropriate by the Commissioner’s Office.

**9. Conditioning, Weight Training and/or Physical Fitness Programs**

9.1) **Definition of a Conditioning, Weight Training or Physical Fitness Program** – These programs include specific training for strengthening the body, developing the cardiovascular system, improving flexibility and agility and do **not** include specific sports skills training or instruction.

**9.2) Specific Regulations**

9.2.1) These programs may be conducted at any time and are not a violation of OHSAA Bylaws and Regulations so long as no coaching and instruction of sports techniques and skills is provided.

9.2.2) These programs may have oversight by any individual approved by the Board of Education or governing body including coaches, provided the oversight by coaches of members of a school team in their sport in conditioning and physical fitness programs does not occur during a designated no-contact period.

9.2.3) Equipment used in playing a sport is prohibited in these programs.

Exceptions:

a.) Mats may be used for safety purposes.

b.) Cross country and track & field athletes may be directed in aerobics, stretching exercises and running, but interval training, sprinting and specific drills are prohibited.

c.) Sticks may be used in field hockey and ice hockey.

9.2.4) Weight rooms and machines may be utilized.

9.2.5) These programs may not be conducted for a select group of students (example: members of the football team only).

**Notes:** Students from school teams shall not be required to attend these programs. A paid or unpaid school (interscholastic) coach employed by a Board of Education or other governing

board violates this regulation when he/she suggests or implies that a student's chance to be selected for a school (interscholastic) team is contingent upon this participation.

**10. Open Gymnasiums or Facilities**

**Member Schools**

**10.1) Regulations**

- 10.1.1) A school may open its athletic facilities for unstructured free play provided the activity is supervised by a school employee who may remove participants or spectators for disciplinary reasons.
- 10.1.2) The school may designate the sport or sports that will be played during the free play period, but may not limit participation to a select group of students from within the school. The school may also designate the grade levels involved and may limit participation to students enrolled in the school.
- 10.1.3) There may be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only the students participating may be involved in selecting or substituting players.
- 10.1.4) The regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- 10.1.5) Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- 10.1.6) No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- 10.1.7) A coach, paid or unpaid, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.
- 10.1.8) Mandatory attendance at open gymnasiums or facilities is not permitted.
- 10.1.9) Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or unpaid.
- 10.1.10) It is not a violation for the coach or supervisor to participate in unstructured free play in the open gym or facilities.
- 10.1.11) Member schools may restrict individuals from observing the open gym activity.

**10.2) Penalty for Violation**

- 10.2.1) A squad member who violates the open gymnasium or facilities regulations may be penalized not to exceed one year of ineligibility for interscholastic athletics.
- 10.2.2) A coach who violates any of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations may be prohibited from involvement for one year in any open gymnasium or facilities programs in or out of school.
- 10.2.3) A school which permits use of athletics facilities in violation of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations is subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.

**Non-School**

**10.3) Regulations for School Squad Members (Bylaw 4-1-3)**

A school squad member may participate in unstructured free play at non-school athletic facilities without jeopardizing athletic eligibility providing there are no violations of the following regulations.

- 10.3.1) There may be no designation of who will play on which team or who will play whom. Only the students participating may be involved in selecting or substituting players.
- 10.3.2) The regulation timing of games is not permitted.
- 10.3.3) Written scorekeeping is not permitted.
- 10.3.4) No individual invitations, written or oral, are permitted.
- 10.3.5) A coach, paid or volunteer, violates the provision of these regulations when the coach requires, suggests or in any way implies that a student's chance to be selected

for an interscholastic squad is contingent upon participation at an open gymnasium or facilities program.

- 10.3.6) Mandatory attendance at non-school facilities is not permitted.
- 10.3.7) Transporting athletes to a school or non-school open gym is a violation for any member of the coaching staff, paid or unpaid.

**10.4) Penalty for Violation**

- 10.4.1) A squad member who participates at a facility where there is one or more violations of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations may be penalized not to exceed one year of ineligibility for interscholastic athletics.
- 10.4.2) A school coach who is responsible for causing a violation of any of the open gymnasium or facilities regulations by a squad member may be prohibited from involvement in any open gymnasium or facilities program in or out of school for one year.

**11. Mandatory No Contact Periods — Coaches**

- 11.1) Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, soccer or volleyball is prohibited from providing coaching, providing instruction or supervising conditioning and physical fitness programs or open gyms to members of a school team in their sport for the period of time starting with the first day after the school’s last interscholastic contest and ending 28 days later. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.
- 11.2) Any coach, paid or volunteer, approved by the Board of Education to coach baseball, basketball, ice hockey, lacrosse or softball is prohibited from providing coaching, providing instruction or supervising conditioning and physical fitness programs or open gyms to members of a school team in their sport for the period of time between August 1 and August 31. This includes any type of tryouts in or out of school for purposes of non-interscholastic competition.

**EXCEPTIONS** — Activities which may be conducted by a coach with members of a school team in their sport during the mandatory no-contact period include: all-star contests, awards ceremonies, fund-raisers; providing oversight during weight training; verbal contact with underclass athletes for the purpose of reviewing the season that just concluded and goal setting for the next season; verbal contact with a senior athlete for the purpose of facilitating the college recruitment process; contact as a faculty member assigned to teach in the regular curriculum (ex.: physical education courses such as weight training, fitness, etc.); contact as a certified athletic trainer involved with athlete rehabilitation and treatment, pick up and return of school-issued equipment, and attendance at OHSAA tournaments.

**PENALTY** — Any coach who violates the mandatory no contact periods regulations may be prohibited for one calendar year from out-of-school season contact with athletes from the school where employed. A school whose coach violates the mandatory no contact periods regulations is subject to penalty as specified in Bylaw 11.

**12. Cheerleader Pyramids and Acrobatic Routines**

**12.1) Regulations for OHSAA Tournaments:**

- 12.1.1) Pyramids and mounts by cheerleaders are prohibited. Individuals may not stand on another’s shoulders or support another individual in any type of mount.
- 12.1.2) Mini trampolines are prohibited.

**12.2) Penalty**

In OHSAA-sponsored tournaments, individual cheerleaders violating the regulations shall be removed from the floor immediately.

**12.3) Recommendation**

It is recommended that schools adopt the same regulations for cheerleading activities at regular season contests sponsored by schools.

**13. Ejection Procedures for Schools**

After a contest official provides electronic notification of an ejection, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's athletic administrator, who shall have seven days to respond to the notification. If no response has been received after seven days, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's athletic administrator a second time, and the athletic administrator shall be given seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the second 7-day period lapses, the OHSAA shall electronically notify the school's principal, who shall have seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the third 7-day period lapses (21 total days), the OHSAA shall electronically notify both the principal and athletic administrator one final time, and the school shall have seven additional days to respond to the notification.

If no response has been received after the fourth 7-day period lapses (28 total days), the OHSAA shall assess the school a \$150 fine per unanswered report.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of each member school to notify the OHSAA Office each time a coach or player(s) has been ejected from a contest played out of state within seven days once the team has returned to the school. Failure to adhere to this procedure shall result in the school being fined \$150 and subject to additional penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

**14. Ejection for Unsporting Conduct (Disqualification for unsporting conduct or flagrant violation)****14.1) Players**

Any player ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the player shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification.

A student who has been declared ineligible for two games (one in football; **two points in wrestling**) may be on the sidelines/team bench, accompany and/or travel with the team but may not participate in pregame warmups and may not wear a team warmup or game uniform while on the sidelines/team bench, accompanying and/or traveling with the team. When ejection or disqualification of a player results from illegal substitution in baseball, softball or basketball, the two contest ineligibility does not apply.

Any player ejected for unsporting conduct during a scrimmage or preview shall be ineligible for all scrimmages or previews for the remainder of that day. If a scrimmage occurs prior to the season, the player shall also be ineligible for the first regular season contest (previews are only permitted prior to the first regular season contest). If a scrimmage occurs after the first regular season contest, the player shall be ineligible for the next regular season or OHSAA tournament contest.

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the student shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates.

A student who is ejected or disqualified a second time **in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest** shall be suspended for the remainder of the season in that sport. A student who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in the season during the last contest shall be ineligible for a period of time/number of contests subject to the discretion of the Commissioner. The period of ineligibility shall commence during the next sport in which the student participates.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

**Note:** When national playing rules refer to a disqualification for unsporting conduct or a flagrant violation, this is considered an ejection as referenced in this regulation.

## 14.2) Coaches

Any coach ejected or disqualified from an interscholastic contest for unsporting conduct shall be suspended from coaching in all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the coach shall be suspended from coaching for all contests at all levels in that sport until two regular season/tournament contests (one in football; two points in wrestling) are played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification and shall be fined \$100. In addition, the coach shall take the National Federation of State High School Association's "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course, which must be completed within 30 days of the ejection and can be taken at [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com).

Any coach ejected for unsporting conduct during a scrimmage or preview shall be ineligible for all scrimmages or previews for the remainder of that day. If a scrimmage occurs prior to the season, the coach shall also be ineligible for the first regular season contest (previews are only permitted prior to the first regular season contest). If a scrimmage occurs after the first regular season contest, the coach shall be ineligible for the next regular season or OHSAA tournament contest.

If the ejection or disqualification occurs in the last contest of the season, the coach shall be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the same sport during the following season in the next school year.

On the day of the ejection, a coach who has been disqualified shall be ejected from the vicinity of the playing area and is prohibited from further contact, direct or indirect, with team members, managers and other coaches during the remainder of the contest. The coach must return to the locker room or team bus or leave the premises. The coach shall not go to the spectator area.

The penalty for failure of the coach to comply with the ejection regulation shall result in the forfeiture of the contest.

If a coach is ejected/disqualified from a contest and no other coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education from that school is present (Bylaw 3-2-1), the contest shall be forfeited.

After the initial ejection and suspension, a coach who has been suspended from coaching for the next contest(s) may attend the next contest(s), but must be seated in the spectator area and may not give instructions to the players or to the individual who has been assigned to coach the team any time prior to or during the contest including halftime or any intermission. A suspended coach shall not travel with the squad to an away contest.

A coach who has been ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct for the second time in a scrimmage, preview, regular season contest or OHSAA tournament contest shall be suspended indefinitely and required to attend a mandatory conference with the Commissioner at the OHSAA headquarters. The principal of the school shall be required to attend this conference as well. Any penalty shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 11.

It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this regulation is enforced. When a suspended coach is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This regulation shall apply to all regular season and tournament contests and shall in no way limit the discretionary authority of the Commissioner as specified in the OHSAA tournament regulations. In accordance with Bylaw 8-3-1, the decisions of contest officials are final.

## 15. Participants Leaving The Playing Area

No member of any school-sponsored interscholastic athletics squad shall leave the 'playing area' in which a contest is being conducted and enter the 'spectator area' of the facility to engage in any type of conflict—verbal or physical. If a student-athlete leaves the 'playing area' and enters the 'spectator area' of a facility to so engage a person, the minimum penalties shall be:

- 15.1) The student-athlete's privileges to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be revoked and the student-athlete shall be ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
- 15.2) The school shall be immediately placed on probation pending an investigation (and report) into what happened, what caused it to happen, what was done by the school to diffuse what happened and what 'safeguards' have been implemented by the school to prevent future happenings.

**16. Tournaments**

**16.1) Recognized and Emerging Sports**

16.1.1) See Bylaw 1, Section 5 for the definition of “Recognized” Sports.

The Board of Directors may accord a new sport as “recognized” when a minimum of 150 schools sponsor teams or individuals in the sport.

16.1.2) The Board of Directors may accord a new sport as “emerging” when less than 150 schools sponsor teams or individuals in the sport. While in the emerging sport category, the sport shall be conducted as a “recognized” sport as follows:

- a.) All applicable OHSAA bylaws and general sports regulations shall be adhered to;
- b.) Specific sport regulations, tournament regulations and a tournament series shall be developed and adopted, and
- c.) A process for training and registering contest officials and for assigning officials to tournament contests shall be developed/continued and adopted and a director(s) of officiating development shall be hired.

However, as an “emerging” sport, the Board of Directors:

- a.) Has the discretion to suspend compliance with General Sports Regulation 16.2, Divisions Determination (251 schools needed to add a second division);
- b.) Has the discretion to approve regulations, tournament regulations and/or tournament procedures that help ensure the sport maintains solvency, and
- c.) Shall conduct an annual review to determine if the sport shall continue as an “emerging” sport.

**16.2) Regulations for Sponsoring and Conducting**

OHSAA tournaments will be sponsored and conducted in divisions according to the number of schools sponsoring a team in the recognized sport.

**Team Sports**—Those that require a certain number of players to form a team. Presently, those sports are baseball, boys and girls basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, boys and girls soccer, softball and volleyball.

**Individual Sports**—Those that involve primarily participation and scoring by individuals and in which team scoring could be obtained by totaling the efforts of individuals. Presently, those sports are boys and girls bowling, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls golf, gymnastics, boys and girls swimming & diving, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls track & field and wrestling.

The minimum number of individuals required for a team designation\* follows:

Bowling	5	Swimming & Diving	7
Cross Country	5	Tennis	4
Golf	4	Track & Field	9
Girls Gymnastics	3	Wrestling	7

\* The number for a team designation has been selected to reflect either the minimum number of participants needed to score in a contest or the number of participants needed to compete in at least half of the contest’s events.

**Divisions Determination**—The number of divisions in OHSAA tournaments in a sport shall be determined by the number of school teams that participated in the tournaments the preceding year or years, depending upon the sport.

<u>Number of Teams Participating in Tournaments</u>	<u>Divisions</u>
250 or less	I
251-500	I, II
501-750	I, II, III
751 or more	I, II, III, IV

Sports tournament changes relative to adding a division or discontinuing a division or adding a tournament or discontinuing a tournament may be made only after the number of schools has been higher or lower for two successive years.

**EXCEPTION**—In football, the Board of Directors may schedule tournament play in divisions other than specified in the table above.

**16.3) School Assignments—Divisions**

After the number of divisions is approved by the Board of Directors, schools are assigned to tournament divisions based upon the specifications in Bylaw 2-1-1.

The number of schools assigned to each division shall be determined by the number of school teams that participated in the tournament either the previous year or two years earlier (refer to Bylaw 2-1-1 for specifics), with each tournament division to have as equal number of teams as possible.

**EXCEPTIONS:** In all sports, except football, a school sponsoring a sport is eligible for tournament participation regardless of regular season performance. The top 10 percent of football-playing schools based on enrollment will be placed in Division I of the football tournament. The remaining schools will be divided as evenly as possible and placed into six additional football divisions based on enrollment. Each of the seven divisions shall qualify 32 teams to the OHSAA tournament.

**16.4) Failure to Appear and School Closures – OHSAA Tournament Contests**

Teams and competitors shall be expected to play tournament contests at the scheduled time, date and location.

“Closure,” “closed” or “school closing” shall mean that a local school or school district’s board of education/governing board or superintendent/head of school has cancelled all high school classes and/or school-sponsored extracurricular activities due to inclement weather; a strike; a natural or technological/man-made disaster; an issue deemed catastrophic or an emergency\*, or the local health authority has cancelled all high school classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities due to a specific public health/safety concern.

**\*Note:** A local school or school district may be open but a local school or school district’s board of education/governing board or superintendent/head of school may also determine that it is unsafe for its school’s team to travel to the site of the tournament contest.

The following tournament regulations apply to team (16.4.1) and individual (16.4.2) sports unless national playing rules address “failure to appear” or school “closures”:

**16.4.1) Baseball, Basketball, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Dual Team Wrestling**

If a team “fails to appear” or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament contest, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant. A “forfeit” shall be declared, and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of competition.

In the event of a school “closure” within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the Commissioner’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the competing school with rescheduling the contest (time, date and/or location), provided that such rescheduled dates do not adversely affect the next round of the tournament competition/tournament schedule.

In the event of a “closure” at the site of the tournament contest within 48 hours of a tournament contest(s) in which schools are scheduled to participate, the Commissioner’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall reschedule (time, date and/or location) the tournament contest(s) for the schools thus affected.

**Note:** In the event a school is not closed but unforeseen or extenuating circumstances arise within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the Commissioner’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the competing school with re-

scheduling the contest (time, date and/or location), provided that such rescheduled dates do not adversely affect the next round of the tournament competition/ tournament schedule.

16.4.2) **Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Gymnastics, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Individual Wrestling**

If a team or individual participant “fails to appear” or is not ready to compete at the time of their scheduled competition, the team or individual participant shall be disqualified and removed from the event or tournament competition.

In the event of a school “closure” within 48 hours of a tournament contest in which the school is scheduled to participate, the tournament shall proceed as scheduled.\*

**\*Note:** The Commissioner’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, reserves the right to delay or reschedule a tournament competition when all factors related to the severity of the situation are considered and provided it is practical to delay or reschedule such competitions.

In the event of a “closure” at the site of the tournament competition within 48 hours of a tournament competition in which schools are scheduled to participate, the Commissioner’s Office, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors and tournament personnel, shall reschedule (time, date and/or location) the tournament competition for the schools thus affected.

16.4.3) Information on any changes regarding OHSAA tournaments will be posted on the Association’s website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**A Note on Public Health Issues**

Ohio health professionals have advised that it will be the decision of each local health authority in Ohio or each board of education/governing Board as to whether or not to close a school or university due to a public health issue. The Center for Disease Control does not recommend closures except in extreme circumstances.

**Help Links**

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention Emergency Preparedness and Response:  
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/planning/>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention Preparedness for All Hazards:  
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>
- Ohio Department of Health Guidelines and Publications:  
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/chss/schnurs/guidepub.aspx>

**17. Athletic Uniforms**

Uniforms worn by participants in a high school athletic contest must conform to the playing rules adopted by the OHSAA for that sport. Any lettering or emblems on uniforms must pertain to the school name, school nickname, individual’s name, the sport, drug use prevention, sportsmanship, ethics or integrity or be of a patriotic nature and provided it does not violate the rules of the sport in regard to location. Any visible manufacturer’s logo on a uniform or undergarment must conform to the rules adopted by the national rules committee for that sport. However, if there is no specific rule, the maximum size is 2 1/4 square inches with no dimension exceeding 2 1/4”.

**18. Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date**

In all sports, an athlete who has not participated for a school in a given sport that season must cease all non-interscholastic competition in a given sport six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the state tournament in that sport in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in an individual sport (bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, and wrestling) and who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in that sport in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed. **Note:** See Golf Regulation 5.2 for an exception to this regulation.

**19. Non-Recognized Sports**

There is no bylaw that requires a school to comply with all OHSAA bylaws and applicable sports regulations when conducting interscholastic athletics programs in sports which are not recognized, (not recognized means a sport that is not one of the OHSAA tournament sports – See Bylaw 1-5-1 for a complete list of the current Board of Directors adopted “recognized” sports).

Therefore, there is no requirement to register a non-recognized sport with the OHSAA. Nor is it required that the school comply with eligibility standards for students in those sports. A local school district could, however, require participants in non-recognized sports to meet certain eligibility standards and conform to certain sports regulations.

Catastrophe insurance under the OHSAA plan for Recognized and Emerging sports will not be available for non-recognized sports. Schools are offered an opportunity to purchase catastrophe insurance coverage for non-recognized sports under a separate plan.

**20. Regular Season Participation Limitation Penalty**

A team that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests in the respective sport is subject to the penalties outlined in Bylaw 11, which will include denial of participation in the OHSAA tournament. Athletes from sub-varsity teams may not be used to replace the varsity team in the OHSAA tournament.

An athlete who exceeds the regular season participation limitation (periods, quarters, halves, or contests) as specified in the individual sports regulations becomes an ineligible athlete. The athlete is ineligible for further regular season competition if the violation occurs prior to the end of the season or tournament competition if the violation occurs during the last regular season contest in the sport concerned. The forfeiture bylaws apply as written in Bylaw 10.

Should a team in an individual sport exceed the regular season participation limitation but a specific individual athlete on that team did not exceed the individual participation limitation, that specific individual athlete may be eligible for participation in the OHSAA tournament.

Should a team in an individual sport participate in a regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests but a specific individual athlete on that team did not participate in a contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests, that specific individual athlete may be eligible for participation in the OHSAA tournament.

**21. Transportation To and From Interscholastic Contests**

It is the responsibility of the Board of Education or other governing board of a member school to provide for the safe transportation of student-athletes and other contest participants to and from athletic events. The OHSAA Catastrophe Accident Insurance Policy covers team or group travel directly to and from a covered event. A covered event is defined by the OHSAA (the authorized policy holder) as any regular-season (includes scrimmages and previews) or tournament competition in an interscholastic athletic event in an OHSAA-recognized sport, sponsored by the Board of Education or governing board of a member school. Travel must be supervised by staff members or designated representatives of the member school.

Therefore, it is recommended that schools require student-athletes and other participants in interscholastic athletic events to travel with their school squads in school-authorized carriers. It is not recommended that students be released to travel with parents or other persons; however, permission to make alternative travel arrangements remains the purview of the Board of Education/governing board of the member school. In the event that such alternative arrangements are approved, it is strongly recommended that the Board of Education secure proof of insurance from those who will be providing the transportation.

**22. Interscholastic Scrimmage**

22.1) An interscholastic scrimmage is defined as a contest in sports in which the rules of the sport are not followed in all respects. With the exception of golf, the length of the scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12, and two hours per squad or individual per day for grades 7-8.

22.2) A scrimmage may involve any number of teams from various schools. A scrimmage does not count in the won/lost record for any school involved in the scrimmage.

- 22.3) No admission of money, materials or supplies may be charged for a scrimmage. Voluntary donations of supplies or money may be accepted at a scrimmage but cannot be required for admission.
- 22.4) This regulation prohibits two or more school teams from practicing together unless it is a scrimmage.
- 22.5) A scrimmage must be considered the same for all schools involved.

**23. Preview**

- 23.1) A preview is an athletic contest played according to the adopted rules for a sport except that one-half the length of a regular season contest is permitted. Previews are permitted only in those sports in which scrimmages are allowed. Refer to the specific sport relative to length of preview and when it may be scheduled.
- 23.2) A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season contest of the teams involved. See the Football Regulations for the exception to this regulation. A preview does not count in the won/lost record.
- 23.3) When a preview is scheduled, admission may be charged.

**24. Athletic Contest**

Any type of athletic activity involving participants from a member school and another school, or non-interscholastic team or individuals including organized adults. Such activities are categorized as games, meets, matches, previews, scrimmages, jamborees, Foundation Games or any other type of competition. A practice involving two or more school squads is also an athletic contest. A game, meet or match must follow the rules as written in the game rules adopted by the Board of Directors. Athletic contests may be scheduled and conducted only during the time periods as specified in the individual sport regulations.

**25. OHSAA-Sponsored Tournaments Curfew Regulations**

The first priority when making the decision to delay, suspend, continue or postpone a contest is the safety of the student-athletes, coaches/school administrators, parents/fans and officials.

- 25.1) No tournament contests/events shall start later than 11:00 p.m.
- 25.2) When deciding whether or not to delay, suspend, continue or postpone a tournament contest/event, the tournament manager must consult with the school administrator/designee. Items to consider in the decision:
  - 25.21) The estimated time to complete the contest.
  - 25.22) The travel time of all schools involved.
  - 25.23) The current and expected weather conditions.
  - 25.24) The availability of the officials.
  - 25.25) Other events scheduled at the host site and the participating schools.
- 25.3) In the case of unforeseen circumstances or an emergency, the following factors shall be used to develop a tournament contest/event contingency plan:
  - 25.31) Overnight accommodations.
  - 25.32) A list of all parties involved and local emergency telephone/cellular numbers.
  - 25.33) Plans established by the participating schools' emergency plan.

**Note:** A sample tournament contest/event contingency plan is posted on the OHSAA website ([ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org)).

**The OHSAA recommends that all member schools develop an athletic contest/event contingency plan for use during the regular season.**

**26. All-Star Games – See Sports Regulation 7.6**

**27. Sunday Contests**

Sunday contests are permitted by the Board of Directors. Local Board of Education policies and administrative decisions will be determining factors.

**28. Exhibition Competition**

Any event or competition involving students representing member schools may involve only students who are eligible in all respects insofar as age, enrollment and attendance, scholarship, residence and individual sports limitation. So-called “scratch” or “exhibition” competition permitted or conducted by any school could result in ineligibility for athletes and suspension of the school.

**Exception:** The Board of Directors may authorize competition in events within specific sports in order to accommodate students with disabilities without affecting team scoring in those sports.

**29. School Teams**

Member schools may sponsor more than one varsity or sub-varsity teams for interscholastic competition, but each team must have its own schedule and is limited according to specific contest limitations for that sport. No school may enter more than one team in any OHSAA-sponsored team tournament.

**Note:** See the specific sport regulations for participation limits for individuals.

**30. Squad Member**

A student who has participated in an interscholastic athletic contest representing a school.

**31. Team Play**

Any activity of individuals with more than one player opposing one player (2-on-2, 2-on-1, 3-on-2, 3-on-3, 4-on-4, 5-on-5, etc.).

**32. Pick-up Games**

Unsupervised, unstructured contests in which there is no adult planning, scheduling or organization involved.

**33. Interrupted Contest**

If an interscholastic contest (game, match, meet, etc.) is interrupted for any reason beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, the contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption. **EXCEPTION:** Those sports which have a specific procedure for determining the outcome of an interrupted contest: e.g., baseball, football, lacrosse, soccer and softball.

**34. Regular Season No Contests/Tournament Forfeits**

Any scheduled regular season contest which is not started due to inclement weather; a strike; a natural or technological/man-made disaster; an issue deemed catastrophic or an emergency, or the local health authority has cancelled all high school classes and school-sponsored extracurricular activities due to a specific public health/safety concern that would cause a team to fail to appear, shall be considered a “no contest.” A “no contest” shall not be included in won-lost records.

Any tournament contest in which a team fails to appear for reasons other than those outlined in Sports Regulation 16.4 or a team has been removed from the tournament in accordance with Bylaw 11-1-2, Penalties, shall be considered a “forfeit.” Should a “forfeit” occur, the “forfeit” shall be included in won-lost records and the opposing team shall advance to the next round of competition.

**35. Grades 7 & 8**

35.1) A student shall not participate in more than one interscholastic contest on any one day unless permitted by specific sports regulations. **EXCEPTIONS:** baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball, tennis. (See specific sport regulations.)

35.2) Sports Season Waiver — Schools, leagues or conferences may adjust seasons to accommodate school teams because of the lack of availability of physical facilities or personnel. Proposed changes in seasons shall be submitted in writing to the Commissioner and include the proposed dates of the 7th & 8th grade season not to exceed the length of the interscholastic season for the sport concerned. All other regulations regarding contest limitations, required practice time and coaching requirements shall be followed.

35.3) 7th & 8th grade students may not practice with, participate on the same team with or compete against 9th through 12th grade students.

- 35.4) Students below the 7th grade may not practice with or participate with 7th through 12th grade students.
- 35.5) It is strongly recommended that the coaches of 7th & 8th grade sports attend the OHSAA rules interpretation meetings for the sports they are coaching.

**36. Penalties**

PENALTIES for violations will be administered in accordance with Bylaw 11 if not otherwise stated.

**CONCUSSION REGULATIONS**

**Implementation of State Law and NFHS Playing Rules Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol**

It is important for all individuals involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students. Further both students and parents have responsibilities in this area as well.

**Note:** It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that students are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all individuals involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) playing rules related to concussion recognition and management. On April 26, 2013, legislation adopted by Ohio’s General Assembly on concussion and head injuries in youth sports became effective. On February 14, 2013, the OHSAA Board of Directors mandated that these regulations become effective on April 26, 2013, for the remainder of the spring sports season and thereafter. This OHSAA regulation, as amended to incorporate this recent legislation, now reads:

Any student, while practicing for or competing in an interscholastic contest, who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the practice or contest by either of the following:

- 1) The individual who is serving as the student’s coach during that practice or competition.
- 2) An individual who is serving as a contest official or referee during that practice or competition.

**RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

If a student is removed from practice or competition due to a suspected concussion or head injury, the coach or referee who removes the student shall not permit the student, **ON THE SAME DAY THE STUDENT IS REMOVED**, to return to that practice or competition or to participate in any other practice or competition for which the coach or contest official is responsible. Thereafter, which means no earlier than the next day, the coach or contest officials shall not permit the student to return to practice or competition until both of the following conditions are satisfied:

- 1) The student’s condition is assessed by either of the following:
  - a. A physician, who is a person authorized under Chapter 4731 of the Ohio Revised Code (OCR) to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine or surgery (M.D. or D.O.)
  - b. Any other licensed health care provider that the school district board of education or other governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, authorizes to assess the student who has been removed from practice or competition.
- 2) The student receives **written authorization** that it is safe for the student to return to practice or competition from a physician or other licensed health care provider authorized to grant the clearance. Go to the “Sports Medicine” Section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) to retrieve the OHSAA’s Medical Authorization to Return To Play (RTP) form.

A school district board of education or governing authority of a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school may authorize a licensed health care provider who is NOT a PHYSICIAN to make an assessment and grant authorization for a student to return to participation ONLY if the provider is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider’s authority to practice in Ohio:

- 1) In consultation with a physician;
- 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
- 3) In collaboration with a physician, or
- 4) Under the supervision of a physician.

**Note:** A physician or other licensed health care provider who makes an assessment or grants clearance for a student to return to participation may be a volunteer.

### COACHES REQUIREMENTS

All coaches, paid and volunteer, must possess a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit. When renewing this permit, the coach will be required to complete an online concussion education course as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Course**. This course is valid for three years and expires at the time the Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit expires.

### CONTEST OFFICIALS REQUIREMENTS

**New legislation signed into law by the Governor provides that no school “shall permit” an individual to referee interscholastic athletic contests unless the individual holds a Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has successfully completed within the last three years a training program in concussion recognition.** Therefore, all OHSAA licensed officials shall possess either a current Department of Education-issued Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or **show evidence of completing an approved online concussion education course** as stipulated in the section entitled **Approved Online Concussion Education Courses**. This course is valid for three years from the date of completion.

### STUDENT AND PARENT REQUIREMENTS

All students and their parents or legal guardians shall review and sign the “Concussion Information Sheet” which has been developed by the Ohio Department of Health and which shall be distributed by OHSAA member schools to all students and their parents prior to each sports season. Students and parents shall review and sign this form each year and should keep a copy of the form. In addition, parents and students are encouraged to complete an approved concussion education course. The Concussion Information Sheet can be found here: <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

### APPROVED ONLINE CONCUSSION EDUCATION COURSES

**The following free online training courses have been approved by the Ohio Department of Health for coaches and contest officials:**

**National Federation of State High School Associations Concussion in Sports - What you Need to Know:** <http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=38000>

(This free online course is available through the NFHS. Click the “order here” button, and complete a brief registration form to take the course. Follow these steps to complete the course:

1. Click on the button that says “Please Login to Order.” In the window that appears, click “Register Now.”
2. When your registration is complete, you may “order” the free concussion course offered along the left-hand side of the page. Continue following prompts. Although it may look like you will be charged for the course, there is no cost.
3. Once you’ve completed “Checkout,” you will be able to take the free online course.
4. When you have completed and passed the course, you have the option of printing a certificate of completion.
5. All Ohio Officials should select this option to print, retain a copy of the certificate and carry it with them to all contests.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports On-Line Training Program:** [http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online\\_training.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html) -

**PLEASE NOTE:** Both courses offer a “certificate of completion” upon successful passage. The NFHS course allows organizations to search for and track coaches and other individuals such as contest officials who have completed the course, while the CDC course does not.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. *What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?”* The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following list of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

**SIGNS OBSERVED BY OTHERS**

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about assignment
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game score or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Cannot recall events prior to hit
- Cannot recall events after hit

**SYMPTOMS REPORTED BY ATHLETE**

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

2. *Who is responsible for administering this rule?*

All individuals who have responsibilities and duties in the interscholastic athletics environment are responsible: coaches, contest officials, administrators, students, parents and medical personnel.

3. *What is the role of coaches in administering this rule?*

- Coaches are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to prohibit any athlete who displays these signs or symptoms from participating in a practice or a contest.
- Coaches are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The coach is responsible for insuring that the student’s parents are notified and the student is referred to a medical professional.
- Coaches shall be aware that any student removed from a practice or a contest due to a suspected concussion or head injury **shall not return to participation on the same day as the removal.**
- Coaches shall possess a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit and shall take one of the approved online concussion courses upon renewal of the permit.

4. *What is the role of contest officials in administering the rule?*

- Officials are to review and know the signs and symptoms of concussion and to direct immediate removal of any student who displays these signs or symptoms. When informing the head coach about removal of an athlete, the official shall be accompanied by another (second) official if possible.
- An official **shall not permit the athlete who has been removed under this rule to return to competition that same day.**
- If a contest official is aware that a student has been permitted to return to competition on the same day as removal, that official shall immediately stop play and remove that student from competition and report the incident to the OHSAA.
- Note that officials are not medical professionals and have no authority to determine whether or not a student has sustained a concussion. The official is responsible for directing removal when he or she observes signs and symptoms that may indicate a student is concussed.
- All Officials shall possess either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or shall complete one of the online concussion courses which are valid for three years from the date of completion.
- At initial licensure or renewal of the OHSAA officiating permit, the official shall indicate that he or she has either a current Pupil Activity Program/Coaching Permit or has completed one of the approved online concussion courses.

- All officials should carry with them evidence of completion of one of these options at all times while officiating a contest.
  - Officials are required to submit to the OHSAA the “OHSAA Concussion Report” within 48 hours whenever a student has been removed from a contest under this regulation.
5. *What are the expectations of student-athletes in concussion management?*
- While all individuals involved in the interscholastic athletics program have a responsibility to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions, it is also the responsibility of student-athletes to recognize the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion.
  - Student-athletes who exhibit symptoms such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, have the responsibility to report these immediately to their coach and/or health care professional. Teammates also share the responsibility to report these symptoms when they are exhibited by a fellow student-athlete.
  - Student-athletes shall review and sign, on an annual basis, along with their parents or legal guardians, the Ohio Department of Health’s Concussion Information Sheet found on the OHSAA website and at this link <http://www.healthyohioprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%20.ashx>
6. *Who decides if an athlete has not been concussed and/or who has recovered from a concussion?*
- **Only** an M.D. (Medical Doctor), D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy), or another health care provider approved by the school’s Board of Education or other governing body who is acting in accordance with one of the following as applicable to the provider’s authority to practice in Ohio:
    - 1) In consultation with a physician;
    - 2) Pursuant to the referral of a physician;
    - 3) In collaboration with a physician;
    - 4) Under the supervision of a physician

is empowered to make the on-site determination that an athlete has **not** received a concussion. **Even if that determination has been made, however, the student may not return to practice or competition on the same day he/she has been removed from a practice or competition** (see No. 7 below).
  - If any one of these physicians or authorized medical providers has answered that “yes” there has been a concussion, that decision is final.
7. *Can an athlete return to play on the same day as he/she has been removed from a practice or competition for a suspected concussion?*
- No, under no circumstances can that athlete return to play that day.
  - No coach or contest official shall allow a student to return to practice or to competition on any day after the initial removal until that student has been assessed and cleared for return with **written authorization** by a physician or licensed health care provider authorized by the school.
  - If the event continues over multiple days, then the designated event physician has ultimate authority over return to play decisions.
8. *Once the day has concluded, who can issue authorization to return to practice/competition in the sport for a student who has diagnosed with a concussion?*
- Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a physician or other approved health care provider, only a physician or approved provider can authorize subsequent Return To Play (RTP), and such authorization shall be in writing to the administration of the school. This written **RTP authorization shall be kept at the school indefinitely** as a part of that student’s permanent record. Go to the “Sports Medicine” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) to access the OHSAA “Medical Authorization to Return to Play” Form.
  - School administration shall then notify the coach as to the permission to return to practice or play.

9. *What should be done after the student is cleared by an appropriate health care professional?*

- After a clearance has been issued, the student's actual return to practice and play should follow a graduated protocol.
- The National Federation of State High School Associations has included the following graduated protocol in its Suggested Guidelines for Management of Concussion in Sports: (Note: This is simply a suggested protocol. The appropriate health care professional who issues the clearance may wish to establish a different graduated protocol.)

**NFHS SUGGESTED MEDICAL CLEARANCE RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL**

1. No exertional activity until asymptomatic.
2. When the athlete appears clear, begin low-impact activity such as walking, stationary bike, etc.
3. Initiate aerobic activity fundamental to specific sport such as running or skating, and may also begin progressive strength training activities.
4. Begin non-contact skill drills specific to sport such as dribbling, fielding, batting, etc.
5. Full contact in practice setting.
6. Game play/competition.
  - Athlete must remain asymptomatic to progress to the next level. (It is often suggested that an athlete not be allowed to progress more than one level per day.)
  - If symptoms recur, athlete must return to previous level and should be reevaluated by an appropriate health care professional.
  - Medical check should occur before contact. (Final written clearance from the medical professional shall be obtained before the athlete engages in any unrestricted or full contact activity.)

**QUICK LINKS FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—**

Ohio Department of Health Concussion Information Sheet - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Interscholastic%20Concussion%20Form%20-%20ODH%20Revised%202.ashx>

Online Concussion Management Training - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/concussion.aspx#Training>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: Frequently Asked Questions - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20Updated%202513.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Coaches and Referees Need to Know - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Coaches%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

Ohio's Return to Play Law: What Parent/Guardians Need to Know - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/~media/HealthyOhio/ASSETS/Files/injury%20prevention/concussion/Return%20to%20Play%20-%20What%20Parents-Guardians%20Need%20to%20Know%20-%20School%20Sports%20-%20Final.ashx>

**ADDITIONAL CONCUSSION RESOURCES**

Ohio Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program - Sports/Recreation Traumatic Brain Injuries - <http://www.healthyohiprogram.org/vipp/child/tbi.aspx>

CDC Heads Up: Concussion in Youth Sports

Nationwide Children's Hospital – Concussion Information Toolkit - <http://www.nationwidechildrens.org/concussion-toolkit>

CDC Materials on Returning to School for Parents, School Nurses and Educators - <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/schools.html>

Ohio Legislative Service Commissioner HB 143 Bill Analysis - <http://www.lsc.state.oh.us/analyses129/12-hb143-129.pdf>

Brain Injury Association of Ohio – [www.biaoh.org](http://www.biaoh.org)

<b>HEAT REGULATIONS</b>
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This procedure is to be used until such time as the temperature is below 84 degrees as no combination of heat and humidity at that level will result in a need to curtail activity.

1. Thirty minutes prior to the start of activity, temperature and humidity readings should be taken at the site.
2. The temperature and humidity should be factored into the Heat Index Calculation and Chart and a determination made as to the Heat Index. If schools are utilizing a digital sling psychrometer that calculates the Heat Index, that number may be used to apply to the table.
3. If a reading is determined whereby activity is to be decreased (above 95 degrees Heat Index), then re-readings would be required every thirty minutes to determine if further activity should be eliminated or preventative steps taken, or if an increased level of activity can resume.
4. Using the following table, activity should be altered and/or eliminated based on this Heat Index as determined:

**Under 95 degrees Heat Index—**

- Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes if temperature rises in order to monitor for increased Heat Index.

**95 degrees to 99 degrees Heat Index—**

- Water shall always be available and athletes shall be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow for hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Helmets and other equipment should be removed when athlete not directly involved with competition, drill or practice and it is not otherwise required by rule.

**Notes:** Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day. Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

**100 degrees (above 99 degrees) to 104 degrees Heat Index—**

- Water shall always be available and athletes shall be able to take in as much water as they desire.
- Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration to allow hydration as a group.
- Have towels with ice for cooling of athletes as needed.
- Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Alter uniform by removing items if possible and permissible by rules.
- Allow athletes to change to dry shirts and shorts at defined intervals.
- Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
- Postpone practice to later in day.
- If helmets or other protective requirement are required to be worn by rule or normal practice, suspend practice or competition immediately.

**Note:** Re-check temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for changes in Heat Index.

**Above 104 degrees Heat Index—**

- Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

## TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND STEROIDS

### 1. Tobacco

School participants (coaches, players, trainers, managers, statisticians, scorekeepers, cheerleaders, etc.) and contest officials in an athletic contest are prohibited from using any form of tobacco at the playing site of an interscholastic contest. Penalty for violation by school participants is disqualification from that contest. Violations by contest officials shall be reported to the OHSAA.

### 2. Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

The sale of, the distribution of, or the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs is not permitted at the site of any contest involving OHSAA member schools.

### 3. Steroids

A student who uses anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs is ineligible for interscholastic competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.

**Note:** At its September 1998 meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors endorsed the position statement issued by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations on the use of drugs, medicine and food supplements in interscholastic sports. The statement is as follows:

“School personnel and coaches should not dispense any drug, medication or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with policies developed in consultation with parents, health-care professionals and senior administrative personnel of the school or school district.

“Use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not prescribed by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects.

“In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should never supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.”

## LIGHTNING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER

### Recognition

Coaches, athletic trainers, athletes, administrators and contest officials shall be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Since the average distance between successive lightning flashes is approximately two to three miles, ANYTIME that lightning can be seen or heard, the risk is already present. Weather can be monitored using the following methods:

- **Monitor Weather Patterns** – Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.
- **National Weather Service** – Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions. Any thunderstorm poses a risk of injury or death even if it does not meet the criteria for severe weather. Therefore, anytime thunderstorms are in the forecast (even if it is only a 20 percent chance), event organizers shall be at a heightened level of awareness to the potential danger of lightning.

### Management

- **Evacuation** – If lightning is imminent or a thunderstorm is approaching, all personnel, athletes and spectators shall evacuate to available safe structures or shelters. A list of the closest safe structures should be announced and displayed on placards at all athletic venues.
- **Thirty-minute rule** – Competition or practice shall be suspended once lightning has been recognized or thunder is heard. It is required to wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning is witnessed or

thunder is heard prior to resuming practice or competition. Given the average rates of thunderstorm travel, the storm should move 10-12 miles away from the area. This significantly reduces the risk of local lightning flashes. **Any subsequent lightning or thunder after the beginning of the 30-minute count shall reset the clock, and another count shall begin.**

**MEDIA REGULATIONS**

The Ohio High School Athletic Association develops the regulations for media coverage of all OHSAA tournament contests. Some policies shall also be in effect for regular season contests. General media regulations shall be approved annually by the Board of Directors and published separately from the *OHSAA Handbook*.

**A. Videotaping and Photographing Regulations**

**Section 1. — Regular Season Contests**

- a. It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) of the team or individuals from one’s own school. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for “in-game” coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.
- b. It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including previews, scrimmages and/or practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one’s own school only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s).

**Section 2. — OHSAA Tournament Contests**

**Videotaping and Photographing by Participating Schools**

- a. Videotaping OHSAA tournament contests of the team or individuals from one’s own school participating in the contest is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager, and it is done at the expense of the school involved. A maximum of one individual per school is permitted to videotape.
- b. All photographs and videos taken by school representatives of the team or individuals from one’s own school at OHSAA tournament contests are for school use ONLY. The use of photographs or videos taken by school representatives for commercial purposes is strictly prohibited. Such videotapes or photographs may be used for “in-game” coaching purposes only if it is specified in the national playing rules of the sport or in the specific sport regulations.
- c. It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph tournament contests (including practices) of teams or individuals **not** from one’s own school only with the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s).

**Section 3. — Regular Season and OHSAA Tournament Contests**

**Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)**

- a. For purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial vehicle (“UAV”), commonly known as a drone, is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.
- b. It is the responsibility of each local school district to establish policies for the use of drones during home regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) and practices.
- c. The use of drones is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at OHSAA tournament contests or practices before or after an OHSAA tournament contest. At tournament contests, management shall remove anyone attempting to use a drone and/or confiscate the drone until the event has been completed.

**Note:** An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases for OHSAA broadcast partners, provided the management of the tournament facility permits the presence of drones for broadcast purposes under the control of the OHSAA.

**Videotaping and Photographing by Spectators**

- a. Spectators taking videos or photos at OHSAA tournament contests shall not interfere with the view of a contest by other spectators, nor will spectators or their equipment take additional space in seats that have been purchased. No spectators shall be provided “media” access to videotape or photograph an event, nor will spectators and/or their equipment be permitted in any playing area. In addition, no sources of power will be provided for spectators’ video or photo equipment.

- b. All photographs and videos taken by spectators at OHSAA tournament contests are for personal use ONLY. The use of spectator photographs or videos for commercial, scouting or coaching purposes is strictly prohibited. Videotaping of one's next opponent at a practice or contest is strictly prohibited regardless of the personal use/purpose of the taping.
- c. The tournament site accepts no liability for damage or theft of spectator equipment or injury as a result of privately owned equipment.
- d. The OHSAA reserves the right to remove violators of these policies from a tournament contest, invoke additional penalties and seek maximum legal recourse.

**B. Coaches' and Participants' Comments to the News Media**

OHSAA Bylaw 8, Section 2, reads in part, "Great care shall be exercised in the selection of officials, well in advance of the contest and agreed upon by schools involved. When the contest begins each school waives all of its rights so far as objecting to the officials." Public criticism of officials is a direct reflection upon those who were responsible for assigning the officials to the game.

Officials are trained and expected to make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding other officials, the players, coaches or schools. Coaches and participants are expected to follow the same procedure and make no derogatory public comments directly to the media or through the use of social media regarding not only the officials, but also the players, coaches or schools. Failure to follow this request will result in penalties as outlined in Bylaw 11.

**C. Use of the OHSAA Trade Names and Trademarks**

The OHSAA owns certain trade names and trademarks that are registered and protected under state and federal law. Any unauthorized use of these trade names and trademarks is strictly prohibited. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the OHSAA does issue certain non-exclusive, non-transferable limited licenses for the use of its trade names and trademarks. The OHSAA's policies regarding these licenses can be found on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) under "News and Media."

# 1. BASEBALL

## A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.

**Note:** Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a doubleheader (penalty – see Sports Regulation 20).

- 1.2) **Teams** – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates.

**Note:** Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.

- 1.21) Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.

1.22) Any team exceeding the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

### 1.3) Individuals

- 1.3.1) An individual in grades 9-12 may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.

1.3.2) An individual in grades 7-8 may play on a maximum of 21 playing dates plus one postseason or league/conference tournament.

- 1.33) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

- 1.34) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

**Note:** If the games described in 1.33 are occurring simultaneously, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred.

### 1.4) Interrupted Games

- 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF4-3-1), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Pitching limitations for any completed game relate to the original game’s limitations. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.

- 1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:

The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead.

A suspended game that is not completed at a later date due to the inability to reschedule is considered a “No Contest,” not counted in the won-lost statistics, and both teams are permitted to schedule another contest.

- 1.43) Games cannot end in a tie. Games are either won, lost or suspended.

- 1.5) Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion (10 run rule applicable).
- 1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
- 1.7) Due to implementation of the NFHS required “pitch count,” all pitchers must follow newly adopted pitch/rest requirements to be released and communicated in January 2017.
- 1.8) Previews — A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Baseball Rules.

2) **Non-Interscholastic Participation**

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic baseball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or similar governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of baseball during the school’s season (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 2.2) A member of a school baseball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic baseball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
  - 2.21) The number of interscholastic baseball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.  
**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic baseball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of baseball are exempt from this limitation.
  - 2.22) There is no limit on the number of baseball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day Weekend (May 26, 2017) - July 31, provided the players have concluded their school season.
  - 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
  - 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic baseball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school baseball squad, until the student’s school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 2.4) All-Star Games — “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school baseball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-Interscholastic Competition.

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

## 2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A baseball athlete who has not participated for a school team in baseball that season must cease non-interscholastic baseball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in baseball in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in baseball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in baseball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in baseball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

DATE: April 18, 2017

2.6) Participation in indoor baseball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2016-February 1, 2017, for student-athletes.

2.7) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic baseball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in indoor baseball except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### 4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### 5) Penalties

5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic baseball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic baseball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic baseball season or the ensuing baseball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

### 6) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play baseball, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (scrimmages, previews, Foundation games, jamborees) until regular season contest number 14 in baseball and then eligible for no more than 14 games on 16 playing dates.

### 7) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations on the Baseball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 on the Eligibility Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

## B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First game — Saturday, March 25, 2017.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 24, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — April 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

**BASEBALL 2016-2017**

- 5) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament (June 10, 2017).
- 6) Scrimmage or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.
- 7) Regular season games permitted (Team) — Maximum of 27 (on 27 playing dates). Double-headers may be played on any day pursuant to school policy.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Baseball.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 umpires.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 required.
  - 9.3) Freshmen — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) Date first game may be played — March 25, 2017.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 10, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
- 5) Regular season games permitted — Maximum 17 and one postseason/league/conference tournament not to exceed 4 games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Baseball.
- 7) Officials — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

<b>Baseball</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Coach — No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20
Coaching Begins	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/24	2/22
Season Begins	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/28	3/27
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19
Sectional	5/6-5/13	5/5-5/12	5/4-5/11	5/9-5/16	5/8-5/15
District	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19	5/13-5/18	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22
Regional	5/25-5/26	5/24-5/25	5/23-5/24	5/28-5/29	5/27-5/28
State	6/1-6/3	5/31-6/2	5/30-6/1	6/4-6/6	6/3-6/5
Season Ends	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/13	6/12
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

**BASEBALL — BOYS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE**

2017-2021-2025	2018-2022-2026	2019-2023-2027	2020-2024-2028
III	IV	I	II
II	III	IV	I
IV	I	II	III
I	II	III	IV

## 2. BASKETBALL — BOYS AND GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Any scheduled regular season basketball game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes or school closings is considered “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and cannot be considered “Forfeits.”
- 1.2) Schools or a school team representative are permitted to video record or photograph a regular season contest in which the school team is participating. It is NOT permissible for a school or a school representative to video record or photograph scrimmages, previews or regular season contests of other school teams or opponents without the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s).
- 1.3) PREVIEW — A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. Each team may schedule one preview and no player may participate in more than one preview. Previews must be played according to National Federation Basketball Rules and shall meet all definitions in Sports Regulation 23.
- 1.4) A student athlete in grades 9-12 may play in a maximum of 110 quarters plus OHSAA sponsored tournament. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.5) A student-athlete in grades 7-8 may play in a maximum of 70 quarters plus one post-season or league/conference tournament not to exceed four games by one team. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.6) A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than five quarters during any one day. Any part of a quarter is to be considered as a full quarter. In an overtime game, the extended time shall be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.
- 1.7) Penalty for participation in more than five (5) quarters per day:
  - When discovered during a contest, the team shall be assessed a technical foul by the official and the student shall be disqualified from the game. All quarters played shall count toward the maximum permitted.
  - When discovered after a contest is completed, there is no team or individual penalty but all quarters played by the individual shall count toward the maximum permitted for the player.
- 1.8) Length of quarters:
  - a. Varsity — 8 minute quarters.
  - b. Freshman, reserve or junior varsity — 6 minutes recommended, maximum of 7 minutes.
  - c. Grades 7 & 8 — 6 minutes maximum.
  - d. Overtime — 8 minute quarters – 4 minute overtime; 6 or 7 minute quarters – 3 minute overtime.
- 1.9) Member schools electing to participate in the *Basketball Service Week Foundation Game* are permitted to use one of their five allotted scrimmages to play a regulation game under all normal game conditions. Foundation games do not count against a team’s won-lost record and may be played any time between November 11 and the first Sectional tournament contest (Girls) and November 18 and the first Sectional tournament contest (Boys). Each participating school is required to make a \$250 contribution to the OHSAA Foundation.
- 1.10) Game Ball: The official game ball adopted by the OHSAA is the Rawlings CompOhioCB (boys) and the Rawlings CompOhio28.5CB (girls) and is required to be used for all regular season and tournament contests in grades 7-12.

**Note:** If a school is under a current contract (a contract executed before May 1, 2013, and still in “term”) for its use of a ball other than Rawlings, that school may continue with said ball in honor of its current contract.

## 2) Out-of-State Travel

A basketball team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a basketball team may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. Penalty for violation: The school 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.

**EXCEPTION:** If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make-up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

**Note:** A basketball team may not travel out of state to practice only. However, teams may practice out of state while there to compete in contests.

## 3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

## 4) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play basketball, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages, preview and Foundation game) until regular season contest number 12 in basketball. Once eligible, an individual is then eligible for no more than 55 total quarters the remainder of the regular season.

## 5) Non-Interscholastic Participation

5.1) A member of an interscholastic basketball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview of regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of basketball during the school’s season (Sports Regulation 7.2).

5.2) A member of an interscholastic basketball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic basketball prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulation 7.3 and 7.5 and are detailed as follows:

- 5.21) The number of interscholastic basketball players from the same school on the non-interscholastic squad is limited to two on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together or participate together in any non-interscholastic event. “Rotating players” that

would exceed this number (2) is not permitted and use of any “substitute players” on a non-interscholastic roster would be counted as one of the 2 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic basketball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of basketball are exempt from this limitation.

- 5.22) There is no limit on the number of basketball squad members from the same school participating on the same team during the period June 1-July 31 in accordance with General Sports Regulation 7.3.
- 5.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the two player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 5.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 5.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic basketball contest, game or scrimmage while a member of the school basketball squad. Non-school programs are defined in their entirety in General Sports Regulation 7.1 and “team membership” is also defined in General Sports Regulation 7.1.
- 5.4) Participation in “3 on 3” tournaments (such as but not limited to “Gus Macker” tournaments) is **not** a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Team Sports Regulation 7.3 for student-athletes.
- 5.5) All-Star Games — “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school basketball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address Non-School Team Competition.

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

- 5.6) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A basketball athlete who has not participated for a school team in basketball that season must cease non-interscholastic basketball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the state tournaments in basketball in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Girls: January 24, 2017

Boys: January 31, 2017

## 6) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 7 of the General Sports Regulations.

## 7) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 10 of the General Sports Regulations.

## 8) Penalties

- 8.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic basketball squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic basketball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic basketball

season or the ensuing basketball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

- 8.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Tryouts, coaching, instruction may begin — Girls: October 28, 2016  
Boys: November 4, 2016
- 2) First game — Girls: November 25, 2016; Boys: Thursday, December 1, 2016
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — Girls: January 30, 2017; Boys: February 6, 2017
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — Girls: February 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m.  
Boys: February 12, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — Girls: February 25, 2017\*; Boys: March 4, 2017\*  
\*Unless later date is approved due to weather issues
- 6) Scrimmage or Previews — Maximum of five scrimmages plus one preview. (Note: An approved OHSAA Foundation Game may replace one scrimmage).
- 7) Regular season games — Maximum of 22 games.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Basketball (NFHS).
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — Class 1 Basketball Only. In the event only one OHSAA registered basketball official arrives to officiate the game, the game may be played provided the participating coaches agree.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Class 1 or Class 2 Basketball Only. In the event only one OHSAA registered basketball official arrives to officiate the game, the game may be played provided the participating coaches agree.
  - 9.3) Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 basketball official required. All other officials required to be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or basketball official in training.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Tryouts, coaching and instruction may begin — Girls: October 28, 2016  
Boys: November 4, 2016
- 2) First game — Girls: November 25, 2016; Boys: December 2, 2016
- 3) Coaching and Season end — Girls: February 25, 2017; Boys: March 4, 2017
- 4) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of two scrimmages plus one preview.
- 5) Regular season games — Maximum of 16 games.
- 6) Postseason games — 1 league/conference tournament or 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games.
- 7) Rules — National Federation Basketball (NFHS).
- 8) Basketball — The approved ball shall have a circumference minimum of 28 1/2 inches to a maximum of 29 inches for 7th & 8th grade competition.
- 9) Officials — One OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 basketball official required. All other officials required to be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or basketball official in training.

<b>Girls Basketball</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20
Coaching Begins	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/25	10/23
Season Begins	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/20
Non-Interscholastic Date	1/30	1/29	1/28	1/27	1/25
Sectional	2/13-2/25*	2/12-2/24*	2/11-2/23*	2/10-2/22*	2/8-2/20*
District	2/27-3/4	2/26-3/3	2/25-3/2	2/24-2/29	2/22-2/27
Regional	3/6-3/11	3/5-3/10	3/4-3/9	3/2-3/7	3/1-3/6
State	3/16-3/18	3/15-3/17	3/14-3/16	3/12-3/14	3/11-3/13
Season Ends	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/20
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

\*Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than 2 days prior to established date)

<b>Boys Basketball</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20
Coaching Begins	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/30
Season Begins	12/1	11/30	11/29	11/26	11/25
Non-Interscholastic Date	2/6	2/5	2/4	2/2	2/1
Sectional	2/20-3/4*	2/19-3/3*	2/18-3/2*	2/17-2/29*	2/15-2/27*
District	3/6-3/11	3/5-3/10	3/4-3/9	3/2-3/7	3/1-3/6
Regional	3/13-3/18	3/12-3/17	3/11-3/16	3/9-3/14	3/8-3/13
State	3/23-3/25	3/22-3/24	3/21-3/23	3/19-3/21	3/18-3/20
Season Ends	3/4	3/3	3/2	2/28	2/27
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

\*Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than 2 days prior to established date)

BASKETBALL — STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE

2017-2020-2023	2018-2021-2024	2019-2022-2025
II	IV	III
IV	III	II
III	II	IV
I	I	I

### 3. BOWLING — BOYS AND GIRLS

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

##### 1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) All high school bowling matches shall be played utilizing USBC rules modified according to OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.

1.2) A minimum of two (2) regular games of tenpin regulation scoring followed by a minimum of two (2) Baker games will constitute an official, regular season match. Total combined pins for all games bowled win the match. Regular season matches (excluding tournaments) that bowl more than the minimum number of games as described above require the permission of the participating schools.

1.21) In addition to regular season matches, teams may participate in tournaments that utilize an all-Baker format, provided that a minimum of five (5) teams participate in each respective level/division and no fewer than six (6) Baker games are bowled by each participating team. Boys teams and girls teams may not participate against each other in regular season matches/tournaments. All contests count in the 24 match season limitation. **Note:** See Bowling Regulation B.7 for additional tournament information.

1.22) A school team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

##### 1.23) Tiebreakers

a. **Team**—ties for team match total pins and the advancement of teams in tournaments and/or the placement of teams on brackets will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off between one player from each team selected by each respective head coach. This roll-off, utilizing the same two players, will be repeated until the tie is broken. For the initial tiebreaker, the winner of a coin toss will select their starting lane and determine who bowls the 9th frame first. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame.

b. **Individual**—ties for advancement/awards in individual competition will be broken based on the highest single game bowled in the series being used to determine advancement/awards. Should this also result in a tie, there will be a 9th and 10th frame roll-off until the tie is broken. For the initial tiebreaker, the winner of a coin toss will select their starting lane. Bowlers will rotate lanes for the 10th (and any additional) frame.

c. **Baker Game**—no individual Baker Game shall end in a tie in head-to-head Baker game competition that advances teams on brackets or tournaments. In such situations, the tie will be broken by a 9th and 10th frame roll-off between one player from each team selected by each respective head coach. This roll-off, utilizing the same two players will be repeated until the tie is broken. Each team will bowl a 9th and 10th frame roll-off on the same lane in which the Baker game was bowled. The team shall continue to bowl on the same lane until the tie is broken. The same coin toss procedure for team ties shall apply.

1.3) A team will field five (5) players at a time in contests. A minimum of three (3) players must be present to constitute a legal lineup. Absent and/or tardy bowlers will receive a score of zero (0) for any missed frames. Missed frames cannot be made up. Any school that fails to field a legal lineup shall not be permitted to participate in a contest.

**Note:** School teams are not permitted to practice against each other. School teams may practice in the same facility at the same time, but member schools may not “combine” teams to practice simultaneously on the same lanes.

- 1.4) Lineups – A coach may change his/her team lineup (order of bowling) prior to the start of any game.
- 1.41) Participation Limits–Players may be moved between varsity and non-varsity teams at the discretion of the coach. The maximum number of matches in which a bowler may participate during the season is 24. Bowling a frame or any part of a frame in any game shall constitute a match. No player may compete on a school varsity and school non-varsity team simultaneously during a match. **The match in which the student first competes (non-varsity or varsity) must have concluded prior to the student bowling in the next match (non-varsity or varsity).**
- 1.5) Substitutions – A coach may substitute a player “at will” at any time before or during a game. However, once removed from the lineup, the removed player(s) may not re-enter play until the start of the next regular or Baker game. A player once removed is reclassified as a substitute bowler and may be used as a substitute bowler in any spot in the team lineup upon legal return to play (subsequent game). A coach substituting any player for any reason must notify the match scorekeeper and opposing coach at the time of the substitution. The partial game score produced by the removed player and substitute **shall not be computed** in the individual average of either player. **Penalty:** An illegal substitute shall be assessed a score of zero (0) for all frames, or part of a frame, bowled.
- Note:** Any frame, or part of a frame bowled, counts in the total number of contests bowled in the season limitation of 24 matches.
- 1.6) The home school coach shall serve as referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USBC rules.
- 1.7) School Representative – No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by a school coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education or similar governing body.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

A member of an interscholastic bowling squad (any student who has played in a regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education or similar governing body shall not participate in a non-interscholastic (non-school) contest or event during the school’s bowling season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

**Note:** Examples of non-interscholastic bowling contests include, but are not limited to, club or intramural bowling, bowling facility championships, tournaments, leagues (adult and/or youth), charitable events and other events that are organized for the purpose of competition or fundraising.

- 2.1) The **maximum** consequence for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2, participation on a non-interscholastic bowling squad, or in a non-interscholastic bowling event; or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic bowling season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- 2.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date – An individual who has not participated as a representative of the school in a bowling contest during the current season must cease non-interscholastic competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Bowling Tournament to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition in bowling.

Date: Division II – January 16, 2017; Division I – January 23, 2017

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in bowling who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest or event in bowling shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in bowling in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

- 2.3) Interscholastic bowling coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

### 3) Sponsorship

- 3.1) A school that sponsors girls bowling, with five or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition.
- 3.2) A school that sponsors girls bowling and has less than five girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament. There are no “co-ed” bowling teams. A girl who bowls on a boys team is a permanent member of the boys team that season if the school has a separate girls team for which the student chose not to bowl. Girls on boys teams must continue to participate as a member of the boys team during the regular season. Girls who participate as members of the boys team may only participate in the OHSAA girls tournament if the school sponsors girls bowling, but was unable to field a girls team. Any girl who has bowled with the boys team during the season may choose to continue to participate with the boys team during the OHSAA tournament. No person may bowl in both the boys and girls OHSAA tournament. No girl may go back and forth between a girls and a boys team during the regular season. If a girl first bowls with a boys team and the school sponsored a girls team that has a separate girls schedule, the girl(s) shall be a permanent member of the boys team for that season and shall be excluded from the girls state tournament. **Note: No student may bowl on both a boys and girls team during the same school regular season.**
- 3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls bowling and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.
- 3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls bowling but has one or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

### 4) Penalties

- 4.1) A school team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament. A school team that participates in a regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

The maximum penalty for any individual EXCEPT a senior who violates the non-inter-scholastic rule by participating in a non-school bowling contest(s) or event while a member of the school team is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic bowling season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year. An Individual who bowls on or after the non-inter-scholastic date on a non-school team or in a non-school event, including a fundraiser, *shall be ineligible for the OHSAA tournament.*

### 5) Transfer Bylaw—

While all questions regarding the transfer bylaw should be addressed to the appropriate school administrator, please be advised that all students who are not eligible for immediate participation in bowling pursuant to the transfer bylaw (4-7-2), remain ineligible until regular season contest #13 in bowling.

### 6) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information regarding uniforms, use of foreign substances, altering the ball surface, out of state travel, spectators, and the OHSAA ejection policy, etc. please refer to the OHSAA Bowling Coaches Manual located on the Bowling Page on the OHSAA website, [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). The bowling page can be found under the Sports link.

In addition, information regarding the ejection policy for coaches and players can be found in Sections 13 and 14 of the OHSAA General Sports Regulations, which are in this Handbook and posted at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) First contest —November 18, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — January 30, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — February 5, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
- 5) Season end —March 11, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — 24 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts. *Regular season tournaments with multiple teams count as one contest (EXCEPTION: A tournament that is designed to run more than one day with “new” matches starting on the following or consecutive days shall count as the same number of matches as days of the tournament). For tournaments that feature only head to head competition between teams rather than field of play competition, each head to head competition shall count as one contest.*
- 8) Rules—United States Bowling Congress (USBC) as modified by OHSAA.
- 9) Officials — No requirements.

<b>Bowling</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Coaching Begins	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	10/30	11/5
Season Begins	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/13	11/19
Non-Interscholastic Date – Div II	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/11	1/17
Non-Interscholastic Date – Div I	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/18	1/24
Sectional – Div II	2/12-2/19#	2/11-2/18#	2/10-2/17#	2/9-2/16#	2/7-2/14#	2/13-2/20#
Sectional – Div I	2/19-2/26#	2/18-2/25#	2/17-2/24#	2/16-2/23#	2/14-2/21#	2/20-2/27#
District – Div II	2/19-2/26	2/18-2/25	2/17-2/24	2/16-2/23	2/14-2/21	2/20-2/27
District – Div I	2/26-3/5	2/25-3/4	2/24-3/3	2/23-3/1	2/21-2/28	2/27-3/6
State – Div II	3/3-3/4	3/2-3/3	3/1-3/2	2/28-2/29	2/26-2/27	3/4-3/5
State – Div I	3/10-3/11	3/9-3/10	3/8-3/9	3/6-3/7	3/5-3/6	3/11-3/12
Season Ends	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/7	3/6	3/12
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date)

#### 4. CROSS COUNTRY — BOYS AND GIRLS

##### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

###### 1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) Each competitor must practice a minimum of 10 days under supervision of the individual or coach authorized by the Board of Education before competing in a contest.

###### 1.2) DISTANCE

- a. Grades 9-12 — 5,000 meters (OHSAA Tournaments).
- b. Grades 7 & 8 — 2 miles maximum.

###### 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic cross country squad (any student who has participated in a regular season/tournament contest sponsored by the Board of Education) shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of cross country during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

###### 2.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A cross country athlete who has not participated for the school in cross country that season must cease non-interscholastic cross country competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in cross country in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in cross country who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in cross country shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in cross country in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: September 19, 2016

2.3) Road racing is interpreted as a different sport than cross country. If the entire race is run on a road, participation is not a violation of the non-interscholastic competition bylaw.

###### 3) Sponsorship

3.1) A school that sponsors girls cross country, with five or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition.

3.2) A school that sponsors girls cross country and has less than five girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament.

3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls cross country and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.

3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls cross country but has five or more girls participating, may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

###### 4) Penalties

4.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic cross country squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school's interscholastic cross country squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic cross country season or the ensuing cross country season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

**5) Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in cross country, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests until regular season contest number nine (9) in cross country.

**6) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

## 6.1) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations here [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

## 6.2) Out-of-State Travel

For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

6.3) Please find the Cross Country Manual at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) on the Cross Country Page.**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Tryouts, coaching and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 22, 2016. **Exception:** Those schools participating in the OHSAA Invitational August 20, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — October 3, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — October 9, 2016.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — First Saturday in November — November 5, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — Maximum of 16 for team and individual.
- 8) Rules — 2016 National Federation Cross Country.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Registered Class 1 official who shall be the contest referee required.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Registered Class 1 official who shall be the contest referee required.
  - 9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 or 3 recommended.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Tryouts, coaching and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 22, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — November 5, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular Season contests — Maximum of 12 for team and individual plus one league championship meet.
- 6) Rules — 2016 National Federation Cross Country.
- 7) Officials — No specifications.



## 5. FIELD HOCKEY — GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) A player shall be permitted to play in a maximum of two games per day up to a maximum of three halves per common opponent. The maximum number of contests shall be 16 with a maximum *total of 42 halves* for the season.

If a player participates in more than three halves in one day, the player shall be ejected from the game when discovered and the team shall play short for the remainder of the game. All halves played shall count as halves toward the maximum permitted.

- 1.2) Any regular season game in field hockey which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
- 1.3) Any tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- 1.4) PREVIEW — A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning with August 2 and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed one half of a regulation contest for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Field Hockey Rules.
- 1.5) Varsity high school regular season games that are tied at the end of regulation shall play one 10-minute sudden victory overtime. Please refer to the regulations found at [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org) for a detailed description of this overtime procedure. If the game is tied at the end of the SV 10-minute overtime, the game shall be recorded as a tie.
- 1.6) Non-varsity high school regular season tournament competition only may play **Sudden Victory Penalty Strokes** to break the tie. The winner of the coin toss, which shall be called by the visiting team, may choose to stroke or to defend the goal first.
- 1.7) The game clock shall run continuously during the second half of any regular season or OHSAA tournament game once the goal differential of five has been reached in the second half. If that goal differential becomes less than five, the game clock shall operate as per NFHS rules.
- 1.8) Filming or videotaping of field hockey tournament games by one or both of the schools playing the game is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager, it is done at the expense of the school involved, and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted to film or videotape. **Filming or videotaping of a potential opponent’s tournament match is prohibited.**

It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such videotapes or photographs may NOT be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed. It is NOT permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph scrimmages, previews or regular season contests of other school teams without the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s).

- 1.9) *A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.*

#### 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic field hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of field hockey **during the school’s season** (Sports Regulation 7.2).

- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic field hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic field hockey outdoors prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
- 2.21) The number of interscholastic field hockey players from the same school on the non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad.
- Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic field hockey squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of field hockey are exempt from this limitation.
- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of field hockey squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31.
- 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the five-player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) Participation in indoor field hockey, under the rules of the International Rules for Indoor Field Hockey, is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports Regulation 7.2 for student-athletes.
- 2.4) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic field hockey coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in indoor field hockey except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.
- 2.5) All-Star Games — Interscholastic team coaches may coach players from his or her school in special “All-Star” contests. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the following provisions:
- Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
  - All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
  - Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school.

**Note on “All-Star” Games:** “All-Star” games are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3.

**Penalty:** For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.

- 2.6) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A field hockey athlete who has not participated for a school team in field hockey that season must cease non-interscholastic field hockey competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the state tournament in field hockey in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable Bylaws and Regulations have been followed.

Date: September 19, 2016

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

**4) No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

**5) Penalties**

5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic field hockey squad while a member of the school's interscholastic field hockey squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic field hockey season or the ensuing field hockey season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7.5 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**6) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct, see *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Field Hockey Manual that is posted in the "Field Hockey" section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). For information on Out of State Travel regulations, see Bylaw 9-2 at and the Field Hockey Manual that is posted in the "Field Hockey" section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). For information about the transfer bylaw, please go to the "Eligibility" section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First game — August 20, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — October 3, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — October 9, 2016.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — November 5, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages and Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages plus one preview.  
(**Note: Scrimmages and previews do not count in season won-lost statistics**).
- 7) Regular season games — 16.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Field Hockey.
- 9) Officials — Varsity only — Two field hockey officials required. It is recommended that one of the two be an OHSAA Class 1 official. In the event that only one official is available to officiate, the game may be played provided the participating coaches agree.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First game — August 20, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — November 5, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular Season games — 14.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Field Hockey.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 Field Hockey Official recommended.

**FIELD HOCKEY 2016-2017**

<b>Field Hockey</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Season Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/2
Earliest Preview Date	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/3
Regular Season Contests Begin	8/20	8/19	8/18	8/17	8/22	8/20
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/19	9/18	9/17	9/16	9/21	9/20
State Qualifying Round	10/17-10/29	10/16-10/28	10/15-10/27	10/14-10/26	10/19-10/31	10/18-10/30
State	11/4-11/5	11/3-11/4	11/2-11/3	11/1-11/2	11/6-11/7	11/5-11/6
Season Ends	11/5	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/7	11/6
Thanksgiving	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/28	11/26	11/25
Coach — No Contact Period	Starts the first day after the last interscholastic contest and ends 28 days later.					

## 6. FOOTBALL

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

##### 1.1) PRACTICE AND COACHING

- 1.11) Practice may begin August 1 for all schools.
- 1.12) All schools must respect a five-day acclimatization period during the first five days of practice. All athletes joining the team for the first time at any point during the season after the first day permitted for coaching also must participate in a five-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. There must be an adequate recovery period between practice sessions.
- 1.13) During practices within the acclimatization period, players may wear helmets only on the first two days. On days three and four, helmets and shoulder pads are allowed. From day five onward, full pads are allowed. Prior to the sixth day of practice no full contact is permitted. During the first five days of practice, athletes may engage in conditioning, speed, strength and agility drills and may use “dummies” for drills and walk-throughs.
- 1.14) Sundays, August 7 and 14 are mandatory days off.
- 1.15) Any practice or workout including two or more school teams or partial teams is a scrimmage.
- 1.16) Conduct of Practice Sessions
  - 1.16.1) When temperatures are 84 degrees or higher, temperature and humidity readings shall be taken at the site (30) minutes prior to the start of activity.
  - 1.16.2) The temperature and humidity shall be factored into the Heat Index Calculation and Chart and a determination made as to the Heat Index. If schools are utilizing a digital sling psychrometer that calculates the Heat Index, that number may be used to apply to the table.
  - 1.16.3) If a reading is determined whereby activity is to be decreased (above 95 degrees Heat Index), then re-readings are required every thirty (30) minutes to determine if further activity should be eliminated or preventative steps taken, or if an increased level of activity can resume.
  - 1.16.4) Use the scale defined in the Heat Regulations on page 89.
- 1.17) Preseason Practices: When more than one practice takes place in a day, full contact is permitted only during one of the practice sessions. With the importance of recovery time to help minimize concussion risks, consideration should also be given to the timing of full contact during the next day (i.e. if full contact occurs during session 2 of two-a-days, there should not be full contact in session 1 of two-a-days the following day).

**Note: Contact definitions can be found in the Football Manual and on the Football page of [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).**

- 1.18) In Season Practice
  - 1.18.1) Consider limiting full contact on consecutive days.
  - 1.18.2) A student-athlete is limited to 30 minutes of full contact in practice per day.
  - 1.18.3) A student-athlete is limited to 60 minutes of full contact in practice per week.
  - 1.18.4) A student-athlete can be involved in full contact in a maximum of two practices in a seven-day span.

## 1.2) SCRIMMAGES

- 1.21) Any practice or workout including two or more teams or partial teams is a scrimmage.
- 1.22) No admission of money, materials or supplies may be charged for a scrimmage. Voluntary donations of supplies or money may be accepted at a scrimmage but cannot be required for admission.
- 1.23) Grades 9-12 – Scrimmages may be held after a minimum of seven days of practice and prior to the first game.
- 1.24) Grades 9-12 may participate in a maximum of two scrimmages not to exceed three hours in length. The three-hour time limit begins when the scrimmage begins. In addition to two scrimmages, high school teams may participate in a third preseason contest, a Jamboree. (see 1.3 below)
- 1.25) Grades 7 & 8 may participate in one scrimmage after 10 days of practice. Two scrimmages are permitted if a maximum of seven regular season games are scheduled. A scrimmage is limited to a maximum of two hours with the time being counted continuously once the scrimmage begins.

## 1.3) JAMBOREE – Grades 9-12

Jamboree - A Jamboree may be played on August 11, 12, 13 or August 18, 19, 20, 2016. **There is a fee of \$250 per team for all teams participating in this game.** This fee is payable to the OHSAA. An admission charge for this game is permitted. The Jamboree must be conducted in accordance with NFHS game rules.

**Note:** Kicks may be eliminated during a Jamboree. Details on a Jamboree are posted on the OHSAA website.

**It is a violation of Sports Regulations if a school does not comply with the policies outlined in the Jamboree Application. Penalties include, but are not limited to, fines up to \$500, loss of one scrimmage in the following season and removal from the tournament.**

## 1.4) PREVIEW – Grades 9-12

One preview may be played in lieu of one scrimmage. A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning with the Friday before the season begins and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed two quarters for any one player or team and shall be played in accordance with the National Federation Football Rules. An admission charge is permitted.

## 1.5) QUARTERS AND GAME LIMITATIONS

- 1.51A) 9th-12th grade student is limited to playing:
  - a) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
  - b) A maximum of 50 quarters per season (excluding OHSAA tournaments).
- 1.51B) 7th & 8th grade student is limited to playing:
  - a) A maximum of four quarters in one day.
  - b) A maximum of 32 quarters per season (28 quarters if seven regular season games are scheduled).
- 1.52) **Any player who participates in one or more consecutive downs in one quarter shall be charged with one quarter of play. A down in which the offensive team is in a scrimmage kick formation or a free kick occurs does not count in the quarter limitation. A down repeated due to penalty does not count.**

## 1.6) LENGTH OF PERIODS

- 1.61) Grades 7 & 8 — Maximum length of each quarter is eight minutes.
- 1.62) Grades 9-12 – Maximum length for each quarter for 9th, JV and Reserve – 10 minutes. Varsity – Maximum length of each quarter is 12 minutes.
- 1.63) Overtime Procedure: Regular season varsity high school games which are tied at the end of regulation time shall be continued until there is a winner (no ties)

by using the 20-yard line overtime procedure. **Overtime is not permitted below the varsity level.**

**Note:** Use the OHSAA overtime procedure that is posted on the OHSAA website and published in the OHSAA Football Manual. Do **NOT** use the overtime procedure listed in the NFHS Rules Book.

- 1.64) Point Differential/Running Clock: After the first half of regular season 7th-8th grade, sub-varsity and varsity contests, any time the score differential reaches 30 points or more, a running clock shall be used. After the 30-point differential has been met but the score drops below 30 points, the clock reverts to regular timing.

Running clock procedures, which include when the clock will still be stopped, are published on the OHSAA website and in the OHSAA Football Manual.

**Note:** The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3-1-3, which reads: "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining periods may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."

#### 1.7) NO CONTEST/FORFEIT

Teams are expected to play all games not begun on the earliest potential makeup date. If a game is not played on the scheduled date and the schools are unable to agree to a mutually convenient makeup date, the Commissioner's office will determine whether the date is treated as a "no-contest" or forfeiture, taking into consideration the reason for cancelling the scheduled contest and the rationale used by the schools in their efforts to re-schedule the contest.

#### 1.8) GRADES 7 & 8 – SPECIAL INFORMATION

##### 1.81) GAME BALL — (Wilson Game Ball Recommended)

The football used in games involving players in the 7th or 8th grade shall be the youth football. Specifications are listed in the National Federation Football Rule Book.

##### 1.82) MODIFICATION

In games involving only players below ninth grade, teams will not free kick. In place of a free kick, the receiving team will put the ball in play by a snap. The snap shall be made from the yard line 25 yards beyond the kicking team's free kick line. This modification does **NOT** apply to scrimmage kicks (punts or placement).

#### 2) Out-of-State Travel

A football team may travel out of state to compete in contests (scrimmages, previews and games) in states that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The Canadian province includes Ontario. Additionally, a football team may travel to a non-contiguous state or province one time per interscholastic season provided there is no loss of school time. (Bylaw 9-2-1). A football team may not travel out of state to practice (See Bylaw 9-2-2 for exceptions).

#### 3) Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

Any student or coach ejected or disqualified for unsporting conduct or a flagrant foul shall be ineligible for all football contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, he/she shall be ineligible for all football games at all levels until one regular season/tournament contest is played at the same level as the ejection or disqualification. (General Sports Regulations Sections 13 and 14).

#### 4) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play football, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (scrimmages, previews, Foundation games, jamborees) until regular season contest number six (6) in football.

**5) Non-Interscholastic Participation**

- 5.1) Regulations pertaining to Non-Interscholastic Participation may be found in General Sports Regulation 7.4.

**Note:** All activities must be non-contact and the only football equipment the player may wear are helmets and cleats.

## 5.2) ALL-STAR COMPETITION

In the sport of football, only a graduating senior or a student completing athletic eligibility at the end of the current semester may participate in “All-Star” competition.

See General Sports Regulation 7.4 for regulations permitting students to participate on non-school teams outside of the school team’s season.

See General Sports Regulation 7.6 for regulations permitting coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team’s season (“All-Star” Games).

## 5.3) INDIVIDUAL NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION DATES:

5.31) A football athlete who has not participated for the school team in football that season must cease non-interscholastic football competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Semifinals in Football in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

5.32) Football players may be used for out-of-season demonstrations only if approved in advance by the Commissioner.

## 5.4) COACHING AND COACHES

5.41 All interscholastic football coaches, whether paid or volunteer, must be approved by the Board of Education.

5.42 See General Sports Regulation 8.2.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to provide individual skill instruction from August 1 through May 31.

5.43 See General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 for regulations permitting school coaches to coach their own student-athletes on non-school teams outside the school team’s season (10-day rule).

**6) Coaches — No Contact Period**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period – Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

**7) Penalties**

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.4 (participation with a non-interscholastic football squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad, EXCEPT a senior, is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic football season and/or the ensuing football season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

**8) Addendum to 2016 Football Regulations**

8.1) The 2016 Football Manual is published as an addendum to these regulations. Items of interest include, but are not limited to, regulations regarding contest management, bands, conduct of practice, 25 second clocks, protection of officials, additional penalties, etc.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching and tryouts may begin — August 1 for all schools.
- 2) First game — August 22, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end – Conclusion of last regular season or tournament game.
- 4) Scrimmages or Preview and Jamboree – Two scrimmages or one scrimmage and one preview. Schools may also participate in a Jamboree. See the OHSAA website for details.

- 5) Regular season games —10.  
EXCEPTION: A league or conference may play one additional game to determine the league or conference champion. Any league or conference championship game in which the opponents are not determined prior to the start of the regular season do not count toward the computer rankings. No such game may be played after **November 5**.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Football.
- 7) Officials:
  - 7.1) Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 football only. Recommended crew of at least 5.
  - 7.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 football only.  
Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training. Recommend crew of 4 or more.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and tryouts may begin — August 1 for all schools.
- 2) First game may be played – After 15 days of practice, but no earlier than **August 18, 2016**.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — **October 29, 2016** or at the conclusion of the last contest, whichever occurs earliest.
- 4) Scrimmage — One after 10 days of practice and prior to the first game or two if only seven games are scheduled.
- 5) Regular Season games — Maximum of 8. If two scrimmages are played, seven games permitted.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Football (with kickoff modification).
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 football officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or OHSAA football officials in training. Recommend crew of 4.

Football	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Coaching Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
Interscholastic Scrimmage Dates	8/9-8/20	8/9-8/19	8/9-8/18	8/9-8/24	8/9-8/22
Season Begins	8/22	8/21	8/20	8/26	8/24
Non-Interscholastic Date	10/10	10/9	10/8	10/14	10/12
Regional Quarterfinals	11/4-11/5	11/3-11/4	11/2-11/3	11/8-11/9	11/6-11/7
Regional Semifinals	11/11-11/12	11/10-11/11	11/9-11/10	11/15-11/16	11/13-11/14
Regional Finals	11/18-11/19	11/17-11/18	11/16-11/17	11/22-11/23	11/20-11/21
State Semifinals	11/25-11/26	11/24-11/25	11/23-11/24	11/29-11/30	11/27-11/28
State Finals	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Thanksgiving	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/28	11/26
Season Ends	Conclusion of last regular season or OHSAA tournament game				
Coach — No Contact Period	Begins on first day after last game and ends after 28th day				

REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS — ORDER OF COMPETITION

Year	Regional Tournaments — State Semifinals						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
2016	F	F	S	F	S	F	S

SESSION SEQUENCE — STATE FINALS

Year	Dec. 1 – TBA for Divisions I, II, IV or VI
2016	Dec. 2 – TBA for Divisions I, II, IV or VI
	Dec. 3 – TBA for Divisions III, V, VII

## 7. GOLF — BOYS AND GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) PARTICIPATION LIMITATION — 9th-12th Grades — 20 matches (20 days) 7th & 8th grades — 14 matches (14 days). A high school team and/or golfer may participate in a maximum number of 20 regular season contests. Any and all matches participated in by an individual shall count towards the team's match limitation of 20. 7th and 8th grade golfers are permitted 14 matches. Each contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents.

1.2) INTERRUPTED CONTEST (regular season)

When play is interrupted/suspended due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, the contest may be resumed from the point of interruption that day, provided the golf course can be played in the same layout on which the course was found at the beginning of the competition that day. If play cannot be resumed from the point of interruption that day, the match/tournament shall be replayed from the beginning on a future date and any suspended play will not count. The determination to resume play shall be made by the PGA Professional and/or home coach in accordance with OHSAA guidelines.

1.3) INTERRUPTED TOURNAMENT

Any OHSAA tournament contest interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be resumed from the point of interruption. (At the state tournament, the tournament manager retains the right to determine whether to resume play or revert to an 18 hole event.)

1.4) SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE — No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.

1.5) CADDIES — Caddies are not permitted during a contest. Participants will be disqualified if any person assists by caddying or if the participant rides in any type of vehicle.

EXCEPTION: A medically authorized waiver is permitted for the use of a vehicle. A copy of the doctor's statement and school request cover letter must be filed with the OHSAA and the OHSAA authorization shown to the referee.

1.6) PULL CARTS — Pull carts are permitted.

1.7) SCORING — Stroke-play shall be utilized for all contests. The team score shall be determined by totaling the scores of the four players with the fewest strokes for the contest. The team with the fewest number of strokes is the winner. During regular season matches, schools may play six individuals and score four by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches, prior to the match.

1.7.1) Ties in team scoring shall be resolved by comparing the scores of the 5th lowest score, and the team with the 5th lowest score shall prevail. If one team does not have a 5th score, the team with a 5th score shall prevail. If the 5th lowest score does not break the tie, schools playing six individuals shall compare the sixth lowest score to break the tie. If the tie remains, the contest shall end in a tie or tied teams may play off the tie using four players selected by the coaches of the tied teams.

In regular season play if a playoff is not feasible, the contest will end in a tie.

In regular season play, ties for medalist or other awards will be left up to the host school.

EXCEPTION: Two non-league matches may be played in a match-play format mutually agreed upon by opposing coaches prior to the contest, not to exceed 36 holes.

- 1.8) CONDUCT — A two stroke penalty shall be assessed for unsporting conduct. Unsporting conduct shall include but not be limited to: club throwing, willful acts which damage property or equipment on the course, use of abusive language, profanity, obscenities, and other unsporting conduct as determined by the Golf Rules Committee. Penalties imposed may include disqualification.
- 1.9) The home school coach shall serve as referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and U.S.G.A. rules. Any coach and/or designee serving in that capacity who is giving advice pertaining to these regulations and/or rules must have the regulations and rules book with him/her to ensure the rule/regulation is administered correctly.
- 1.10) COACHING — The coaching regulation permits the school board-approved coach/designee assigned to the event to speak with his/her player(s), without delay of play, at any time. Participants will be disqualified if any other individual assists the participant by coaching and giving advice which could influence a player in determining play, the choice of a club or method of making a stroke (Rule 8).

**Note:** A team member is not a partner and may not give advice to or receive advice from another member. The following procedures govern on-course coaching:

- 1.10.1) During the player's stipulated round, coaches are not permitted on any green or in any sand bunker.

If a group should lose their position the group must be playing at a pace slower than 15 minutes per hole. To fall behind the group in front does not always mean a group is playing slow.

If the group fails to regain their position on the course within a reasonable time established by officials then the group should be notified that they are "going on the clock." At that point, any player who does not complete his/her turn to play in the allowed forty-five seconds is assessed a two stroke penalty. A second violation is another two stroke penalty, and a third violation results in a disqualification.

ie. "45 second rule" – once a player reaches their ball, and their turn has arrived to play, they must complete their shot within the 45 seconds allowed.

- 1.11) DISTANCE-MEASURING DEVICES — In accordance with USGA Rules of Golf "A player may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only. If during a stipulated round, a player uses a distance-measuring device that is designed to gauge or measure other conditions that might affect his play (e.g., gradient, windspeed, temperature, etc.), the player is in breach of Rule 14-3, for which the penalty is disqualification, regardless of whether any such additional function is actually used." Cell Phones **may not** be used as distance measuring devices in OHSAA events.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic golf squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, or regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or member of a team in the sport of golf during the school's golf season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

**Note:** Examples of golf contests include, but are not limited to, club or course championships, scrambles, tournaments, leagues, charitable events and other events that are organized for the purpose of competition.

- 2.2) An athlete who has participated for the school in the sport of golf in that season but has been invited to/qualified for the U.S. Amateur for boys and girls, the Junior Ryder Cup for boys and girls and/or the Junior Solheim Cup for girls may be granted a waiver/exemption to participate in those competitions without jeopardizing eligibility provided written permission is obtained from the OHSAA Commissioner's Office. If applicable, the student granted such a waiver/exemption may return to participate in OHSAA tournament competition so long as tournament regulations regarding entry/participation are adhered to.

- 2.3) Participation in “skills contests” (such as but not limited to “Drive, Chip and Putt”) is **not** a violation of OHSAA Non-Interscholastic Individual Sports Regulation 7.2.2 for student-athletes.
- 2.4) **INDIVIDUAL NON-INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION DATE** — An individual who has not participated as a representative for the school in a golf contest during the current season must cease non-interscholastic competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Golf Tournament to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition in golf.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in golf who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in golf shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in golf in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: September 5, 2016 - For all boys and girls divisions

- 2.5) Interscholastic golf coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

### 3) Sponsorship

- 3.1) A school that sponsors girls golf, with four or more girls participating, shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition.
- 3.2) A school that sponsors girls golf and has less than four girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament.
- 3.3) A school that sponsors boys and girls golf and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.
- 3.4) A school that does not sponsor girls golf but has four or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

### 4) Penalties

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2, participation on a non-interscholastic golf squad, or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic golf season or the ensuing season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

### 5) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in golf, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests until regular season contest number 11 in golf and then eligible for no more than 10 contests for the remainder of the regular season.

### 6) Other Bylaws and Regulations

- 6.1) For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Golf Coaches Guide posted at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).
- 6.2) For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 and the Golf Coaches Guide posted at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

6.3) Spectators are permitted, but are NOT permitted to converse with participants. It will be the responsibility of contestants in each foursome to caution ANY spectator from talking to or interfering with contestants in their group. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of disqualification of contestants involved.

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 5, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — September 12, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — September 18, 2016.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — October 29, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages — One permitted any time during the season.
- 7) Regular season contests — 20 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents. (20 days)
- 8) Rules — United States Golf Association.
- 9) Officials — No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First contest — August 5, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — October 29, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests — 14 for team and individual and each interscholastic contest counts as one whether 9 or 18 holes and regardless of number of opponents.
- 6) Rules — United States Golf Association.
- 7) Officials — No requirements.

Golf	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Coaching Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/5	8/5	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6
Non-Interscholastic Date All B&G Div.	9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	9/7	9/6
Sectional Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	9/26-10/1#	9/25-9/30#	9/24-9/29#	9/23-9/28#	9/28-10/3#	9/27-10/2#
Sectional Boys Division I & Girls I	10/3-10/8#	10/2-10/7#	10/1-10/6#	9/30-10/5#	10/5-10/10#	10/4-10/9#
District Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	10/3-10/8	10/2-10/7	10/1-10/6	9/30-10/5	10/5-10/10	10/4-10/9
District Boys Division I & Girls I	10/10-10/15	10/9-10/14	10/8-10/13	10/7-10/12	10/12-10/17	10/11-10/16
State Boys Divisions II & III & Girls II	10/14-10/15	10/13-10/14	10/12-10/13	10/11-10/12	10/16-10/17	10/15-10/16
State Boys Division I & Girls I	10/21-10/22	10/20-10/21	10/19-10/20	10/18-10/19	10/23-10/24	10/22-10/23
Season Ends	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/31	10/30
Rosh Hashanah	10/3-10/4	9/21-9/22	9/10-9/11	9/30-10/1	9/19-9/20	9/7-9/8
Yom Kippur	10/11-10/12	9/29-9/30	9/18-9/19	10/8-10/9	9/27-9/28	9/15-9/16

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

**8. GYMNASTICS — GIRLS****A. GENERAL REGULATIONS****1) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:**

A gymnastics athlete who has not participated for the school in gymnastics that season must cease non-interscholastic gymnastics competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the state tournament in gymnastics in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in gymnastics who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in gymnastics shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in gymnastics in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: January 16, 2017.

**2) Interscholastic Participation**

To be eligible for the team event competition in the OHSAA tournament in girls gymnastics, a school shall compete in a minimum of two interscholastic contests as a team (3 or more athletes in each of the four events) prior to the OHSAA Tournament.

**2.1) Contest Limitations—**

A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

**3) Non-Interscholastic Participation**

3.1) A member of an interscholastic gymnastics squad (any student who has participated in a regular season/tournament contest sponsored by the Board of Education) shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest as an individual or member of a team in the sport of gymnastics during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

3.2) Interscholastic gymnastics coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

**4) Penalties**

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic gymnastics squad while a member of the school's interscholastic gymnastics squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic gymnastics season or the ensuing gymnastics season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

**5) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See **Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players** under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations here

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/r/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>

and in the Girls Gymnastics Manual <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/gy/girls/gymanual.pdf>.

For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at

<http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf> and the Girls Gymnastics Manual

<http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/gy/girls/gymanual.pdf>.

For information about the transfer bylaw, please go to this link

<http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/TransferBylawGuidance.htm> to assist in understanding this bylaw.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.

2) First contest — December 5, 2016.

- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA tournament — January 23, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — February 19, 2017.
- 5) Coaching and Season end with the State Tournament — March 4, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — 14 for team and individuals; no limit on number of opponents.
- 8) Rules — U.S.A. Gymnastics.
- 9) Officials
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 judge required. It is strongly recommended that two Class 1 judges officiate each meet. Class 2 judges may be utilized, but it is highly recommended that a Class 2 official judge with a Class 1 official.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 judge recommended.
  - 9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 or 2 or non-registered level 8 JCI or higher recommended.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) First contest — December 5, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end with the State Tournament — March 4, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests — 12 for team and individuals.
- 6) Rules — U.S.A. Gymnastics.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 or non-registered level 8 JCI or higher recommended.

Gymnastics	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Season Begins	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	11/6	11/5
Regular Season Contests Begin	12/5	12/4	12/3	12/2	12/7	12/6
Non-Interscholastic Date	1/16	1/15	1/14	1/13	1/18	1/17
Sectional & District	2/13-2/25	2/12-2/24	2/11-2/23	2/10-2/22	2/15-2/27	2/14-2/26
State	3/3-3/4	3/2-3/3	3/1-3/2	2/28-3/1	3/5-3/6	3/4-3/5
Season Ends	3/4	3/3	3/2	3/1	3/6	3/5
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

## 9. ICE HOCKEY

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Only school teams recognized by the local Board of Education are eligible to participate in the OHSAA-sponsored tournament.
- 1.2) An individual may participate in a subvarsity game and a varsity game in the same day. Participation in both counts as two games in the contest limitation of 35. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)

\*A team/Individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests may be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

- 1.3) PREVIEW — a maximum of one preview at which admission may be charged may be played according to the following schedule:

A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed two periods for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Ice Hockey Rules.

- 1.4) Any regular season game in ice hockey which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics.

- 1.5) A member school, when instituting an interscholastic ice hockey program for its initial season, or renewing such a program after not having had an interscholastic ice hockey program the preceding school year, shall be permitted to conduct tryouts for such interscholastic ice hockey squad between April 15 and May 30 of the relevant year.

Said tryouts shall be conducted under the direction and supervision of the head and/or assistant coach for that interscholastic ice hockey squad, or if not yet retained, an adult familiar with interscholastic ice hockey who shall be selected by the principal and/or athletic administrator of such school.

Said tryouts shall be conducted so as to conflict as little as possible with spring sports sponsored by the member school. Sundays may be used for such tryouts if no other dates are conveniently available for the student athletes, due to academic, athletic or extracurricular activities.

Said school shall conduct no more than three (3) such tryout sessions.

The school shall also conduct a supplemental tryout at the beginning of the winter sports season for all student athletes who could not attend the earlier tryout or who have since enrolled at the member school.

Students qualifying for such squad at the initial April/May tryout shall not be removed from such squad at the winter sports tryout unless academically or otherwise ineligible for participation.

This set of procedures may likewise be used by a member school which is reestablishing an interscholastic ice hockey program so long as such school did not compete in the OHSAA Ice Hockey Tournament the preceding school year.

#### 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic ice hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of ice hockey during the school's season. This regulation is applicable for those

invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practices at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school team such as a club (Sports Regulation 7.3).

- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic ice hockey squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic ice hockey prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
- 2.21) The number of interscholastic ice hockey players from the same school on the non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.
- Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic ice hockey squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of ice hockey are exempt from this limitation.
- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of ice hockey squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31.
- 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the three player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.25) All-Star Games —There are many directors of non-interscholastic competitions that use the term “All-Star” in describing their events. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the interscholastic season of their sports may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.5.

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her own school in a competition that has the following components:

- 1) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
- 2) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
- 3) Participants shall play in no more than two All-Star games.
- 4) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school (Sports Regulation 7.3).

**Penalty:** For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.

- 2.3) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

An ice hockey athlete who has not participated for the school in ice hockey that season must cease non-interscholastic ice hockey competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the state tournament in ice hockey in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Date: January 23, 2017.

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Ice Hockey Manual that is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**4) No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period* — Coaches under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Ice Hockey Manual that is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**5) Penalties**

5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic ice hockey squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic ice hockey squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic ice hockey season or the ensuing ice hockey season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**6) Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in ice hockey, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and previews) until regular season contest number 18 in the sport of ice hockey.

**7) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on **Ejections for Unsporting Conduct**, see **Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players** under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations and in the Ice Hockey Manual, which is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). For information on Out of State Travel regulations, see Bylaw 9-2 which is posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)) and in the Ice Hockey Manual, which is posted on the “Ice Hockey” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) First game — November 25, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — January 25, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — February 8, 2017.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — March 12, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages and Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. A preview shall be limited to a maximum of two 15 minute periods played according to National Federation Ice Hockey Rules.
- 7) Regular season games — Maximum of 35 regular season games plus OHSAA tournament. Each contest played counts in the maximum of 35 contests permitted.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Ice Hockey.
- 9) Officials
  - 9.1) Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 officials required.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended.
  - 9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) First game — November 25, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — March 12, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season games — 15 plus one postseason tournament not to exceed three games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Ice Hockey.
- 7) Officials — OHSAA Class 1 officials recommended.

<b>Ice Hockey</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20	8/1-8/31/21
Coaching Begins	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	11/6	11/5
Earliest Preview Date	11/18	11/17	11/16	11/15	11/20	11/19
Season Begins	11/25	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/27	11/26
Non-Interscholastic Date	1/23	1/22	1/21	1/20	1/25	1/24
District	2/13-3/4	2/12-3/3	2/11-3/2	2/10-2/29	2/15-3/5	2/14-3/5
State	3/11-3/12	3/10-3/11	3/9-3/10	3/6-3/7	3/12-3/13	3/11-3/12
Season Ends	3/12	3/11	3/10	3/7	3/13	3/12
Easter	4/16	4/1	3/31	4/12	4/4	4/17
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20	8/1-8/31/21	8/1-8/31/22

**10. LACROSSE — BOYS**

A. ALL GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE FOR BOYS LACROSSE *UNLESS* NOTED WITHIN THE REGULATIONS BELOW.

B. GENERAL REGULATIONS

**1) Interscholastic Participation**

- 1.1) A student athlete in grades 9-12 may play in a maximum of 92 quarters for the season plus the OHSAA-sponsored tournament. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.2) A student-athlete in grades 7-8 may play in a maximum of 64 quarters plus one post-season tournament not to exceed four games by one team. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.3) A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than six quarters during any one day. Any part of a quarter is to be considered as a full quarter. In an overtime game, the extended time shall be considered an extension of the fourth quarter.

**Exception:** if a team participates in a festival tournament format (example: play-day) with either abbreviated or full contest timing, a student-athlete may participate in a maximum of 12 quarters during such tournament.

- 1.4) Penalty for participation in more than six (6) quarters per day:

—When discovered during a contest, the player shall be disqualified from the game when discovered, the team shall play short for the remainder of the game. All quarters played shall count toward the maximum permitted.

—When discovered after a contest is completed, there is no team or individual penalty but all quarters played by the individual shall count toward the maximum permitted for the player.

- 1.5) A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.
- 1.6) Any scheduled regular season game in boys lacrosse which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closing, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and do not count toward the total number of games permitted to schedule.
- 1.7) All games shall consist of 4 quarters of the following length:

Varsity: 12 minutes

Junior Varsity and Freshmen: 10 minutes

Junior High: 8 minutes

EXCEPTION: 8th or “A” teams may elect to play 10 minute stop-time quarters, provided a) both teams agree; b) the game is scheduled and the assignor informed of the game length in advance; and c) the home team pays the appropriate game fee in the region (same as a Freshmen or JV game).

- 1.8) Interrupted Games

1.81) Any OHSAA tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.

1.82) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to complete the game.

1.83) If a game is interrupted in the fourth quarter with 80% or more of the game completed (or nine minutes or less remaining to play in a Varsity contest); and due to events beyond the control of responsible administrative authority (e.g. lightning); the team in the lead shall be declared the winner with the score as it stands when the game was suspended.

1.84) Varsity games cannot end in a tie. Games are won, lost or suspended.

1.85) All suspended games count toward the teams' maximum allowed. All quarters or parts of quarters played in a suspended game count toward the players' maximum allowed.

1.9) **OVERTIME PROCEDURES — Only high school Varsity games will play overtime.** All other levels of competition can end in a tie and no overtime will be played. **EXCEPTION** – Non-varsity tournament games, where a winner must be determined in order to advance in the correct bracket, may utilize overtime provided the participants and game officials are notified in advance of the start of the tournament.

1.10) All teams must respect a three-day acclimatization period during the first three days of practice. All athletes joining the team for the first time at any point during the season after the first day permitted for coaching also must participate in a three-day acclimatization period prior to any contact drills. There must be an adequate recovery period between practice sessions.

1.10.1) During practices within the acclimation period, players may wear helmets, gloves, and all protective padding. Sticks and balls are also permitted. Prior to the fourth day of practice no contact is permitted. During the first three days of practice, athletes may engage in conditioning, speed, strength and agility drills and may use “dummies” for drills and walk-throughs.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic boys lacrosse squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of boys lacrosse during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

**EXCEPTION:** The Commissioner's office may grant a waiver to this regulation in the event that the athlete has been selected to compete as a member of a junior or senior national team in the sport – General Sports Reg. 7.7. The intent of the waiver is to protect the integrity of the regulation and the interscholastic program while allowing the development of national-caliber athletes who have been invited to compete non-interscholastically during the school season. The procedure for requesting the waiver requires that the principal or official designee of the member school direct a request to the OHSAA boys lacrosse administrator, waiver must be requested prior to tryout. Please include the supporting documentation with the letter request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis.

2.2) A member of an interscholastic boys lacrosse squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic boys lacrosse prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulations 7.3 and are detailed as follows:

2.21) The number of interscholastic boys lacrosse players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together OR participate together in any non-interscholastic event. “Rotating players” that would exceed this number (5) is not permitted and the use of any “guest player” would be counted as one of the 5 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic boys lacrosse squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of boys lacrosse are exempt from this limitation.

- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of boys lacrosse squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31 in accordance with General Sports Regulation 7.5.
- 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the five player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic boys lacrosse contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school boys lacrosse squad. Non-interscholastic programs and ‘team membership’ are defined in General Sports Regulation 7.1.
- 2.4) All-Star Games —“All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school boys lacrosse season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-interscholastic competition.”

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A boys lacrosse athlete who has not participated for the school in boys lacrosse that season must cease non-interscholastic boys lacrosse competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the state tournament in boys lacrosse in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Date: April 17, 2017.

- 2.6) **Indoor lacrosse** shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 7 players, nor fewer than 2 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the no-contact period and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic lacrosse players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor lacrosse roster is not limited.
- 2.7) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic boys lacrosse coaches are prohibited from coaching members of their own interscholastic squad members in indoor boys lacrosse except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

3) **Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) **No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

5) **Penalties**

- 5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic boys lacrosse squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic boys lacrosse squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school

squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligible for the remainder of the interscholastic boys lacrosse season or the ensuing boys lacrosse season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

- 5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7.5 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

#### 6) **Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play boys lacrosse, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and previews) until regular season contest number ten (10) in boys lacrosse and are eligible for no more than 46 quarters for the remainder of the season.

#### 7) **Other Bylaws and Regulations**

- 7.1) For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)

#### 7.2) **Out-of-State Travel**

For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

- 7.3) Boys lacrosse manual can be found on the boys lacrosse page on [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

### B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First match — Friday, March 17, 2017.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — May 1, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — May 7, 2017 — Time TBA.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — June 3, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — Maximum of three scrimmages.
- 7) Regular season contests permitted — 18.
- 8) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Boys Lacrosse.
- 9) Officials
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of three OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number officiating, all must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.
 

**Note:** If only two OHSAA officials are present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.
  - 9.2) Freshmen/Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number of officials, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.
 

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

### C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First match — Friday, March 17, 2017.

## BOYS LACROSSE 2016-2017

- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 3, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — Two (2) permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests permitted — 14 plus one (1) postseason tournament not to exceed four games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Boys lacrosse for U-15, modified as follows:
  - 6.1) Length of the game – Games will consist of four 10-minute stop-time quarters or four 8-minute stop-time quarters. (See Section 1.9.3 of the OHSLA Boys Lacrosse Regulation for details). Also see Section 1.9.4 for Alternative time-keeping.
  - 6.2) Play of the Game –
    - 6.21) No overtime will be played at this level (See Section 1.10 of the OHSLA Boys Lacrosse Regulations for details)
    - 6.22) There is running clock in the second half if the score differential reaches 12 goals or more (Rule 3, Section 1, Art. 2) unless a) the game is being played with 8-minutes stop-time quarters; and b) both coaches agree in advance to waive this rule.
  - 6.3) Personal Foul –
    - 6.31) Player/Coach Ejection – See Rule 3.0 of the OHSLA Boys Lacrosse Regulations.
    - 6.32) For illegal stick (Rule 5, Section 4) 2:00 minute non-releasable (not 3:00 min.).
    - 6.33) Waive all same color equipment rules, except uniform jersey. Jersey does not have to meet the NFHS uniform specifications, but all players on the team must wear the same colored jersey.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or officials in training.
 

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

Boys Lacrosse	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20	8/1-8/31/21
Coaching Begins	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/24	2/22	2/21
First Date for Full Practice	2/23	2/22	2/21	2/27	2/25	2/24
Season Begins	3/17	3/16	3/15	3/20	3/19	3/18
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19	4/18
Regional Qualifying	5/13-5/18	5/12-5/17	5/11-5/16	5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19
Regional Quarterfinals	5/17-5/20	5/16-5/19	5/15-5/18	5/20-5/23	5/19-5/22	5/18-5/21
Regional Semis & Finals	5/22-5/27	5/21-5/26	5/20-5/25	5/25-5/30	5/24-5/29	5/23-5/28
State	5/30-6/3	5/29-6/2	5/28-6/1	6/2-6/6	6/1-6/5	5/31-6/4
Season Ends	6/3	6/2	6/1	6/6	6/5	6/4
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

## 11. LACROSSE — GIRLS

A. ALL GENERAL SPORTS REGULATIONS ARE IN PLACE FOR GIRLS LACROSSE *UNLESS* NOTED WITHIN THE REGULATIONS BELOW.

### B. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) A student athlete in grades 9-12 may play in a maximum of 46 halves for the season plus the OHSAA-sponsored tournament. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.2) A student-athlete in grades 7-8 may play in a maximum of 32 halves plus one post-season tournament not to exceed four games by one team. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)
- 1.3) A student shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day. Any part of a half is counted as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)

**Exception:** if a team participates in a festival tournament format with either abbreviated or full contest timing, a student-athlete may participate in a maximum of six halves during such tournament.

Penalty for participation in more than three (3) halves per day:

—When discovered during a contest, the player shall be disqualified from the game when discovered, the team shall play short for the remainder of the game. All halves played shall count toward the maximum permitted.

—When discovered after a contest is completed, there is no team or individual penalty but all halves played by the individual shall count toward the maximum permitted for the player.

- 1.4) A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.
- 1.5) Any scheduled regular season game in girls lacrosse which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closing, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and do not count toward the total number of games permitted to schedule.
- 1.6) All games shall consist of 2 halves of the following length:
  - Varsity: 25 minutes
  - Junior Varsity and Freshmen: 20 minutes
  - Junior High: 25 minutes
- 1.7) Interrupted Games
  - 1.71) Any OHSAA tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
  - 1.72) Once play begins the officials shall have the authority to interrupt or suspend the game due to dangerous weather or field conditions. The official’s decision is final. A game is considered legal and complete if 80% of playing time has elapsed. An interrupted game continued on the same day shall be restarted from its point of interruption.
  - 1.73) If a suspended game (one in which less than 80 % of playing time has elapsed) is replayed on another day, it must be played from the point of interruption. A suspended game may be terminated and considered complete by mutual agree-

ment of the opposing coaches. The score at the point of termination will be the official score of the game.

- 1.74) All suspended games count toward the teams' maximum allowed. All halves or parts of halves played in a suspended game count toward the players' maximum allowed.
- 1.8) **OVERTIME PROCEDURES — Only high school Varsity games will play overtime.** All other levels of competition can end in a tie and no overtime will be played. **EXCEPTION** – Non-varsity tournament games, where a winner must be determined in order to advance in the correct bracket, may utilize overtime provided the participants and game officials are notified in advance of the start of the tournament.
- 1.81) When the score is tied at the end of regular playing time for a **regular season contest** and overtime is to be played, both teams will have a 5-minute rest and toss a coin (visiting captain calls) for choice of ends. The alternate possession shall continue from regulation. The game will be restarted by a center draw. The winner will be decided by “sudden victory.” The team scoring the first goal wins the game. The **single** overtime period will be six minutes in length of stop-clock time (clock stops on every whistle). The clock will be stopped after 3 minutes of play in order for teams to change ends with no delay for coaching. No substitutions may occur at this time. The game will be restarted by a center draw. **If the teams are still tied after six minutes have elapsed, the game will end in a tie.** This overtime rule is modified from the US Lacrosse, Rule 4 – Time Factors and Scoring, Section 7, to a single overtime period.
- 1.82) Festival tournaments such as HGT or Heights Invitational will use the regular season overtime procedures, or the tournament director may elect to let contests end in ties because of time considerations provided the participants and game officials are notified in advance of the start of the tournament.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic girls lacrosse squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of girls lacrosse during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

**EXCEPTION:** The Commissioner's office may grant a waiver to this regulation in the event that the athlete has been selected to compete as a member of a junior or senior national team in the sport – General Sports Reg. 7.7. The intent of the waiver is to protect the integrity of the regulation and the interscholastic program while allowing the development of national-caliber athletes who have been invited to compete non-interscholastically during the school season. The procedure for requesting the waiver requires that the principal or official designee of the member school direct a request to the OHSAA girls lacrosse administrator, waiver must be requested prior to tryout. Please include the supporting documentation with the letter request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic girls lacrosse squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic girls lacrosse prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulations 7.3 and are detailed as follows:
- 2.21) The number of interscholastic girls lacrosse players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to six on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together OR participate together in any non-interscholastic event. “Rotating players” that would ex-

ceed this number (6) is not permitted and the use of any “guest player” would be counted as one of the 6 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic girls lacrosse squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of girls lacrosse are exempt from this limitation.

- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of girls lacrosse squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31 in accordance with General Sports Regulation 7.5.
- 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the six player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic girls lacrosse contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school girls lacrosse squad. Non-interscholastic programs and ‘team membership’ are defined in General Sports Regulation 7.1.
- 2.4) All-Star Games —“All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school girls lacrosse season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-interscholastic competition.”

The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A girls lacrosse athlete who has not participated for a school team in girls lacrosse that season must cease non-interscholastic girls lacrosse competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the state tournament in girls lacrosse in order to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Date: April 17, 2017.

- 2.6) **Indoor lacrosse** shall be defined as a game played by two teams each consisting of not more than 7 players, nor fewer than 2 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the no-contact period and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season is permitted. The number of interscholastic lacrosse players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad of an indoor lacrosse roster is not limited.
- 2.7) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic girls lacrosse coaches are prohibited from coaching members of their own interscholastic squad members in indoor girls lacrosse except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

3) **Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

4) **No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

**5) Penalties**

- 5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic girls lacrosse squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic girls lacrosse squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic girls lacrosse season or the ensuing girls lacrosse season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.
- 5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7.5 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**6) Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play girls lacrosse, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and previews) until regular season contest number nine (9) in girls lacrosse.

**7) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

- 7.1) For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)
- 7.2) **Out-of-State Travel**  
For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).
- 7.3) Girls lacrosse manual can be found on the girls lacrosse page on [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First match — Friday, March 17, 2017.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — May 1, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — May 7, 2017 — Time TBA.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — June 3, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — Maximum of three scrimmages.
- 7) Regular season contests permitted — 18.
- 8) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Girls Lacrosse.
- 9) Officials
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of three OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number officiating, all must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.  
**Note:** If only two OHSAA officials are present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.
  - 9.2) Freshmen/Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number of officials, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.  
**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

D. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First match — Friday, March 17, 2017.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 3, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — Two (2) permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests permitted — 14 plus one (1) postseason tournament not to exceed four games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Girls lacrosse for U-14, modified as follows:
  - 6.1) Grade/Age – Open only to students in 7th and 8th grades. No student in 6th grade or below may participate regardless of age. If a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 attains the age of 15 before August 1, the student shall be ineligible to participate in 7th & 8th grade lacrosse for the school year commencing in that calendar year.
  - 6.2) Length of the game – 25 minutes, with “running clock,” the clock will run after goals and stop on every whistle in the last two minutes of each half unless there is a 10-goal differential clock does not stop after goals.
  - 6.3) No overtime will be played at this level
- 7) Officials — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 officials required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2, or 3 or officials in training.

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

<b>Girls Lacrosse</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Coach-No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20	8/1-8/31/21
Coaching Begins	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/24	2/22	2/21
Season Begins	3/17	3/16	3/15	3/20	3/19	3/18
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19	4/18
Regional Qualifying	5/13-5/18	5/12-5/17	5/11-5/16	5/16-5/21	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19
Regional Quarterfinals	5/17-5/20	5/16-5/19	5/15-5/18	5/20-5/23	5/19-5/22	5/18-5/21
Regional Semis & Finals	5/22-5/27	5/21-5/26	5/20-5/25	5/25-5/30	5/24-5/29	5/23-5/28
State	5/30-6/3	5/29-6/2	5/28-6/1	6/2-6/6	6/1-6/5	5/31-6/4
Season Ends	6/3	6/2	6/1	6/6	6/5	6/4
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

## 12. SOCCER — BOYS AND GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) A player shall not be permitted to participate in more than three halves during any one day with a total of 42 halves for the season. Any part of a half is counted as one half. In an overtime game, the overtime shall be considered an extension of the second half. (Penalty — See Sports Regulation 20.)

If a player participates in more than three halves in one day, the player shall be disqualified from the game when discovered, the team shall play short for the remainder of the game. All halves played shall count as halves toward the maximum permitted.

- 1.2) Any scheduled regular season game in soccer which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closing, is “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost statistics and do not count toward the total number of games permitted to schedule.
- 1.3) Any OHSAA tournament game interrupted due to events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority shall be continued from the point of interruption.
- 1.4) All games shall consist of 2 halves of the following length:  
 Varsity: 40 minutes  
 Junior Varsity and Freshmen: 36 minutes  
 Junior High: 30 minutes
- 1.5) **PREVIEW** — A preview may be scheduled and played starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching until date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A Preview must conform to all requirements defined in General Sports Regulation 23 – Preview. All NFHS Soccer Rules must be followed and a school team or player may participate in only one preview per season.
- 1.6) **OVERTIME PROCEDURES** — Overtime procedures have been established for OHSAA tournament play only. There is no overtime during regular season matches. Schools may request use of approved tournament overtime procedures for league/conference tournaments only. All requests must be made to the Commissioner’s Office and are subject to approval.
- 1.7) **Goal Differential/Running Clock** – During any regular season or tournament contest, any time the score differential reaches 6 goals or more AFTER the first half of the contest, a running clock shall be used. After the 6-goal differential has been met but the score drops below 6 goals, the clock reverts to regular timing. The clock shall be stopped only for an injured player on the field or when there is any unusual delay deemed necessary by the officials.

#### 2) Out-of-State Travel

A soccer team may travel out of state to compete in contest scrimmages, previews and games in states or provinces in Canada that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province includes Ontario. Additionally, a soccer team may travel out of state one time per interscholastic season to compete in states or provinces in Canada that are not contiguous to Ohio provided there is no loss of school time.

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. **Penalty for Violation:** The school 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.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner's office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

A soccer team may not travel out of state only to practice.

### 3) Disqualification or Ejection for Unsporting Conduct

#### 3.1) Players and Bench Personnel

A soccer player or bench personnel is considered "disqualified" upon receiving a subsequent caution, or "double yellow" (NF Rule 12-8-2(b)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest with no further penalties. The player is to remain with the team for the remainder of the contest.

A soccer player or bench personnel is considered "ejected" upon receiving a *straight* Red Card (NF Rule 12-8-3) and shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in soccer until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. The player is to remain with the team under the jurisdiction of the head coach for the remainder of the contest.

See the remainder of *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

#### 3.2) Coaches

A coach is considered "disqualified" upon receiving a subsequent caution, or "double yellow" (NF Rule 12-8-2(b)) and shall be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the current contest with no further penalties.

A soccer coach is considered "ejected" upon receiving a *straight* Red Card (NF Rule 12-8-3) and shall be ineligible for all contests for the remainder of that day. In addition, the coach shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels in soccer until two regular season/tournament contests are played at the same level as the ejection. The coach is required to leave the entire facility for the remainder of the contest. If there is no assistant coach or school personnel to coach the contest, the game is either suspended or completed at that point.

See the remainder of *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations.

### 4) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play soccer, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and previews) until regular season contest number eight (8) in soccer and will be eligible for no more than 8 regular season contests at any level.

### 5) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 5.1) A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of soccer during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.1).

Exception: The Commissioner's office may grant a waiver to this regulation in the event that the athlete has been selected to compete as a member of a junior or senior national team in the sport. – General Sports Reg 7.7 The intent of the waiver is to protect the integrity of the regulation and the interscholastic program while allowing the development of national-caliber athletes who have been invited to compete non-interscholastically during the school season. The procedure for requesting the waiver requires that the principal or official designee of the member school direct a request to the OHSAA soccer administrator. Please include the supporting documentation with the letter request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- 5.2) A member of an interscholastic soccer squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic soccer prior to and after the school season under the conditions of General Sports Regulation 7.3 and are detailed as follows:
- 5.21) The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad that would practice together OR participate together in any non-interscholastic event. "Rotating players" that would exceed this number (5) is not permitted and the use of any "guest player" would be counted as one of the 5 players permitted on the non-interscholastic roster.
- Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic soccer squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of soccer are exempt from this limitation.
- 5.22) There is no limit on the number of soccer squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31 in accordance with General Sports Regulation 7.5.
- 5.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the five player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 5.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 5.3) Indoor Soccer shall be defined as a game played by two teams, each consisting of no more than 6 players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and played indoors between the end of the school's soccer season and the day before the first day of coaching for the interscholastic season. There is no limit of players from the same school on an indoor soccer team, provided none of the interscholastic coaching staff, paid or unpaid, is coaching the indoor team.
- 5.4) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic soccer contest, game or scrimmage while a member of the school soccer squad. Non-interscholastic programs and 'team membership' are defined in General Sports Regulation 7.1.
- 5.5) All-Star Games — "All-Star" events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these "all-star" competitions outside the school soccer season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address "Non-Interscholastic Competition."

The purpose of this special "All-Star" regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in "All-Star" contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

## 5.6) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A soccer athlete who has not participated for a school team in soccer that season must cease non-interscholastic soccer competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in soccer in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

Date: September 26, 2016.

5.7) Participation in indoor soccer, exactly as written under the rules of The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) Indoor Soccer Rules, is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic team Sports Regulation 7 for student-athletes.

5.8) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic soccer coaches are prohibited from coaching members of their own interscholastic squad members in indoor soccer except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

**6) Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations.

**7) No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations.

**8) Penalties**

8.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic soccer squad while a member of the school's interscholastic soccer squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic soccer season or the ensuing soccer season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

8.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7.5 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First match — August 19, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — October 2, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — October 9, 2016, boys-2:00 p.m. and girls-3:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — November 12, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages plus one preview.
- 7) Regular season contests permitted — 16.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Soccer.
- 9) Officials
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number officiating, all must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.  
**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of two OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 officials required. Regardless of number of officials, ALL must be OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2.  
**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the game may be played if participating coaches agree.

9.3) Freshmen — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First match — Friday, August 19, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — November 12, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages — One scrimmage or one preview permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests permitted — 14 plus 1 postseason tournament not to exceed 4 games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation (NFHS) Soccer.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 official required. All other officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.

<b>Soccer</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Coaching Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/19	8/18	8/17	8/16	8/21
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/26	9/25	9/24	9/23	9/28
Sectional	10/17-10/22#	10/16-10/21#	10/15-10/20#	10/14-10/19#	10/19-10/24#
District	10/24-10/29	10/23-10/28	10/22-10/27	10/21-10/28	10/26-10/31
Regional	11/1-11/5	10/31-11/4	10/30-11/3	10/29-11/2	11/3-11/7
State	11/8-11/12	11/7-11/11	11/6-11/10	11/5-11/9	11/10-11/14
Season Ends	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/14
Thanksgiving	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/21	11/26
Coach — No Contact Period	Begins with first day after last interscholastic contest and ends 28 days later.				

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

### 13. SOFTBALL — GIRLS

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

##### 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) No team or individual may play more than two games per day.

**Exception:** teams and individuals may play and participate in 3 games per day on a non-school day one time during the regular season.

**Note:** Completion of a suspended game along with a regularly scheduled game(s) is not considered a doubleheader (Penalty – see General Sports Regulation 20).

- 1.2) **Teams** – No school team may participate in more than 27 regular season games on 27 playing dates.

**Note:** Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to Board of Education or similar governing board policy.

- 1.21) Any scheduled game which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances, such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, etc., is a “No Contest.” Games not played are not included in won-lost records.

1.22) Any team exceeding the regular season participation limitation shall not be permitted to participate in the OHSAA tournament.

##### 1.3) Individuals

- 1.31) An individual in grades 9-12 may play on a maximum of 32 playing dates plus OHSAA-sponsored tournaments.

1.32) An individual in grades 7-8 may play on a maximum of 21 playing dates plus one post-season or league/conference tournament.

- 1.33) If an individual plays a game at any level on separate dates, each game counts toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game on Monday and a varsity game on a Wednesday. Participation in both games counts as two dates toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

- 1.34) If an individual plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game in the same day, each contest does not count toward the 32 playing dates limitation. (Example: A student plays in a non-varsity game and a varsity game on a Thursday. Participation in both games counts as one date toward the 32 maximum for the individual player.)

**Note:** If the games described in 1.33 are occurring simultaneously, that same individual may not re-enter the game where the initial participation occurred.

##### 1.4) Interrupted Games

- 1.41) A game called for any reason, where a winner cannot be determined (NF 4-3-1), or any game called at any time for mechanical failure (artificial lights, water systems, etc.) will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, with the lineup and batting order of each team exactly the same as the lineup and batting order at the moment of suspension subject to the rules of the game. Such game will be completed unless both coaches agree not to do so.

- 1.42) A game which has gone five innings and is called while an inning is in progress and before it is completed and the following situation prevails shall be a suspended game:

The visiting team has scored one or more runs to tie the score or to take the lead and the home team has not retaken the lead.

A suspended game that is not completed at a later date due to the inability to reschedule is considered a “No Contest,” not counted in the won-lost statistics, and both teams are permitted to schedule another contest.

- 1.43) Games cannot end in a tie. Games are either won, lost or suspended.
- 1.5) Any suspended OHSAA tournament game shall be continued from the point of suspension at a later time. All OHSAA tournament games shall be played to completion (10 run rule applicable).
- 1.6) A game ends anytime after five innings when a team is 10 or more runs behind and has completed its term at bat.
- 1.7) No player may pitch in more than 10 innings in a three day period. Any part of an inning counts as one inning. (This regulation applies for both regular season and tournament games)
- 1.8) **Previews** – A preview may be scheduled and played only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season game of the teams involved. A preview may not exceed four innings for any one player or team and shall be played according to National Federation Softball Rules.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education or other governing board **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of softball during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 2.2) A member of a school Softball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic Softball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
- 2.21) The number of interscholastic softball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to four on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.
- Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic softball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of softball are exempt from this limitation.
- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of softball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period beginning Friday prior to Memorial Day weekend (May 26, 2017)–July 31, provided the players have concluded their school season.
- 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the four player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
- 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) A student may not play in a non-interscholastic softball contest, game or scrimmage, while a member of the school softball squad, until the student's school team has completed its schedule. This includes tournaments when applicable.
- 2.4) **All-Star Games** – “All-Star” events are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school softball season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulations 7.3 and 7.6 that address “Non-Interscholastic Competition. The purpose of this special “All-Star” regulation is to provide an opportunity for the interscholastic team sport coach to coach players from his or her school. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the provisions of General Sports Regulation 7.6.

## 2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A softball athlete who has not participated for a school team in softball that season must cease non-interscholastic softball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in softball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable bylaws and regulations have been followed.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in Softball who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in Softball shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in Softball in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: April 17, 2017.

## 2.6) Participation in indoor Softball is not a violation of OHSAA non-interscholastic Sports Regulation 7.3 if played indoors from November 1, 2016 – February 1, 2017, for student-athletes.

## 2.7) In accordance with Sports Regulation 7.5, interscholastic softball coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in non-interscholastic softball except for 10 days from June 1-July 31.

**3) Instructional Programs**

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**4) No Contact Period — Coaches**

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

**5) Penalties**

5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic softball squad while a member of the school's interscholastic softball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic softball season or the ensuing softball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such other penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**6) Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play softball, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (scrimmages, previews, Foundation games, jamborees) until regular season game number 14 in softball and then eligible for no more than 14 games on 16 playing dates.

**7) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations on the Softball Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org). For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 on the Eligibility Page at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) First game — March 25, 2017.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament — April 24, 2017.
- 4) Tournament seed/drawing meeting — April 30, 2017, 2:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — Saturday after state tournament (June 10, 2017).
- 6) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of four scrimmages or three scrimmages and one preview. Any contest played in a non-contiguous state must count as a game.
- 7) Regular season games permitted (team) — Maximum of 27 (on 27 playing dates).  
Doubleheaders may be played on any day pursuant to school policy.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — All must be OHSAA Class 1 officials.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 required.
  - 9.3) Freshman — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

**Note:** If only one OHSAA official is present to officiate the contest, the contest may be played if opposing coaches mutually agree.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — February 20, 2017.
- 2) Date first game may be played — March 25, 2017.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 10, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages permitted — A maximum of two scrimmages per year.
- 5) Regular season games permitted — Maximum 17 and one postseason, league/conference tournament not to exceed four games.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Fast Pitch Softball.
- 7) Officials — ALL must be OHSAA Class 1, 2, 3 or an umpire in training.

Softball	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Coach — No Contact Period	8/1-8/31/16	8/1-8/31/17	8/1-8/31/18	8/1-8/31/19	8/1-8/31/20
Coaching Begins	2/20	2/19	2/18	2/24	2/22
Season Begins	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/28	3/27
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19
Sectional	5/6-5/13	5/5-5/12	5/4-5/11	5/9-5/16	5/8-5/15
District	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19	5/13-5/18	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22
Regional	5/25-5/26	5/24-5/25	5/23-5/24	5/28-5/29	5/27-5/28
State	6/1-6/3	5/31-6/2	5/30-6/1	6/4-6/6	6/3-6/5
Season Ends	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/13	6/12
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

SOFTBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION SCHEDULE

2017-2021-2025	2018-2022-2026	2019-2023-2027	2020-2024-2028
I	II	III	IV
IV	I	II	III
III	IV	I	II
II	III	IV	I

**14. SWIMMING AND DIVING — BOYS AND GIRLS****A. GENERAL REGULATIONS****1) Interscholastic Participation****1.1) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates**

A swimming and diving athlete who has not participated for the school in a swimming and diving contest during the current season must cease non-interscholastic competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Swimming and Diving Tournament to be eligible for OHSAA tournament competition in swimming and diving.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in swimming and diving who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in swimming and diving shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in swimming and diving in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: January 9, 2017.

**1.2) Relay Entry**

In order to be eligible for relay event entry in the OHSAA-sponsored tournaments, a **school** shall compete in a minimum of two interscholastic contests as a school team prior to the non-interscholastic cutoff date (January 9, 2017).

**1.3) Sponsorship**

1.31) A school that sponsors girls swimming and diving with seven or more girls participating shall have a separate girls team in order to enter the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament competition in relay events.

1.32) A school that does not sponsor girls swimming and diving but has seven or more girls participating may permit the girls to participate on the boys team, but they must enter the OHSAA-sponsored boys tournament competition.

1.33) A school that sponsors girls swimming and diving and has less than seven girls participating may permit the girls to participate as individuals with the boys team during the regular season, and the girls will be permitted to enter and compete as individuals in the OHSAA-sponsored girls tournament provided the school is registered for the girls tournament.

1.34) A school that sponsors boys and girls swimming and diving and has separate teams shall schedule separate contests, but both may be held at the same time.

**1.4) School Representative**

No team or individual entry will be permitted to compete in a contest unless accompanied by the coach or a person authorized by the Board of Education. Teams or individuals unaccompanied by such school representative will be disqualified. The school representative shall be present throughout the contest.

**1.5) Scheduling of Contests**

1.51) A school may schedule varsity and non-varsity competition to be held on the same day. The opponents and officials shall be notified in advance that the contest will consist of both varsity and non-varsity competition. Competition thus scheduled is not considered to be exhibition.

1.52) All regular season swimming and diving contests that are concluded in a single day count as one contest regardless of the scoring procedure used or the number of schools competing (i.e., dual, double-dual, tri, quad, invitational, etc.)

**1.6) Lifeguards**

In accordance with final rule 3701-31-05 of Ohio's Health and Safety Code, the licensee of a public swimming pool, public spa or special use pool shall provide lifeguards.

This includes pools used for interscholastic swimming and diving practice and competition. Please see the complete text of these rules by linking from the OHSAA web site at [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org) or directly to the Ohio Department of Health site at [odh.state.oh.us](http://odh.state.oh.us).

### 1.7) Contest Limitations

A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic swimming and diving squad (any student who has participated in a regular season/tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest** as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of swimming and diving **during the school's season** (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

**Exception:** The Commissioner's office may grant a waiver to this regulation in the event that the athlete has been selected to compete as a member of a national team or has been invited to participate in national or international competition by virtue of his or her past performance in the sport. In the sport of swimming and diving the following guidelines have been used to determine waivers:

- 1) The student has been selected as a member of the junior or senior national team in swimming and/or diving by the achievement of national standards in an event or events.
- 2) The student was either the champion or the runner-up in the OHSAA State Swimming and Diving Tournament the immediately preceding year.

The intent of the waiver is to protect the integrity of the regulation and the interscholastic program while allowing the development of national-caliber athletes who have been invited to compete non-interscholastically during the school season. The procedure for requesting the waiver requires that the principal or official designee of the member school direct a request to the OHSAA swimming and diving administrator. Please include the supporting documentation with the letter of request. Each request will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- 2.2) Interscholastic swimming and diving coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

## 3) Penalty

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic swimming and diving squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school's interscholastic swimming and diving squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic swimming and diving season or the ensuing swimming and diving season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

## 4) Other Bylaws and Regulations

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations here <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> and in the Swimming and Diving Manual <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/sd/sdmanual.pdf>. For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at <http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf> and the Swimming and Diving Manual <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/sd/sdmanual.pdf>. For information about the transfer bylaw, please go to this link <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/TransferBylawGuidance.htm> to assist in understanding this bylaw

B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) OHSAA tournament deadline date — January 23, 2017.
- 3) Tournament seed/drawing meeting — February 5, 2017.
- 4) First contest — November 28, 2016.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — February 25, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — 16 for team and individuals. **Note:** Schools may schedule a maximum of 16 contests for divers either within a swimming and diving contest or in a separate diving competition.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Swimming and Diving.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 official required.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 official required.
  - 9.3) Freshman — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 3 official required.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 4, 2016.
- 2) First contest — November 28, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — February 25, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests — 12 for team and individuals.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Swimming and Diving.
- 7) Officials — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 3 official required.

Swimming & Diving	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Season Begins	11/4	11/3	11/2	11/1	11/6	11/5
Regular Season Contests Begin	11/28	11/27	11/26	11/25	11/30	11/29
Non-Interscholastic Date	1/9	1/8	1/7	1/6	1/11	1/10
Sectional	2/6-2/11	2/5-2/10	2/4-2/9	2/3-2/8	2/8-2/13	2/7-2/12
District	2/13-2/18	2/12-2/17	2/11-2/16	2/10-2/15	2/15-2/20	2/14-2/19
State	2/22-2/25	2/21-2/24	2/20-2/23	2/19-2/22	2/24-2/27	2/23-2/26
Season Ends	2/25	2/24	2/23	2/22	2/27	2/26
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

SWIMMING AND DIVING — BOYS AND GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION

2017 Diving	2017 Swimming	2018 Diving	2018 Swimming	2019 Diving	2019 Swimming
Boys Div. II	Girls Div. II	Girls Div. II	Girls Div. II	Boys Div. II	Girls Div. II
Girls Div. II	Boys Div. II	Boys Div. II	Boys Div. II	Girls Div. II	Boys Div. II
Boys Div. I	Girls Div. I	Girls Div. I	Girls Div. I	Boys Div. I	Girls Div. I
Girls Div. I	Boys Div. I	Boys Div. I	Boys Div. I	Girls Div. I	Boys Div. I

## 15. TENNIS — BOYS AND GIRLS

## A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

## 1) Interscholastic Participation

- 1.1) Dual competition consists of three singles matches and two doubles matches using seven different players.
- 1.2) Each individual match is best two out of three sets. The 12 point tie-breaker rule shall be used when necessary.
  - 1.21) During a regular season match, when the winner has been determined (3 points scored), coaches may mutually agree to utilize a “super tiebreaker” in lieu of the 3rd set.
- 1.3) During invitational and/or conference tournaments, each individual may play three, two of three set matches or up to five eight-game pro sets per day.
- 1.4) Prior to a match, coaches may mutually agree to use no advantage scoring during the season.
- 1.5) Maximum number of regular matches per individual per day is three. Maximum number of pro sets per day (eight games each) is five. Each match played in dual competition counts as one match in the season limitation. If a player participates in more than three matches or five pro sets in one day, the player shall forfeit the additional match and, it shall count as two matches for the school in the season limitations.
- 1.6) There shall be a two-minute rest period between each set.
- 1.7) If weather or darkness interrupts a match before either team has won three points (and thus the match), incompleted matches shall be resumed at the exact point where suspended. The match(es) shall be rescheduled at the earliest possible date agreeable to both coaches. Players not appearing for a rescheduled match shall forfeit their respective match. Unfinished matches shall not count in team scoring.
- 1.8) The warmup period for all matches shall not exceed 10 minutes.
- 1.9) All warmup serves in both singles and doubles shall be taken prior to the start of play.
- 1.10) Play shall be continuous as defined by U.S.T.A. regulations. In case of injury or illness, after evaluation by a coach or trainer, a player will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for treatment after which the player must resume play or forfeit the match.
- 1.11) Singles players must play in order of team rank. The better doubles team must play No. 1 doubles. This rule also applies to injury or illness preceding a match. Forfeiting a point for a missing player’s position is not allowed. If the No. 1 player cannot compete, the regular No. 2 player plays at No. 1, the regular No. 3 player plays at No. 2, and the substitute is placed at No. 3. “Stacking” is not allowed under any circumstances.
 

**Note:** This does not mean that the best player on the team must play first singles. However, if he/she is going to play singles, he/she must play at the No. 1 position.
- 1.12) Continuous coaching is permitted. In addition to coaching at the ends of games 3, 5, 7, etc. and the end of each set, a coach may coach their own player(s) any time during the 20 seconds between points as long as the coach does not interfere with actual play on the court.
- 1.13) A coach shall not initiate a conversation with an opposing player or coach.
- 1.14) A coach may sit or stand near the net post and must stay within the area where the players’ chairs or benches would be located if not provided, or be outside the court.
- 1.15) All team members must wear an appropriate school uniform or proper tennis attire, preferably in school colors. Proper tennis attire is defined as clothing specifically manufactured for tennis wear. Any lettering or pictures on clothing and/or headgear

must pertain to the school name or emblem, the student's name or be patriotic in nature (e.g. the United States flag). No phrases, quotes, or "slogans" shall be permitted. Manufacturer's names or logos are permitted provided they do not exceed one and a half inches in height. Girls have the option of tennis dress or school uniform. "Doubles" team players shall wear like color tops. Any visible undergarments that extend below the uniform shorts, dress, or skirt shall be the same color of the shorts, dress or skirt or represent school colors or, be all white or all black, or all gray. This dress code shall be enforced by the home coach or tournament director. Any clothing deemed to be "reflective" or "distractive" in nature shall not be permitted. Failure to comply will result in a player being denied the right to participate.

1.16) The home school coach shall serve as the referee, enforcing all OHSAA regulations and USTA rules.

1.17) **Any girl who has not participated on the girls team in the fall, either in a scrimmage or match, may participate on the boys team in the spring.**

1.18) A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests may be removed from the OHSAA tournament.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic tennis squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage or regular season/tournament match) sponsored by the Board of Education shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest or in non-interscholastic competition as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of tennis during the school's season (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

2.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A tennis athlete who has not participated for the school in tennis that season must cease non-interscholastic tennis competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in tennis in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

Dates: Girls: September 5, 2016; Boys: April 10, 2017.

Interscholastic tennis coaches may coach athletes from the school where employed outside the interscholastic season of the sport. No coach may require participation until the official start of the interscholastic season.

2.3) An athlete who has participated for the school in the sport of tennis in that season but has been invited to/qualified for the ITF International Hard Court Championships may be granted a waiver/exemption to participate in those competitions without jeopardizing eligibility provided written permission is obtained from the OHSAA Commissioner's Office. If applicable, the student granted such a waiver/exemption may return to participate in OHSAA tournament competition so long as tournament regulations regarding entry/participation are adhered to.

## 3) Penalties

The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic tennis squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school's interscholastic tennis squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic tennis season or the ensuing tennis season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

## 4) Transfer

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to play tennis, please go to the OHSAA Website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on "Eligibility" link, then click on the "Transfer Bylaw Resource Center" to assist in the understanding of this

bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw are in ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages) until regular season contest #12 in tennis.

**5) Other OHSAA Bylaws and Sports Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct, see *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). For information regarding OHSAA Out of State Travel Regulations, see Bylaw 9-2, which is also posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)). In addition, this information can also be found in the Tennis Coaches Manual that is located in the “Boys or Girls Tennis” section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:

Girls — August 1, 2016                      Boys — March 6, 2017

- 2) First Match:

Girls — August 12, 2016                      Boys — March 24, 2017

- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournament:

Girls — September 12, 2016                      Boys — April 24, 2017

- 4) Tournament draw/seeding date:

Girls — September 25, 2016                      Boys — April 30, 2017

- 5) Coaching and Season end:

Girls — Saturday after State Tournament – October 29, 2016

Boys — Saturday after State Tournament – June 3, 2017

After the conclusion of the sectional tennis tournaments, participants who qualify for further OHSAA tournament competition may practice with tennis players from other schools who have similarly advanced.

- 6) Scrimmages — Maximum of one prior to first match.

- 7) Regular season matches permitted:

- a. Maximum of 22 contests for team and individual (plus the OTCA team tournament) or the equivalent calculated as follows:

<b>Type of Match</b>		<b>Counts as</b>
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in one day	1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in two days	2
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in one day	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in two days	2
Invitational Tournament	Played as round robin	1 for each opponent

**Note:** If three or more teams come together and play an invitational and/or conference tournament and these teams play head to head (i.e. one team against another team) it shall count as one match for each head to head competition.

- b. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
  - c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches per day or five pro sets (tournament only) per day.
- 8) Rules — United States Tennis Association.
  - 9) Officials — No requirements.

C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin:  
 Girls — August 1, 2016                      Boys — March 6, 2017
- 2) First match:  
 Girls — August 12, 2016                      Boys — March 24, 2017
- 3) Coaching and Season end:  
 Girls — October 29, 2016  
 Boys — June 3, 2017
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season matches permitted:
  - a. Maximum of 16 contests for team and individual or the equivalent calculated as follows:

Type of Match		Counts as
Dual		1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in one day	1
League or Conference Tournament	Played in two days	2
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in one day	1
Invitational Tournament (Single or Double elimination)	Played in two days	2
Invitational Tournament	Played as round robin	1 for each opponent

**Note:** If three or more teams come together and play an invitational and/or conference tournament and these teams play head to head (i.e. one team against another team) it shall count as one match for each head to head competition.

- b. A team is limited to four tournaments per season.
  - c. A player is limited to participation in a maximum of three matches or four pro sets (tournaments only) per day.
- 6) Rules — United States Tennis Association.
  - 7) Officials — No requirements.

**TENNIS 2016-2017****Girls Tennis**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1
Season Begins	8/12	8/11	8/10	8/9	8/7
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/5	9/4	9/3	9/2	8/31
Sectional	10/3-10/8#	10/2-10/7#	10/1-10/6#	9/30-10/5#	9/28-10/3#
District	10/10-10/15	10/9-10/14	10/8-10/13	10/7-10/12	10/5-10/10
State	10/21-10/22	10/20-10/21	10/19-10/20	10/18-10/19	10/16-10/17
Season Ends	10/29	10/28	10/27	10/26	10/24
Thanksgiving	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/28	11/26
Rosh Hashanah	10/3-10/4	9/21-9/22	9/9-9/10	9/30-10/1	9/19-9/20
Yom Kippur	10/11-10/12	9/29-9/30	9/18-9/19	10/8-10/9	9/27-9/28

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

**Boys Tennis**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Coaching and Tryouts Begin	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/9	3/8
Season Begins	3/24	3/23	3/22	3/27	3/26
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/10	4/9	4/8	4/13	4/12
Sectional	5/8-5/13#	5/7-5/12#	5/6-5/11#	5/11-5/16#	5/10-5/15#
District	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19	5/13-5/18	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22
State	5/26-5/27	5/25-5/26	5/24-5/25	5/29-5/30	5/28-5/29
Season Ends	6/3	6/2	6/1	6/1	6/1
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

#Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

## 16. TRACK AND FIELD (OUTDOOR) — BOYS AND GIRLS

### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### 1) Interscholastic Participation

1.1) Each student participant is limited to participation in a maximum of one contest per day.

1.2) Participation limitations:

Grades 9-12 — Maximum of four track and field events per contest. The four events may be any combination of track and field events, including relays, or may be four track events or four field events. This regulation applies to all competitions, single and multi-day, and both regular season and OHSAA tournaments. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATION PENALTY**—An athlete who exceeds the participation limitation becomes an ineligible athlete. The forfeiture bylaws apply as written in Bylaw 10.

Participation in non-varsity and varsity events on the same day is permissible provided the individual participation limit is not exceeded and occurs within the same contest.

Grades 7 & 8 — Maximum of three events per contest.

1.3) The javelin is not an approved event in interscholastic competition.

1.4) A school squad may be divided so that the school is represented at two different contests on the same day. However, each contest counts in the maximum of 16 permitted for that school team.

1.5) Grades 7 & 8: 10 days of practice required prior to first interscholastic competition.

#### 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

2.1) A member of an interscholastic track and field squad (any student who has participated in a regular season or tournament contest) sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic contest** as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of track and field **during the school's season** (Sports Regulation 7.2.2).

2.2) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A track and field athlete who has not participated for the school in track and field that season must cease non-interscholastic track and field competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the State Tournament in track and field in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

In addition, an athlete who has participated for the school in track and field who violates this non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest in track and field shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in track and field in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed.

Date: April 17, 2017.

2.3) Road racing is interpreted as a different sport than track and field. If the entire race is run on a road, participation is not a violation of the non-interscholastic competition bylaw.

#### 3) Penalties

3.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic track and field squad or in non-interscholastic competition while a member of the school's interscholastic track and field squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic track and field season or the ensuing track and field season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

**4) Transfer Bylaw**

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in track and field, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests until regular season contest number nine (9) in track and field.

**5) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org).

Please find the Track & Field Manual at [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) on the Track & Field Page.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — March 6, 2017.
- 2) First contest — March 25, 2017.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — April 24, 2017.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding meeting — April 30, 2017.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — June 10, 2017.
- 6) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 7) Regular season contests — 16 for team and individuals.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Track and Field.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Registered Class 1 official who shall be the contest referee required.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Registered Class 1 official who shall be the referee required.
  - 9.3) Freshman — OHSAA Class 1 or 3 recommended.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — March 6, 2017.
- 2) First contest — March 25, 2017.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — June 10, 2017.
- 4) Scrimmages — None permitted.
- 5) Regular season contests — Maximum of 12 per season plus one league championship meet (team and individual) plus OHSAA state meet.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Track and Field.
- 7) Officials — One or more OHSAA Class 1 Track and Field recommended.

**2016-2017 TRACK & FIELD**

<b>Track &amp; Field</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Coaching Begins	3/6	3/5	3/4	3/9	3/8	3/7
Season Begins	3/25	3/24	3/23	3/28	3/27	3/26
Non-Interscholastic Date	4/17	4/16	4/15	4/20	4/19	4/18
District	5/15-5/20	5/14-5/19	5/13-5/18	5/18-5/23	5/17-5/22	5/16-5/21
Regional	5/24-5/27	5/23-5/26	5/22-5/25	5/27-5/30	5/26-5/29	5/25-5/28
State	6/2-6/3	6/1-6/2	5/31-6/1	6/5-6/6	6/4-6/5	6/3-6/4
Season Ends	6/10	6/9	6/8	6/13	6/12	6/11
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4	4/17

**REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS**

Division I and III — Wednesday and Friday; Division II — Thursday and Saturday

**STATE TOURNAMENTS — ORDER OF COMPETITION**

III, II, I

## 17. VOLLEYBALL — GIRLS

## A. GENERAL REGULATIONS

## 1) Interscholastic Participation

## 1.1) Grades 9-12

1. All high school matches shall be played utilizing NFHS Volleyball rules. The libero rule shall be used for high school volleyball only.
2. All varsity dual matches shall be played in a best three of five format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 15 points with no cap.
3. Varsity regular season matches contested in any format other than a dual, head to head format, i.e., tri-matches, quadrangular matches or other multi-match tournaments, may be played in a best three of five format if agreed upon in advance of the competition in the game contract(s). If there has been no advance contracting to play these matches in a best three of five format, then the matches shall be played in a best **two of three format**.
4. All **non-varsity matches**, including junior varsity, reserve, freshmen, etc., shall be played in a **best two of three format**. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 25 points with no cap.
5. Match limitations for each high school team and individual player are 22 matches on no more than 22 playing dates.
6. Individual limitations for players who play in any non-varsity competition on the same day and against the same opponent consist of a maximum of five (5) sets per day per common opponent.
7. Any part of a set is considered a full set.
8. In any tournament or regular season competition, teams and/or individuals shall be permitted to play a maximum of three matches per day.
9. All regular season matches count in the 22 match limitations including non-varsity tournaments.
10. The penalty for exceeding the participation limitation during a match is forfeiture of that set in which the ineligible player is participating. When discovered, the ineligible player is removed from the set, and the match continues unless that is the deciding set of the match. If the ineligible participation is discovered in the deciding set or after the match is completed, the match is forfeited.
11. *A team/individual that exceeds the regular season participation limitation (maximum number of contests permitted) or participates in regular season contest(s) prior to the designated start date for contests shall be removed from the OHSAA tournament.*

**Grades 7 & 8**

1. **All 7 & 8th grade matches shall be played in a best two of three format.** Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points), and the deciding set shall go to 25 points with no cap.
2. 7 & 8th grade volleyball matches shall not use the libero rule.
3. **A student may participate in no more than three sets per opponent.** Any part of a set is considered a full set. When playing more than one opponent, this rule applies for each opponent.
4. In any tournament or regular season competition, teams and/or individuals shall be permitted to play a **maximum of three matches per day**.

5. The penalty for exceeding the participation limitation during a match is forfeiture of that set in which the ineligible player is participating. When discovered, the ineligible player is removed from the set, and the match continues unless that is the deciding set of the match. If the ineligible participation is discovered in the deciding set or after the match is completed, the match is forfeited.
  6. Net Height—The net height for 7 & 8th grade volleyball shall be 7'0".
  7. Postseason Tournament—These regulations permit one postseason tournament not to exceed four matches. Postseason means **after** the 20 regular season matches have concluded. A player may play in just one postseason tournament. For example, if a student plays in the 7th grade postseason tournament, she is ineligible to play in the 8th grade postseason tournament.
- 1.2) All matches played shall be counted except a match played against the school's faculty and OHSAA tournament matches. **The faculty match must be played between August 20, 2016, and November 12, 2016.**
  - 1.3) When a volleyball match is interrupted for any reason, the match shall be resumed from the point of interruption.
  - 1.4) Any scheduled regular season volleyball set or match which is not started due to unforeseen circumstances such as failure of team to arrive, strikes, school closings, is "No Contest." Sets or matches not played are not included in won-lost statistics.
  - 1.5) Filming or videotaping of volleyball tournament matches by one or both of the schools playing the match is permitted provided prior arrangements are made with the tournament manager, it is done at the expense of the school involved, and a maximum of one individual per school is permitted to film or videotape. **Filming or videotaping of a potential opponent's tournament match is prohibited.**

It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, but such videotapes or photographs may NOT be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed.

It is NOT permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph scrimmages, previews or regular season contests of other school teams without the written consent of all schools participating in the contest(s).

- 1.6) PREVIEW — A preview may be scheduled and played only during the period of time beginning August 2 and ending with the date of the first regular season match of the teams involved.

Previews are limited in length to two sets of 21 points each, played according to National Federation Volleyball Rules.

## 2) Non-Interscholastic Participation

- 2.1) A member of an interscholastic volleyball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education **shall not participate in a non-interscholastic program** (tryouts, practice or contest) as an individual or a member of a team in the sport of volleyball **during the school's season** (Sports Regulation 7.2).
- 2.2) A member of an interscholastic volleyball squad (any student who has played in a scrimmage, preview or regular season/tournament game as a substitute or starter) sponsored by the Board of Education may participate in non-interscholastic volleyball prior to and after the school season under the following conditions:
  - 2.21) The number of interscholastic volleyball players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to three on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad. A roster is defined as all the members of the entire squad on that non-interscholastic squad.

**Note:** Graduating seniors who are participating on a non-interscholastic volleyball squad after their final interscholastic contest of the season in the sport of volleyball are exempt from this limitation.

- 2.22) There is no limit on the number of volleyball squad members from the same school participating on the same squad during the period June 1-July 31.
  - 2.23) A player may continue to play with a non-interscholastic squad in a national qualifying tournament in excess of the three-player limitation after July 31 until the squad is eliminated but no later than Labor Day.
  - 2.24) Non-interscholastic participation includes tryouts, training, practice and competition.
- 2.3) An intramural team is a non-interscholastic team, and all rules for non-interscholastic teams apply.
- 2.4) All-Star Contests — Interscholastic volleyball coaches may coach players from his or her school in special “All-Star” contests. Coaches are permitted to coach in “All-Star” contests if they meet all the following provisions:
- a.) Participants shall be selected from at least four schools.
  - b.) All participants shall be graduating seniors or students completing their athletic eligibility at the end of the semester.
  - c.) Participants shall not participate until after they have participated in their final contest for their school.

**Note on “All-Star” Games:** “All-Star” games are non-interscholastic events by rule. Student-athletes in team sports who wish to participate in one of these “all-star” competitions outside the school season may do so without jeopardy to eligibility provided the students maintain compliance with General Sports Regulation 7.3.

**Penalty:** For a senior, violation of this regulation may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for the balance of the school year. For all other students, the penalty may result in loss of eligibility for the ensuing season in the sport in which the student participated in the All-Star contest.

2.5) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Dates:

A volleyball athlete who has not participated for a school team in volleyball that season must cease non-interscholastic volleyball competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the State Tournaments in volleyball in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition provided applicable Bylaws and Regulations have been followed.

Date: September 26, 2016.

### 3) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations at this link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>.

### 4) No Contact Period — Coaches

See *Regulations for No Contact Period — Coaches* under Section 11 of the General Sports Regulations at this link: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf>.

### 5) Penalties

- 5.1) The maximum penalty for violation of Sports Regulation 7.2 (participation with a non-interscholastic volleyball squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic volleyball squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic volleyball season or the ensuing volleyball season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

- 5.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of Sports Regulation 7 (Coaching Staff-Team Sports) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence or such penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

**6) Other Bylaws and Regulations**

For information on Ejection for Unsporting Conduct See *Ejection Policies for Coaches and Players* under Section 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations here <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/rglts/GeneralSportsRegulations.pdf> and in the Volleyball Manual <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/vb/girls/vbmanual.pdf>. For information on Out of State Travel regulations see Bylaw 9-2 at <http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf> and the Volleyball Manual <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/vb/girls/vbmanual.pdf>. For information about the transfer bylaw, please go to this link <http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/TransferBylawGuidance.htm> to assist in understanding this bylaw.

**B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First match — August 20, 2016.
- 3) Deadline date for OHSAA Tournaments — October 3, 2016.
- 4) Tournament draw/seeding date — October 9, 2016, 2:00 p.m.
- 5) Coaching and Season end — November 12, 2016.
- 6) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of five scrimmages plus one preview.
- 7) Regular season matches — Maximum of 22 matches on no more than 22 playing dates. Each match played opposing another school shall be counted as one match in the 22 permitted, whether played in triangular, quadrangular or invitational tournament.
- 8) Rules — National Federation Volleyball.
- 9) Officials:
  - 9.1) Varsity — One Class 1 official who shall be the First Referee is required. The Second Referee shall be either Class 1 or Class 2 volleyball official.  
  
EXCEPTION: If an emergency arises which prevents the contracted Class 1 official from being present, a Class 2 official may be used as the First Referee provided the schools mutually agree. In the event that only one OHSAA registered official arrives to officiate the match, the match may be played provided the participating coaches agree.
  - 9.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Two OHSAA Class 1 or 2 volleyball officials required.
  - 9.3) Freshman — A minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 volleyball official required. Regardless of the number, all officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.
  - 9.4) Line Judges — For varsity and reserve/junior varsity volleyball competition, all line judges shall be either well-trained adults or students not listed on the volleyball eligibility certificate for the high school.

**C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 7 & 8**

- 1) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — August 1, 2016.
- 2) First match — August 20, 2016.
- 3) Coaching and Season end — November 12, 2016.
- 4) Scrimmages or Previews — Maximum of two scrimmages or one scrimmage and one preview.

**VOLLEYBALL 2016-2017**

- 5) Regular season matches — Maximum 20 matches on 16 playing dates plus **one** postseason tournament not to exceed four matches. The 7th grade tournament is considered one tournament as is the 8th grade tournament. See 1.1 #7 for more information.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Volleyball.
- 7) Officials — A minimum of one OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 volleyball official required. Regardless of the number, all officials shall be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3 or officials in training.

<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Season Begins	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/1	8/2
Earliest Preview Date	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/2	8/3
Regular Season Contests Begin	8/20	8/19	8/18	8/17	8/15	8/20
Non-Interscholastic Date	9/26	9/25	9/24	9/23	9/28	9/27
Sectional	10/17-10/22#	10/16-10/21#	10/15-10/20#	10/14-10/19#	10/19-10/24#	10/18-10/23#
District	10/24-10/29	10/23-10/28	10/22-10/27	10/21-10/26	10/26-10/31	10/25-10/30
Regional	10/31-11/5	10/30-11/4	10/29-11/3	10/28-11/2	11/2-11/7	11/3-11/6
State	11/10-11/12	11/9-11/11	11/8-11/10	11/7-11/9	11/12-11/14	11/11-11/13
Season Ends	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/14	11/13
Thanksgiving	11/24	11/23	11/22	11/28	11/26	11/25

Coach — No Contact Period Starts with the first day after the last interscholastic contest and ends 28 days later.  
 #Unless an earlier date is established by a District Athletic Board (no earlier than two days prior to the established date).

**VOLLEYBALL — GIRLS STATE TOURNAMENT ROTATION**

2016-2020-2024	2017-2021-2025	2018-2022-2026	2019-2023- 2027
II	I	IV	III
I	IV	III	II
IV	III	II	I
III	II	I	IV

## 18. WRESTLING

- A. GENERAL REGULATIONS — apply to all levels of interscholastic wrestling unless otherwise noted.

### 1) Interscholastic Participation

#### 1.1) Participation Limitation

9th-12th Grades — 20 points; 7th & 8th grades — 17 points

A high school team and/or wrestler may participate in a maximum number of regular season contests worth 20 points. Any and all matches wrestled by an individual shall count toward the team's point limitation of 20 points. 7th & 8th grade wrestlers are permitted 17 points. Points are calculated as follows:

Points Event	Wrestler's Matches
1/2 point - Dual match -	1 match maximum
1 point - Tri-match -	2 match maximum
2 points - Quad match -	3 match maximum
2 points - One-day tournament -	5 match maximum
3 points - Two-day tournament -	10 match maximum (5 per day)

Any event in excess of two days will have two points added for each day beyond the second day if more than 10 matches will be wrestled by any one individual during the tournament.

#### 1.11) Team Regular Season Contest Limitation (9th-12th grades)

A high school team may compete in a maximum of 20 points. In order to compete in the maximum number of contests a team schedule must include at least four dual/tri-matches and no more than 16 points from tournaments. Teams who are unable or unwilling to participate in dual or tri/competition may schedule a maximum of 16 points. Dual tournaments are not a substitute for a dual or tri-match. The OHSAA Team Tournament is considered a "post-season" event. Participation does not count toward the participation limits.

#### 1.12) Individual Contest Requirements

An individual wrestler may participate in a maximum number of contests totaling 20 points. Any wrestler who exceeds the 20 point limitation is ineligible for further regular season or any OHSAA tournament competition. **Note:** 7th & 8th graders — 17 points.

#### 1.13) High School Varsity Tie-Breaker

A tie-breaker shall be used for all varsity dual meets. The first criterion is which team had any unsporting penalties. The remaining criteria are published in the NFHS Wrestling rulebook.

#### 1.2) Multiple School-Sponsored Teams (See General Regulation 30)

A school may sponsor two (same level) wrestling teams when more than 21 eligible participants are reported on the official eligibility form. When a school sponsors two wrestling teams, a separate schedule for each team is required.

Example:

- a) Eighteen wrestlers are on the team. The schedule indicates eight duals and six one-day tournaments (20 points). The coach wants to send three wrestlers to a two-day tournament. He schedules the three wrestlers as his "B" team.

**Ruling: Violation.** Penalties may include, but not be limited to, a fine, loss of wrestlers' eligibility and/or denial of participation (team and individual) in OHSAA tournaments.

**Note:** It would not be a violation to have both a varsity and sub-varsity squad.

- b) Thirty-six wrestlers are on the eligibility form. The school sponsors a junior varsity team and a varsity team. All teams have a 20 point schedule. Ruling: **Legal.**
- 1.3) Practice — Practice is instruction given by a school coach to his/her team during the OHSAA-defined wrestling season. Practice sessions which involve wrestlers from other schools are scrimmages.
- 1.4) Scrimmage — Any practice or workout between two or more teams is a scrimmage. Multiple team scrimmages shall count as one scrimmage, however, the time limit is three hours. Any facilities opened by school personnel during the season where teams/individuals meet to wrestle shall constitute a scrimmage.
- 1.41) High schools (Varsity, Junior Varsity, Freshman) — Four scrimmages permitted. Three hour time limit for all scrimmages.

Individual wrestlers who will enter the Sectional Tournament from a school that does not have enough wrestlers to schedule or participate in dual meets may practice or work out with other school teams or individuals during the regular season. **Such situations shall be reported in writing to the Commissioner’s Office.**

After the conclusion of the Sectional Wrestling Tournament, wrestlers who qualify for further competition may “practice” with wrestlers from other schools who are similarly qualified.

Any team or individual that exceeds the maximum number of contests (games, matches, meets, scrimmages) may be denied the right to participate in the OHSAA Wrestling Tournament during the year the violation occurs.

- 1.5) Previews — A preview may not exceed one half of the regular season contest for any one athlete (three one-minute periods) or team and shall be wrestled according to National Federation Wrestling Rules. A preview may be scheduled and held only starting with the first day after the official start date of coaching and ending with the date of the first regular season contest of the teams involved. No preview may be conducted after December 12, 2016.
- 1.6) Weight Loss — The OHSAA does not permit any practice that endangers the health and safety of the participants. Crash dieting, the use of diuretic, emetics and other drugs for weight reduction, the use of a sweat box, any type rubber, vinyl, or plastic sweatsuit or bag, hot showers, whirlpools or similar artificial heat devices for weight reduction is prohibited. The wrestling practice facility must be kept at a temperature not to exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit at the start of practice. Violation at a contest site shall automatically disqualify the contestant from further participation for the match or tournament. Such dangerous practices during training constitute a lack of institutional control.
- 1.7) Weight Classes — Grades 9-12 — 14
  - 1.71) Freshmen —when the event is a freshman-only event, the weight classes shall be: 98, 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285. The minimum weight for the 285 pound class shall be 215 lbs. (and is subject to the growth allowance).
  - 1.72) High School weight classes shall be those weight classes adopted by NFHS: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and 285. The minimum weight for the 285 pound class is 215 lbs. (and is subject to the growth allowance).
  - 1.73) Growth Allowance —A two pound allowance will be given on December 25. No weight allowance can be used to achieve a lower minimum weight.
  - 1.74) Out-of-State Opponents —The weight classes of the state in which competition is held shall be the weight classes wrestled.

## 1.8) Weight Management Program for grades 9-12

The establishment of a minimum wrestling weight based on 7% body fat for males and 12% for females is required for all senior high school wrestlers. The OHSAA does not advocate that a wrestler's established minimum weight is the athlete's best weight, but simply the minimum weight at which the athlete will be allowed to compete.

**A. ESTABLISHING MINIMUM WEIGHT**

Each wrestler must complete two steps to satisfy the certification process. The first step is assessment and the second step is competition. **Step 1:** Each wrestler must complete the weight management process. This will only establish the wrestler's Lowest Minimum Weight (LMW), which is his/her safest and lowest weight class that he/she may compete. **Step 2:** Each athlete must compete one time at his/her lowest allowable weight class at or after the date in which the weight loss plan allows. The wrestler must make the original scratch weight in that weight class. Accepting a forfeit during a dual meet and moving up one weight class in a dual meet satisfy the competition part of the process.

**Note:** Every wrestler, while descending to a lower weight class, must qualify by making scratch weight at that weight class before any additional pounds may be used. **Wrestlers may certify for a weight class at the first weigh-in of the Sectional Tournament.**

The Weight Management program description, logistics of establishing minimum weight, and examples may be found in the 2016-2017 Wrestling Manual, which is posted in the "Wrestling" section of the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

**B. PENALTIES**

Penalties for a wrestler circumventing (attempting to cheat and/or cheating) the weight assessment process:

1. First Offense – Suspension for one wrestling season.
2. Second Offense – Suspension for two wrestling seasons.

A coach who knowingly cheats the Ohio Weight Management Program or assists a wrestler to circumvent the weight assessment process will be subject to penalties and sanctions imposed by the OHSAA Commissioner.

**2) Non-Interscholastic Participation**

See General Sports Regulation 7.3 for regulations on non-interscholastic participation.

## 2.1) Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date:

A wrestling athlete who has not participated for the school in wrestling that season must cease non-interscholastic wrestling competition six weeks (42 days) prior to the Monday of the week of the first state individual tournament in wrestling in order to be eligible for OHSAA Tournament competition.

Date: December 26, 2016.

- 2.2) The school wrestling coach may coach wrestlers from his/her school team in non-interscholastic wrestling for a period not to exceed 10 days from June 1 to July 31. **EXCEPTION:** Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling are interpreted as different sports from interscholastic, also known as folk-style wrestling.

**3) Out-of-State Travel**

A wrestling team may travel out of state to compete in contests (scrimmages, previews and games) in states or Canadian provinces that are contiguous to Ohio regardless of distance to travel. The states include Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The province is Ontario. Additionally, a wrestling team may travel to a non-contiguous state or province one time per sport per interscholastic season to compete provided there is no loss of school time. (Bylaw 9-2-1)

A wrestling team may not travel out of state to practice. (See Bylaw 9-2-2 for exceptions.)

“School time” is defined as any time during any day during which the school is in session as stipulated in its Board-adopted school calendar exclusive of contingency days. **Penalty for Violation:** The school 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.

EXCEPTION: If, because of missed school days due to calamity situations, an otherwise non-school day(s) becomes a school day(s) in order to make up for the missed school day, the school may compete in a contest(s) outside the state of Ohio provided:

- 1) The school had contracted for/committed to said trip/contest(s) at least three months prior to the contest(s) in question and;
- 2) The school receives written permission from the Commissioner’s office at least one week in advance of the scheduled event.

#### 4) Ejection for Non-Sporting Conduct

See *Ejection Policies for Players and Coaches* under Sections 13 and 14 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

#### 5) Transfer Bylaw

Due to the many questions regarding this bylaw and its application to students desiring to participate in wrestling, please go to the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)), click on the “Eligibility” link, then click on the “Transfer Bylaw Resource Center” to assist in the understanding of this bylaw. Note that students who transfer and do not meet an exception to this bylaw are ineligible for all contests (including scrimmages and preview) until regular season point number nine (9) in wrestling.

#### 6) Instructional Programs

See *Regulations for Instructional Programs* under Section 8 of the General Sports Regulations, which are also posted on the OHSAA website ([www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org)).

- 6.1) Wrestling squad members may be used for out-of-season demonstration purposes only if approved in advance by the Commissioner.

#### 7) Penalties

7.1) The maximum penalty for violation of General Sports Regulation 7.3 (participation with a non-interscholastic wrestling squad while a member of the school’s interscholastic wrestling squad) or any OHSAA regulations for any member of the school squad EXCEPT a senior is ineligibility for the remainder of the interscholastic wrestling season or the ensuing wrestling season. For a senior, the maximum penalty shall be ineligibility for the remainder of the school year.

7.2) The penalty for a coach for violation of General Sports Regulation 7.6 (non-interscholastic teams) may include suspension, probation, public censure, fine not to exceed \$1,000 per occurrence, or such penalty as the Commissioner may deem appropriate.

### B. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — 7th & 8th Grades

#### 1) Weight Management

No weight management plan exists for 7th-8th grade wrestlers. Coaches should encourage participation and de-emphasize weight loss. Coaches should educate wrestlers on good nutritional plans.

#### 2) Weight Classes

Junior High (7th & 8th grade) weight classes include 16 classes: 80, 86, 92, 98, 104, 110, 116, 122, 128, 134, 142, 150, 160, 172, 205 and 245.

- 3) Growth Allowance  
The growth allowance is intended to “grow” the weight classes to accommodate the natural growth of the 7th & 8th grade wrestler. It is not intended to assist a youngster to “starve” himself into a lower weight class. A two-pound growth allowance will be applied to all weight classes on December 25. In effect, all maximum weights in all weight classes go up two pounds.
  - 4) Weigh-in Regulations (7th & 8th Grade)  
On school days, 7th & 8th grade wrestlers may weigh in at their home schools prior to lunch before dual, triangular or quadrangular meets. The weigh-in must be **witnessed by an administrator/designee**, and a signed weigh-in sheet presented at the meet prior to the competition. Weigh-ins for tournaments must be conducted as per existing NFHS rules.
  - 5) Participation Limitation
    - a) Review item 1.1 regarding participation limitation. Junior High School (7th & 8th grade) wrestling programs should have a balanced schedule which would include tournaments as well as home and away dual/tri matches. Teams and individual wrestlers are limited to a maximum of 17 regular season points. **Note:** The State Junior High Tournament is NOT an interscholastic event. Coaches shall not coach their wrestlers, nor schools enter wrestlers as school wrestlers, in this event. Wrestlers are permitted to participate after the school season ends in this non-interscholastic wrestling tournament.
    - b) Schools that do not have enough wrestlers to schedule or participate in dual meets may practice or work out with other school teams or individuals during the regular season. **Such situations shall be reported in writing to the Commissioner’s Office.**
    - c) No one below the 7th grade shall practice/participate with or against 7th & 8th grade wrestlers. 7th & 8th grade wrestlers shall not practice/participate with or against 9th-12th grade wrestlers.
    - d) No requirement for dual or tri/matches exists for 7th-8th grade.
  - 6) Coaching, tryouts and instruction may begin — November 11, 2016.
  - 7) First match — December 2, 2016.
  - 8) Season ends — March 4, 2017.
  - 9) Scrimmages — Two permitted or one scrimmage and one preview.
  - 10) 17 regular season points and no specific requirements for the number of duals/tris tournaments
  - 11) Rules — National Federation Wrestling.
  - 12) Length of Matches
    - a. Each period is 1½ minutes.
    - b. Consolation matches are comprised of three 1 minute periods.
    - c. Tournament overtime period is one one-minute period followed by a 30-second period if necessary.
  - 13) Officials — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3, or officials in training.
- C. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS — Grades 9-12
- 1) Coaching and tryouts may begin — November 11, 2016.
  - 2) First match — December 2, 2016.
  - 3) Coaching and Season end — March 11, 2017.

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- 4) Scrimmages — Maximum of four permitted or three and one preview. In a preview, an individual is limited to three one-minute periods.
- 5) Regular season contests — Maximum of 20 points for teams and individuals.
- 6) Rules — National Federation Wrestling.
- 7) Length of Matches — Each period is 2 minutes; consolation match periods are 1-2-2 minutes.
- 8) Officials:
  - 8.1) Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or Class 2 official required.
  - 8.2) Reserve/Junior Varsity — Minimum of one OHSAA Class 1 or 2 official required.
  - 8.3) Freshmen — Regardless of the number of officials, all must be OHSAA Class 1, 2 or 3, or officials in training.

<b>Wrestling</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
Coaching Begins	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/8	11/13
Earliest Preview Date	11/12	11/11	11/10	11/9	11/14
Season Begins	12/2	12/1	11/30	11/29	12/4
Non-Interscholastic Date	12/26	12/25	12/24	12/23	12/28
Team Regional Quarterfinal	1/25	1/24	1/23	1/22	1/27
Team Regional Semifinal	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	2/3
Team Regional Final	2/1	1/31	1/30	1/29	2/3
Team State	2/11 or 2/12	2/10 or 2/11	2/9 or 2/10	2/8 or 2/9	2/13 or 2/14
Individual Sectional	2/20-2/25	2/19-2/24	2/18-2/23	2/17-2/22	2/15-2/20
Individual District	2/28-3/4	2/27-3/3	2/25-3/2	2/24-2/29	2/22-2/27
Individual State	3/9-3/11	3/8-3/10	3/7-3/9	3/5-3/7	3/4-3/6
Season Ends	3/11	3/10	3/9	3/7	3/6
Easter	4/16	4/1	4/21	4/12	4/4

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# NOTES

# OHSAA

Spring 2016

MAGAZINE

Defiance Senior Shay Smiddy

## School vs. Non-School Teams

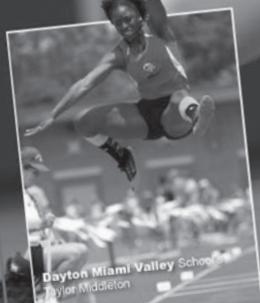
How they are similar, yet very different, and if they can co-exist for today's student-athletes

## Leadership Conferences Growing

Ohio owns the nation's largest student leadership conference, and regional conferences are now springing up

## Amazing Grace

How Xenia Christian's Grace Norman advanced to the Paralympic world stage and the podium at state track



Dayton Miami Valley School  
Taylor Middleton



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION | 4080 ROSELEA PLACE, COLUMBUS, OH 43214

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## OHSAA 101

What is the Ohio High School Athletic Association? The following list identifies who makes up the OHSAA, how the OHSAA supports education-based athletics and how the OHSAA supports schools and carries out its mission.

### MEMBERS, STAFF AND PARTNERS

- Schools are volunteer members - 822 High Schools, 900 Middle Schools
- 26 Sanctioned Sports
- 400,000 Student-Athletes in Grades 7-12
- Almost 17,000 Officials
- Approximately 65,000 Coaches
- Six District Athletic Boards (elected by the member schools in that district)
- State Board of Directors (rotation system per OHSAA constitution)
- Commissioner and State Office Staff (24 full-time employees)
- Ten Allied Organizations (Ohio Dept. of Education, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Assoc., etc.)
- Partnered Coaches Associations for each sanctioned sport

### FINANCES

- OHSAA State Office Revenue Sources:
  1. Ticket Sales - 80%
  2. Officials Dues - 10%
  3. Sponsorships - 10%
- No tax dollars
- No membership fees from schools
- No participation fees from schools
- Bonus returned to schools on ticket sales
- Reimbursement to schools of selected regional/state tournament expenses (OHSAA returned over 2.6 million to member schools last school year)
- OHSAA pays for catastrophic insurance coverage (\$800,000 annual premium)

### TOURNAMENTS, ELIGIBILITY AND SERVICES

- Endeavor to conduct the best tournaments possible
- Enrollment data for tournament divisions comes from Ohio Dept. of Education
- Monitor eligibility of student-athletes
  1. Constitution and bylaws voted on by school principals
  2. Schools are the primary enforcer of bylaws and sports regulations. The OHSAA does not have full-time staff devoted to compliance or investigations
- Provide services to our member schools, such as:
  1. Coaches Education
  2. Sportsmanship and "Respect the Game" Programs
  3. Sports Medicine and Sports Safety Programs
  4. Booster Education
  5. Safe-School Zone
  6. Service Week
  7. Sports Medicine Education
  8. Annual Leadership Conference (largest in the nation, 1,500 students)
- Focus on the life-lessons student athletes learn through their involvement with athletics

## THE OHSAA

EDUCATE THROUGH SPORTS

Respect  
THE  
GAME

