Parade of Champions
The dual team wrestling state tournament returns to St. John Arena Feb. 8 and the individual wrestling state tournament returns to the Schottenstein Center Feb. 27-March 1

Everybody in the Pool!
Inside OHSAA tournament structure, officials tournament selections, news and notes, what’s new with 7th and 8th grade schools and much more inside

Beauty and the Beast
Brecksville-Broadview Heights’ gymnastics and wrestling teams take the gym at the same time for one of the most unique events in high school sports

From Findlay to the Dominican Republic
The girls basketball programs from Liberty-Benton and Findlay High Schools teamed up last summer to provide gear and a sports camp to kids in the Dominican Republic
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The Ohio High School Athletic Association does not seek to prepare student-athletes for the next level of competition, but for the next level of life.

OHSAA Magazine is published three times per year by the Ohio High School Athletic Association. It is mailed to superintendents, principals and athletic directors of all member schools. Annual subscriptions may be purchased for $20 and single copies are available for $7 by contacting Brandy Young, byoung@ohsaa.org or 614-267-2502.

On the Cover: Columbus Bishop Hartley graduate Ronnie Bolden qualified for the OHSAA swimming state tournament all four years of high school in a total of 12 races. In 2012, he won the 50 yard freestyle, an event which he finished in the Top 4 all four years of high school. He also posted Top 5 finishes in the 100 yard butterfly as a sophomore, junior and senior.
Mission

The Ohio High School Athletic Association’s mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student’s educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

Commitment

The Ohio High School Athletic Association is committed to serving its member schools by being the nation’s premier non-profit athletic administration organization.

We will:

• Provide exemplary athletic oversight through swift, fair, consistent and impartial regulatory rulings;
• Operate with openness that generates trust and with strict fiscal accountability;
• Provide impartial, responsive and inclusive leadership;
• Conduct tournaments of nationally recognized excellence; and
• Honor our ultimate purpose, which is to foster lifelong values, good citizenship, ethics and a fair-play approach to life among student-athletes while promoting safe and sporting-like athletic environments.

Did you Know?

• The OHSAA receives no tax dollars of any kind.
• The OHSAA is a private, not-for-profit organization and is audited by an independent firm every year.
• Membership status in the OHSAA is on a volunteer basis.
• The OHSAA has no full-time staff members assigned to compliance or investigations. The responsibility of following OHSAA bylaws and regulations resides with each member school. Violations are to be reported in writing to the OHSAA.
• Student-athletes tend to have better attendance records, lower dropout rates, higher grade-point averages, improved self-confidence and are better prepared for a successful career.

Benefits

• 51 State Associations • 20,000 High Schools • 500,000 Coaches and Sponsors
11,000,000 Student Participants • 500,000 Officials and Judges •
9 Canadian Associations • 14 Other Affiliate Members

The OHSAA is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), which consists of the 50 individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia and nine Canadian organizations. These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action and increased efficiency through the coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in high school athletic and activities programs.

NFHS Mission Statement

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members, related professional organizations and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities, which support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities.

Members of the Hubbard girls bowling team cheer each other on during the 2013 OHSAA girls bowling state tournament at Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl. The Eagles won games one and four of the final match, but Coldwater was able to win the other three games to win the 2013 state title by a final score of 180-171. The OHSAA state bowling tournament, now with two divisions, returns to Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl in 2014.
DEFFINING SCHOOL SPORTS AS AN EXTENSION OF THE CLASSROOM

You may recall that in the fall edition of OHSAA Magazine I wrote about educational choice and the changing landscape of interscholastic athletics in Ohio and across our country. While choice is a good thing and our state government and society are certainly moving rapidly in that direction, it can put the regulations – especially the transfer bylaw – that OHSAA member schools voted into place and have kept intact for decades in an awkward situation.

This is a journey that we are all working through together. At the heart of the matter, in my mind, is the philosophy of the OHSAA, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), that school sports are meant to be an extension of the classroom and a part of the educational system in this country. See page 16 in this issue of the magazine for a letter from the NFHS that further expands on that point.

To reiterate, school sports are an extension of the classroom. It’s a phrase we use often, but what does that mean?

For starters, we believe it means selecting a school to attend only for athletic reasons is not in the long-term best interest of youngsters and their education. Likewise, jumping from school to school or putting an all-star team together is not reflective of a commitment to academics.

It means that participating in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and must be earned by being academically eligible and following the rules set by the team, the school and the OHSAA. Remember, the OHSAA bylaws are voted into place by the member schools.

It also means our coaches – ALL coaches – should place a priority not only on academics, but also safety, sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication before getting a win at all costs. See page 13 in this issue of the magazine for an excerpt from the NFHS Coaches Code of Conduct. Simply put, if a student-athlete is not getting the job done in the classroom, the opportunity to play sports is in jeopardy. The fact that a growing number of our coaches are not teachers in that school places added importance on school administrators being on top of students’ performance during the day and keeping coaches informed.

And finally, athletics as an extension of the classroom means that the lessons learned through sports last long after one’s playing days are over, similar to how the foundation built by a good education can help an individual meet career goals and overcome challenges that cannot be attained by athletic ability alone.

There is so much joy in watching young people represent their school and their community by participating in school sports and striving to be the best student-athletes they can be, but what gives me the most pride in any ballgame I attend is knowing that those student-athletes have earned the right to wear their school uniform. That is a privilege, the benefits of which can last a lifetime.

Respectfully,

Dr. Dan Ross, Commissioner
Ohio High School Athletic Association

Prior to becoming the commissioner of the OHSAA in August 2004, Dr. Dan Ross served as a school superintendent for 21 years at three districts, including Patrick Henry (1983-86), Pickerington (1986-97) and Avon Lake (1997-2004). He has more than 30 years in education, having served as a superintendent, principal, teacher, counselor, coach and official. Dr. Ross is a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, and graduated from Columbus St. Charles High School in 1967. He received degrees from Ohio Dominican, Xavier and Bowling Green. Dr. Ross was a registered OHSAA official for 20 years and was selected to work state finals games five times in boys basketball and twice in girls basketball while also being certified in volleyball and baseball.

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Commissioner

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Associate Commissioner for Operations

Deborah B. Moore
Associate Commissioner for Eligibility

Jeff Jordan
Chief Financial Officer

Steve Neil
Assistant Commissioner

Roxanne Price
Assistant Commissioner

Beau Rugg
Assistant Commissioner

Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner

Tim Stried
Director of Information Services

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Dana Bushong
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Molly Downard
Executive Administrative Assistant

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Administrative Assistant

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Administrative Assistant

Renee Moore
Administrative Assistant

Brenda Murray
Administrative Assistant

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Assistant for Compliance and Events

Andrea Reich
Assistant Comptroller

Sharon Shemasker
Administrative Assistant

Chris Walker
Production Supervisor

Brandy Young
Receptionist

Kim Zaborniak
Administrative Assistant

Additional staff includes Patrick Henry’s

Ohio Dominican, Xavier and Bowling Green.

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in boys basketball and twice in girls basketball

while also being certified in volleyball and

baseball.

Dr. Dan Ross speaks to members of the Division II state champion Columbus Bishop Watterson boys basketball team during the trophy presentation at the 2013 OHSAA boys state basketball tournament at Value City Arena inside the Jerome Schottenstein Center. Bishop Watterson won its first state title, defeating Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary 55-52.
## OHSAA Allied Organizations

### National Federation of State High School Associations
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206
(317) 937-6900
Fax: (317) 822-5700
www.nfhs.org

### Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front St.
Columbus, OH 43215-4183
General Information: (614) 995-1545
General Fax: (614) 644-5960
education.ohio.gov

### Ohio School Boards Association
8050 North High St., Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43235-6482
1-800-589-6722
Columbus, OH 43235-6484
8050 North High St., Suite 180
Columbus, OH 43235-6486
Fax: (614) 846-4081
www.osba-ohio.org

### Buckeye Association of School Administrators
8050 North High St., Suite 150
Columbus, OH 43235-6486
(614) 846-4080
Fax: (614) 846-4081
www.basa-ohio.org

### Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators
8050 North High St., Suite 180
Columbus, OH 43235-6484
(614) 430-8311
Fax: (614) 430-8315
www.ossaa.org

### Ohio Middle Level Association
(740) 548-6156
www.ohiola.org

### Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators
900 Club Dr., Suite A
Westerville, OH 43081
(614) 794-9191

### Ohio Association of School Business Officials
8050 North High Street, Suite 170
Columbus, Ohio 43235
614.431.9116
800.646.2726
www.oasbo-ohio.org

### Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
www.OIAAA.org

### Ohio Interscholastic Administrators
www.oiaaa.org

### Ohio Interscholastic School Administrators
www.oiaaa.org

### Ohio Interscholastic Business Officials
www.oiaaa.org

### OHSAA Ready Reference Sports Dates (Subject to Change)

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<th>Scrimmages</th>
<th>1st Contest</th>
<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball (Boys)</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (OHSAA Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage) (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Mar. 20 - State Semis/OSU Value City Arena (Div. II and IV) Mar. 21 - State Semis/OSU Value City Arena (Div. III and I) Mar. 22 - State Finals/OSU Value City Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball (Girls)</td>
<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (OHSAA Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage) (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Mar. 13 - State Semis/OSU Value City Arena (Div. II and IV) Mar. 14 - State Semis/OSU Value City Arena (Div. III and I) Mar. 15 - State Finals/OSU Value City Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Feb. 28-March 1 – Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl (Div. II) March 7-8 – Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl (Div. I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Feb. 28 – Team/Hilliard Bradley H.S. Mar. 1 – Individual &amp; AA/Hilliard Bradley H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages/1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Nov. 22</td>
<td>Mar. 7-8 – Nationwide Arena, Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming/Diving</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Feb. 19-22 – Branin Natatorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Nov. 29</td>
<td>Team Tournament: Feb. 8 - OSU St. John Arena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPRING 2014 | 1st Practice | Scrimmages | 1st Contest | State Tournament/Site |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages/1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>June 5-State Semis/Cols. Huntington Park (Div. IV &amp; III) June 6-State Semis/Cols. Huntington Park (Div. II &amp; II) July 6-State Finals/Cols. Huntington Park (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages/1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>June 5 - State Semis/Acron Firestone Std (Div. II &amp; I) June 6 - State Semis/Acron Firestone Std (Div. IV &amp; III) June 7 - State Finals/Acron Firestone Std (all divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Boys)</td>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>One prior to first match</td>
<td>Mar. 31</td>
<td>May 30/OSU Varsity Tennis Courts (1st &amp; 2nd rounds) May 31/OSU Varsity Tennis Courts (Semis &amp; Finals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>June 6-7/Ohio State Jesse Owens (Div. III, II, I)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FALL 2014 | 1st Practice | Scrimmages | 1st Contest | State Tournament/Site |
<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Nov. 1/National Trail Raceway, Hebron Boys III, II &amp; I; Girls III, II &amp; I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Oct. 31 – State Semis, Upper Arlington H.S. Nov. 1 – State Final, Upper Arlington H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>2 scrimmages or 1 scrimmage/1 preview plus 1 Jamboree scrimmage between August 13-August 24</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Nov. 7 &amp; 8 – Regional Quarterfinals Nov. 14 &amp; 15 – Regional Semifinals Nov. 21 &amp; 22 – Regional Finals Nov. 28 &amp; 29 – State Semifinals Dec. 4-6 – State Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Nov. 4 &amp; 5 – State Semifinals, Sites TBA Nov. 7 &amp; 8 – State Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Girls)</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>1 scrimmage prior to first match</td>
<td>Aug. 11</td>
<td>Oct. 17-18 – Site TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 16</td>
<td>Nov. 6 – State Semis/WSU Nutter Center (Div. IV &amp; III) Nov. 7 – State Semis/WSU Nutter Center (Div. II &amp; I) Nov. 8 – State Finals/WSU Nutter Center (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Dates and locations are subject to change
PARTICIPATION NUMBERS DON’T LIE – HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ARE IMPORTANT!

Around Ohio and especially in OHSAA circles, the number 350,000 is often publicized. You may have already seen it on the pages of this edition of OHSAA Magazine. It represents the approximate number of student-athletes competing in interscholastic athletics each year in Ohio.

It’s not only an impressive number, it’s the fourth-largest participation figure in our country. It’s even more impressive when you consider shrinking athletic department staffs and budgets and the fact that we are all asked to do more with less these days.

Every day I am reminded that it is very much worth it, not only in my own school district in the southern tip of Ohio, but when our District Athletic Board meets and when we gather for state Board of Directors meetings. I am reminded of it when I see the emotion, energy and passion on display at school sporting events, from preseason scrimmages to state championship games. All those contests – thousands of them across Ohio each season – provide opportunities for students to grow in so many ways.

The big picture may be 350,000 student-athletes, but the importance is really measured one student-athlete at a time. We need to be reminded that for every state championship game, there are hundreds of regular-season and tournament contests that led to that point that are so important to each student-athlete and coach. The benefits of school sports are not measured in state championships, but in the countless hours of practice, sacrifice and dedication and overcoming adversity that will stay with student-athletes long after their playing days are over.

That is the real reason why we do what we do. And the entire undertaking is driven by the membership – coaches, school administrators, families, volunteers and OHSAA staff working toward the goal of providing student-athletes a positive experience to learn essential life skills and sportsmanship as an extension of our classrooms.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) coined a phrase recently in their public service announcements regarding high school sports. It reads – “high school sports aren’t just extra-curricular. They’re extra important.”

When you look at the dedication of each and every student-athlete across Ohio, you can see just how true that is.

Sincerely

Mark Knapp
President, OHSAA Board of Directors
Reedsville Eastern’s Jordan Parker (12) shoots over Berlin Hiland’s Sasha Goings (34) in the 2013 OHSAA girls basketball Division IV state semifinal game. The game was closely contested with Hiland defeating Eastern, 54-51. The Hawks advanced to their ninth all-time state championship game, while Eastern represented its school in the girls basketball final four for the first time.
Freshman Peter Shick (white jersey, #23) of Shaker Heights battles junior Bailey Breitigam (black jersey, #20) and sophomore Ian Clement (black jersey, #26) of Sylvania Northview during the 2013 OHSAA state ice hockey tournament at Nationwide Arena in Columbus. The Red Raiders won their fourth state championship by defeating Northview 3-1. The OHSAA state ice hockey tournament returns to Nationwide Arena March 7 and 8, 2014.
FROM FINDLAY TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Led by Findlay High School girls basketball coach Connie Lyon, a team of northwest Ohioans brought sports and leadership to a poverty-stricken town in Latin America

By Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services

FINDLAY, Ohio – During most summer sports camps, student-athletes work on fundamental skills at their local high school. Last summer, that took on a whole new meaning for members of the Findlay community as student-athletes from Liberty-Benton High School and Findlay High School, along with several area organizations, teamed up to take a sports camp and hundreds of pieces of sports equipment to Barahona, Dominican Republic.

In a town where poverty is severe and some children did not have shoes, teaching the fundamental skills of basketball, volleyball and soccer at the camp also included giving kids their own t-shirt and pair of shorts and, for most of them, their first sports ball that they could call their own. The local high school was Ebenezer School located in Villa Central.

Working with Mission Possible, a volunteer service organization headquartered in Findlay with contacts in the Dominican Republic, Findlay High School girls basketball coach Connie Lyon organized a massive donation effort that included support from many local organizations, including the Findlay High School girls and boys basketball programs, Findlay/Hancock County Soccer Association, Upward basketball and football, Liberty-Benton Soccer Association and the Liberty-Benton High School girls basketball, girls soccer and cheerleading programs.

The efforts of various groups in Findlay, located in northwest Ohio about 45 minutes south of Toledo, resulted in 22 bags of water bottles, sports balls, camp shirts, jerseys, shorts and food for breakfast and dinners. Even the Liberty-Benton home economics class got into the act, sewing about 30 drawstring bags for the camp.

The student-athletes were from Liberty-Benton High School, where the Lyon family kids attend, and included Gabrielle and Mackenzie Lyon, Kayla Trevino, Rachel Myers, Alexis Shoffstall and Alyson Hughes. Fifth-graders Noah Lyon and Keaton Rath also joined the group. Mackenzie, who had been on six such service trips through Mission Possible, served as one of the group’s Spanish translators, along with two of the adults.

Assisting Connie as trip leaders were Mission Possible representative Tracy Rath, Findlay High School and Bluffton University graduate Brittany Roth, Findlay High School and Georgia Tech graduate Ali Niekamp, Findlay High School assistant girls basketball coach Shawn Lyon (Connie’s husband) and recent high school graduates Marisa Burkett (Liberty-Benton), Shelby Eddington (Arlington) and Shelby Schmersal.

“We used sports as a vehicle to help the local school in its endeavors to educate and raise up positive leaders,” Connie Lyon said. “That is the goal of Mission Possible. At the start of each day at camp we talked about values that will enable them to develop strong leadership skills and character.”
The sports camp was the first of its kind in the area. About 80 local boys and girls ages 8 to 20 participated in the five-day camp. Local women worked in the school kitchen to serve lunch to the campers and staff each day.

It was as much a learning experience for the camp staff as it was the locals. Not only did they plan out the daily camp activities, but they lived together on the roof of the school for the week and cooked their own dinners in a small kitchenette. Bunk beds and a cold, dripping shower were their only amenities.

The daily camp schedule included a morning session, then lunch, then an evening session. On some evenings, the older teenagers returned to the court to scrimmage the Findlay natives. During breaks, the most popular activity of the young girls was to braid and comb the hair of the Ohioans.

“Probably the biggest highlight of the week was when we handed every child their own t-shirt, water bottle and sports ball,” Connie said. “Their eyes just lit up and they all had the biggest smiles. It was a huge deal to them. We also were able to leave them six nets for their basketball hoops and some other equipment.”

In fact, so much sports equipment was donated that almost half went to a Mission Possible project in Haiti and other items went to a donation center in Findlay.

“The camp was just one of the things these kids have done,” Connie said, noting several of their other service projects in northwest Ohio.

“Any opportunity you can give kids to see beyond themselves will have an impact on their future. We want to expose kids to these kinds of opportunities and show them that there is so much beyond Findlay, Ohio. They are all so capable and learn so much. It’s a privilege to represent your school and your community and with that comes great responsibility. As coaches and leaders, that’s our challenge.”

That message certainly got through to all the kids on the trip and to others who were a part of the donation effort.

“With the focus and pressure that comes with sports today, the trip helped me see that there are more important things in the world,” Gabrielle Lyon, a freshman volleyball and basketball student-athlete at Liberty-Benton, said.

“Our ultimate purpose is to bless others, and often times you feel like you are the one that ends up getting blessed,” Connie said. “Trips like this make you realize how fortunate you are. Sports can be used as a tool to bring something like this to those less fortunate than we are and also give the kids the opportunity to spend a week with them, learning just like the campers. For so many kids, their identity is only being a high school student-athlete, but that’s not their true identity. They can be so much more than that.”
RESPECT THE GAME

Perhaps no other OHSAA program is as important as the “Respect the Game” campaign. Created in 2004, the Respect the Game program was the culmination of the OHSAA’s Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee along with ideas and input from administrators, coaches and student-athletes across Ohio.

RESPECT THE GAME

Public Service Announcements

The OHSAA has created many Public Service Announcements that promote Respect the Game and the purpose of interscholastic athletics. Perhaps no other OHSAA program is as important as the “Respect the Game” program. Rawlings’ commitment to high school basketball in Ohio.

Certificates Mailed in the Spring

The OHSAA sends the following certificates to all member schools each spring for the school’s use:

∙ Two (2) Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Awards
∙ One (1) Courageous Student Award
∙ One (1) State Award for Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
∙ Two (2) Scholar Athlete Awards

For more information on the SEI school awards program, including how to apply for the Respect the Game Challenge Award, the Harold A. Meyer Award and Commissioner’s Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship, log on to:

www.OHSAA.org/RTG

NEWS & NOTES

Rawlings Expands Partnership with OHSAA

Announced last fall, the Rawlings’ basketball tournament game ball will remain the official ball of OHSAA tournament games and now is also the official game ball of OHSAA member schools. The expanded partnership with Rawlings comes with the approval of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA). Rawlings supports both the OHSAA and the OHSBCA with various initiatives. The official basketballs are COMPOHIO28.5CB for girls and COMPOHIOCB for boys.

“Rawlings is excited to continue our partnership with Rawlings,” Tom Barrick, immediate past president of the Ohio basketball coaches association and head boys basketball coach at Wheelersburg High School, said. “Rawlings has been a great partner and a great supporter of high school basketball in Ohio. Their commitment to our association and the student-athletes has been tremendous. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership with Rawlings.”

Rawlings has been the OHSAA’s official tournament game ball since 1999 and about 90 percent of OHSAA member schools already use the same ball during their regular-season contests. The announcement that Rawlings is now the official basketball of regular-season games, too, signals the quality of the product and Rawlings’ commitment to high school basketball in Ohio.

NFHS Rules Books and Case Books Now Available for Purchase Online

Rules books and case books produced by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) are now available for purchase online in electronic-book format. The NFHS, which has written and published playing rules for high school sports throughout most of its 94-year history, is offering its rules publications in e-book format through iTunes for Apple users. In addition, the Kindle version is being sold on Amazon.

All 2013-14 rules books and case books for fall sports are available for purchase through Amazon, and will be followed later in the year by winter and spring sports. Currently, the NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for girls and boys competition at the high school level, and annually publishes about 25 rules books, case books, officials manuals and handbooks. More than 1.3 million copies of rules-related publications are distributed annually throughout the world.

Note on School Uniforms

The OHSAA reminds everyone involved with youth sports that school uniforms may not be worn during non-school athletic events. All participation in non-school programs shall be unattached from the school. Use of school gear in all-star games is permitted at the discretion of the member school.

Concussion Course Update: In August, the one millionth “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” course was delivered. The concussion course was also updated in August and now includes 11 pre-test and post-test questions, which mirror questions the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses in its course. “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” is the CDC high school course.

Another FREE course: “Engaging Effectively with Parents” is now a free course. There are now 14 free courses available on www.nfhslearn.com. This is a must-have course for all coaches to learn how to communicate with parents and make them an asset to their programs.
THE COACH FROM THE NFHS BASKETBALL RULES BOOK
COACHES’ CODE OF ETHICS

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student should be treated with the utmost respect and his or her welfare should be considered in decisions by the coach at all times. Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The Coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The Coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with students, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the state high school athletic association, the media and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The Coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

The Coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct the program in harmony with the total school program.

The Coach shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The Coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The Coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

The Coach should meet and exchange cordial greetings with the opposing coach to set the correct tone for the event before and after the contest.

The Coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give students special consideration.

The Coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the league and/or state high school athletic association.

Toledo Central Catholic’s Alex Mossing hugs assistant coach Adam Morris after winning the 2013 OHSAA wrestling Division I individual state championship in the 138-pound class. Mossing earned the Irish their second individual wrestling state championship in school history and their first since 1999.

Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
President-Matt Shomper (Tippecanoe H.S.)
Executive Director-Bruce Brown (Uniontown Lake H.S.)
www.oiaaa.org

Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association
President-Lee Day (Lebanon H.S.)
www.ohsbcba.org

Ohio High School Bowling Coaches Association
President-Greg Coulles
www.ohiohighschoolbowling.com

Ohio High School Field Hockey Coaches Association
President-Kara Hardesty

Ohio High School Football Coaches Association
President-Mike Pavlansky (Canfield H.S.)
www.ohsfca.wedinger.com

Ohio High School Gymnastics Advisory Committee
President-Cindy Fushimi (Worthington Kilbourne H.S.)
www.OHSGAC.com

Ohio High School Ice Hockey Coaches Association
President-Mark Ferfolia (Garfield Heights Trinity H.S.)

Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association
President-Mike Haney (Mariemont Junior H.S.)
www.ossca.org

Ohio High School Fast Pitch Softball Coaches Association
President-Barbara Sleek (Fort Frye H.S.)
www.ohsfscsa.org

Ohio High School Swimming Coaches Association
President-Andrea Sorg (Oak Harbor H.S.)
www.ohssca.org

Ohio Tennis Coaches Association
President-Scott Long (Centerville H.S.)
www.otca.us

Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches
President-Ed Lidderdale
www.oatccc.com

Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association
President-Scott Taylor (Lakeview H.S.)
www.ohsvca.net

Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association
President-Brett Powell (Austintown-Fitch H.S.)
www.ohswca.com
It might be the most unique high school sporting event in Ohio.

It is a night full of backflips and back points, where takeoffs and takedowns meet simultaneously in a gymnasium full of athleticism and acrobatics.

It is called the Beauty and the Beast but it has nothing to do with the movies. It will be held for the seventh time at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High on January 24.

On that night the Lady Bees gymnastics team, unquestionably the premier high school program in the state, will meet Southwestern Conference foe North Olmsted on one side of the gymnasium, where the athletes will fly through the air, swing between uneven parallel bars, launch themselves off the vault and dance to their hearts’ content.

At the same time on the other side of the gym, the Brecksville wrestlers will host North Olmsted and Amherst in a triangular match.

The night will be punctuated by seemingly non-stop whistles and horns and cheers and groans on top of a backdrop of flying feet down a runway.

“I fell in love with it the first time I heard about it,” said Maria Ganim-Schneider, the daughter of Brecksville coaches Joan and Ron Ganim and one of the assistants in the program. “I couldn’t wait to get it going.”

What else would you expect from a program that has not lost a meet of any kind – be it a dual, a tri, a quad, a sectional, district or state – in 10 years? The streak has now reached an incredible 777 consecutive wins. Basketball’s Harlem Globetrotters might not win that much.

Ganim-Schneider was introduced to the idea in 2006 by Brecksville gymnast Andrea Kinzer, who discovered the idea while on a recruiting visit to Eastern Michigan.
“It was the first time I had ever heard of two sports being held in the same gymnasium at the same time,” said Kinzer, one in a long line of athletes who have made the Brecksville program the undisputed queen of the leotard set.

Now working toward her Ph.D. in physical therapy at Cleveland State after graduating from Bowling Green in 2012, Kinzer participated in the inaugural Beauty and the Beast.

“It was so much fun,” she recalled. “What made it that way is that the gymnasts and wrestlers were very close with one another. We were all good friends at the time. I think the event helped promote both sports. It got more students out and we had the parents and relatives of both programs in the gym at the same time.”

Kinzer credits Ganim-Schneider as the driving force in getting the event off the ground.

“Maria was all about it as soon as I had told her about it,” Kinzer said. “I think it took off because all the work she has put into it.”

Brecksville wrestling coach Todd Haeverdill embraced the idea just as rapidly as Ganim-Schneider. The district administration has been behind the event from the beginning and even the basketball programs have frequently agreed to give up some playing dates.

“You would think that the first event would have been a huge undertaking, but it wasn’t too bad,” Ganim-Schneider said. “The biggest issue we had was where we would put all the equipment and the mats, how the gym would be laid out. We’ve changed a few things over the years but the changes have been minor.”

Leah Miko was the all-around and vault state champion in 2010 and had the good fortune of competing in four Beauty and the Beasts. She said her first appearance helped prepare her for the state meet.

“I loved it,” she said. “It was so awesome to have so many people in the gym. I thought it was cool right from the start and I’m sure it helped prepare us for the state meet, what kinds of things we’d see at state.”

Miko, now a senior special education major at BGSU, fondly recalls her last appearance in the BB.

“Because our competition lasts a lot longer the wrestlers finished well before us,” she said. “All of them turned their chairs around to face our competition and they were cheering us on. They were amazed at how athletic the gymnasts were. They were asking us, ‘How can you do that?’ when we were through. I think there is a big misunderstanding about how difficult gymnastics is, how much time, effort, strength and training there is. It’s hard for the non-gymnastics people to understand it, especially if they’ve never seen it. The Beauty and Beast helps people get a better idea.

“I think the wrestling parents are a little surprised when they see the gymnasts perform.”

Four-time state champion Michaela Romito, who has accepted a scholarship to Kent State, is looking forward to her final appearance.

“I thought it was a cool idea when I first heard about it and I have had fun every year I’ve been in it,” said Romito, who will make her fourth straight appearance. “I think it’s a great event, a great way to promote both sports. I think the wrestlers like watching us and we like watching them too.”
A FAN’S GUIDE TO THE OHSAA

By Aaron McPherson,
OHSAA Sports Information Intern

Located on the OHSAA website is the OHSAA Fan Guide, which can be accessed on the sidebar of the home page. This page provides fans with a resource of detailed information regarding anything related to state tournaments in our 24 varsity sports. The Fan Guide is broken down into eight categories, each containing information relevant to a state tournament. Whether you’re looking to buy tickets to an event, stay overnight, dine in the area or purchase team or game memorabilia, the OHSAA Fan Guide has it covered.

Located at the top of the Fan Guide is the directions page, which lists every regional or state tournament hosting site. Associated with each site is a link to their website, providing information on traveling to the event. Once you’re at the event, our hotels page provides information on staying with one of OHSAA’s sponsor hotels. Links to each hotel’s website along with their address is listed. In addition to staying near a state championship, dining options near The Ohio State University, Nationwide Arena, and Huntington Park are provided on the restaurants page.

The tickets page is a comprehensive guide to ticket prices for any OHSAA tournament game. Here you can find prices for each sport at each level of tournament play and also can search Ticketmaster through the link provided on the page to search for available tickets. The gear page provides you with the opportunity to purchase OHSAA or state champion team apparel. Personalization is possible through clicking the customize option when selecting a piece of apparel.

It’s always good to stay informed. Purchasing a program from the OHSAA is possible for any sport from current and some past years on the programs page. Prices and covers for current year programs are listed, as well as contact information for purchase requests. You can also stay informed by watching past state tournament games by purchasing them from the DVD’s page. Purchase request contact information as well as available and wanted DVDs are listed. Finally, if you’re looking to capture a specific moment from a state tournament, the photos page connects you to the official photographer of the OHSAA. Impact Action Sports Photography. Choose photos from a variety of seasons to capture your favorite player or team in a state tournament. Regardless of what you’re looking for, the OHSAA looks to serve your interests as a fan through the Fan Guide.

Multiple studies have revealed that playing sports keeps kids in school, thereby improving their chances of earning better grades and eventually graduating. Without these after-school activities, many kids would be roaming the streets – not studying math. These vital programs within the school setting inspire young people to succeed, and they learn many life lessons that aren’t taught in the classroom – or in the out-of-school programs in other countries.

Activity programs should not be elevated above academics – class work must come first – but these activities are, in essence, the other half of education. They help to complete the total picture in terms of preparing young people for life.

Are things perfect in the world of high school activity programs? Certainly not. Are there cases of overemphasis on sports? Undoubtedly, there are isolated cases where schools have altered priorities. But in the large majority of the 19,000-plus high schools across the country, coaches and other leaders are providing valuable life lessons to our young people.

And despite Ripley’s assertion that we are spending too much money on sports within the high school setting, these programs are being provided with only one to three percent of a typical school’s budget. The lion’s share of a school’s budget is devoted to its academic needs – not funding the football or basketball team.

Interestingly, Ripley suggested that the United States should consider the educational model of other countries where sports are conducted through club programs outside of school, thereby allowing a total focus on academics within the school setting.

In the summer of 2011, I attended the 9th International Session for Educators in Greece as a representative of the U.S. Olympic Committee. There were 91 delegates from 46 different countries. Most of the people at this international conference depended on government-run programs for their positions. As we shared about our various educational models, the majority of individuals I encountered marveled at our model of sports within the school setting. Without a doubt, the universal wish of the delegates from other nations was that their programs could be more like ours!

Let’s continue to provide these unique educational opportunities through high school activity programs.
2013-14 OHSAA STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF
1st row, left to right: Sarah Dove (Board Ex-Officio, Ohio Department of Education Rep.), Phil Ackerman (Board Class A Rep., East District), Gary Kreinbrink (Board Class A Rep., Northwest District), Phil Harris (Board Class AA Rep., Central District), Beth Hill (Board Vice President, Female Rep., Central District), Mark Knapp (Board President, Class AA Rep., Southeast District), Jim Borchik (Board Class AAA Rep., Northeast District), Bruce Brown (Board Ex-Officio, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Rep.), Tim Cook (Board Class AAA Rep., Southwest District), Bret Mavis (Board 7th/8th Grade Rep, Southeast District), Jonas L. Smith (Board Ethnic Minority Rep, Southwest District).
2nd row, left to right: Roxanne Price (Assistant Commissioner), Jeff Jordan (Chief Financial Officer), Beau Rugg (Assistant Commissioner), Bob Goldring (Associate Commissioner), Dr. Dan Ross (Commissioner), Dr. Deborah Moore (Associate Commissioner), Steve Neil (Assistant Commissioner), Tim Strie (Director of Information Services), Jerry Snodgrass (Assistant Commissioner).
3rd row: Dana Bushong (Administrative Assistant), Molly Downard (Executive Administrative Assistant), Todd Boehm (Comptroller), Bob Goldring (Associate Commissioner), Kim Zaborniak (Administrative Assistant), Angie Lawler (Administrative Assistant), Brenda Murray (Administrative Associate), Chris Walker (Production Supervisor), Brandy Young (Receptionist), Lauren Prochaska (Assistant for Compliance and Events). Not Pictured: Andrea Reich (Assistant Comptroller), Sharon Shoemaker (Administrative Assistant), Kim Zaborniak (Administrative Assistant), Angie Lawler (Administrative Assistant), Brenda Murray (Administrative Associate), Chris Walker (Production Supervisor), Brandy Young (Receptionist), Lauren Prochaska (Assistant for Compliance and Events). Not Pictured: Andrea Reich (Assistant Comptroller), Sharon Shoemaker (Administrative Assistant), Kim Zaborniak (Administrative Assistant), Angie Lawler (Administrative Assistant), Brenda Murray (Administrative Associate), Chris Walker (Production Supervisor), Brandy Young (Receptionist), Lauren Prochaska (Assistant for Compliance and Events).

UPCOMING TOURNAMENT DRAW DATES

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<th>SPRING SPORTS - 2014</th>
<th>DRAW/SEEDING MEETING DATE</th>
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<td>Boys Tennis</td>
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TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Tournament regulations are available online at OHSAA.org by going to the individual sport homepage, under 'Tournament Info,' and updated once a tournament draw has occurred.

JONAS L. SMITH
DAYTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Athletic Director Spotlight

Jonas Smith began his career in high school athletics only a few months after his own playing days were over at Dayton Jefferson High School. While earning a college degree at Wilberforce, he was the head girls basketball coach at his alma mater.

“It took a few years for the girls to realize that it takes a lot of time and work to become successful,” Smith said. “I was so young and I went to high school with a lot of those girls, but eventually they bought into the program and the parents bought in, too, and overall it paid off.”

After 15 years at Jefferson, he became the athletic administrator of all Dayton Public Schools, where he now oversees six other athletic directors, 30 buildings and 150 coaches.

“People said I was crazy to leave Jefferson, but I saw it as a challenge,” Smith said. “Often when you think of an urban school, you think of football, basketball and track, but I want to make sure there are many different kinds of opportunities for all our kids.”

Smith is putting his education and training to good use. He is a Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) and member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) and the Southwest Ohio Athletic Directors Association (SWOADA). He was appointed to the OHSAA’s Southwest District Athletic Board in 2011 before being formally elected to that board in 2012.

Smith said that running a large athletic department like Dayton Public is like running a big business. “You have to be very organized and have a good team,” he said.

But Smith also said it is crucial to remember that this is all about education-based athletics. He not only promotes that in his daily work in Dayton, but he carries it to the OHSAA Board of Directors, where he serves his first term, and also to his efforts on the court, where he has been a registered OHSAA basketball official since 1995.

“It starts at the Junior High level and I want to see our varsity head coaches making sure that the fundamentals are being taught,” Smith said. “I also want our coaches to get out in the community. We are all in this together. I can’t micro-manage my coaches. You have to hire qualified people and let them grow.”

– TS

OHSAA Districts

@OHSAA_Sports

1. Central: cdab.org
2. Northeast: nedab.org
3. Northwest: nwdab.org
4. Southwest: swdab.org
5. East: eastohsaa.com
6. Southeast: seodab.org

Athletics Update
**THE NO-CONTACT PERIOD**

**OHSAA GENERAL SPORTS REGULATION 11**

By Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner

All team sports are required to observe a “No-Contact Period” for their sport. Sometimes known as a “Dead Period,” the time period is different for different sports. The fundamental purpose of this “No-Contact Period” is to give student-athletes a time to ‘get away’ from a long season that just ended while also protecting the start-up period for the next season’s sports and therefore encouraging multi-sport participation. Below is an overview of the “No-Contact Period” and its effect on coaches and players.

1. The following sports have “No-Contact Periods” for a period lasting 28 days after the last contest for that sport’s team: football, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, field hockey, boys and girls basketball and ice hockey.

2. Baseball, softball and wrestling do NOT have a No-Contact Period following their season, however, as for all sports, any and all off-season regulations affecting student-athletes and coaches of those sports begin.

3. The following sports must observe an additional No-Contact Period for a 28 day period counting back from Labor Day of each year: boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball.

4. During a No-Contact Period, school coaches and players are not permitted to have sport-related contact with players who played for their school teams (7-12) during the previous season. This “sport-related contact” includes:
   - Conducting open gyms/open fields/open facilities for individuals that played for the school teams (7-12) the previous season
   - Physical conditioning programs
   - Viewing video/films

5. The No-Contact period that begins at the end of the team’s sport season (and continues for 28 days) is team specific. In other words, the 28 day No-Contact period begins for freshmen as soon as the freshmen schedule is complete.

COMMENT: If a freshman “moves up” and practices or plays with the varsity team, the 28 day No-Contact Period begins upon the varsity team’s season concluding. Likewise, for any other sub-varsity (JV) player doing the same.

6. Weight programs may continue for players but NOT conducted by the coach of that sport.

COMMENT: Many schools have “strength coaches” who monitor the weight room. If the strength coach, or weight room supervisor is a person different from the coach of the sport, individuals may be part of the school’s athletic weight program.

7. Paid coaches and volunteer coaches are under the same regulations regarding No-Contact Periods.

8. There is NO waiver provided for school coaches to coach their own sons/daughters in team play during any No-Contact Period.

EXAMPLE: The head basketball coach at Ronald Regan High School has a son who plays on the “Team Ohio Red/Blue Elite Premier Superstar” AAU basketball team. The head coach served as the head coach of the “Premier Superstar” AAU basketball team. The head coach served as the head coach between June and July and wants to continue doing so during the August No-Contact period. He is not permitted to do that as he must comply with the No-Contact Period whether it is his son or not.

9. School Administrators are expected and required to monitor compliance as a condition of membership in the OHSAA.

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**ELIGIBILITY RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Due to the many questions surrounding the OHSAA Bylaws concerning eligibility, the OHSAA website has a section dedicated solely to helping people understand what matters have an effect on a student-athlete’s eligibility. In addition to the complete text of OHSAA Bylaws, the online eligibility resource center contains an Eligibility Guide for Student-Athletes, an Eligibility Checklist, an Eligibility Guide for Guidance Counselors, a list of Bylaw situations requiring the Commissioner’s Approval and a Transfer Bylaw Resource Center. Additionally, the eligibility resource center also contains various eligibility forms like the Pre-Participation Physical Exam Form, the Residential Transfer - Exception 5 Form, and the Affidavit for Bona Fide Residence Form, along with many others. All this information can be found at [http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility](http://www.ohsaa.org/eligibility).

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**PLAYER PROFILE**

Players on the Wheelersburg baseball team celebrate their back-to-back state titles in Division III after the trophy presentation during the 2013 OHSAA state baseball tournament at Huntington Park. Wheelersburg scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to rally from a one-run deficit and defeat Bloom- Carroll 5-4. The OHSAA state baseball tournament returns to Huntington Park, June 6-7, 2014.
MAKING TOURNAMENTS CONSISTENT ACROSS THE STATE

By Jerry Snodgrass, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner

All OHSAA sanctioned sports have “Tournament Regulations” and all are adopted by the OHSAA’s elected Board of Directors. They are designed to keep the administration of tournaments consistent across the state while also providing latitude to each District Athletic Board in some areas. These regulations, which are posted at OHSAA.org, are the basis for consistency. They identify the number permitted in uniform, specify seeding procedures, list requirements for such things as the official game ball, etc.

District Athletic Boards (DABs) are set up by the OHSAA Constitution (approved by the member schools) with the authority to conduct sectional and district tournaments under the overall tournament regulations mentioned above. This provides each of the six DABs the authority to determine such things as open draws, assigned sites (refer to the right), assignment of teams to sites, host sites and assignment of officials to games. (again, see below) This presents some challenges at the regional level of games.

Open draw or assigned sites? This dominates discussion at so many district coaches’ meetings. Geography in Ohio is extremely diverse. There are places where you can see one school out the window of another (Wynford and Bucyrus, for example) and there are locations where a league trip is two hours away (the southeast Ohio area). For that reason, DABs have always maintained the authority within the above mentioned regulations to determine whether teams are assigned to sectional sites or are permitted to choose their sectional site (open draw).

Most opinions on seeding are derived from the NCAA tournament that takes all the teams in the nation that qualify and seed them accordingly. Traveling from the east coast to Seattle for a first round game? No problem (though they have tried to be better at that). Much debate, but it is simply not done in Ohio. Nor is it done on a regional level and each DAB maintains the authority to do it on a district level. No doubt it is controversial. Coaches always want to win one more game and would be willing to drive across the state on a Tuesday night to do so. Though “we have never done it that way” is never a good answer, the decision to maintain that policy has stood the test of time and has made more economic sense for the OHSAA and schools.

Assignments of teams to tournaments can be found at each DAB’s website:
- East DAB: www.eastohsaa.org
- Northwest DAB: www.nwdab.org
- Northeast DAB: www.nedab.org
- Central DAB: www.cdad.org
- Southeast DAB: www.seodab.org
- Southwest DAB: www.swdab.org

Determining Tournament Sites
It is not a perfect science, but few understand the factors that enter into site selection. First, sites do not bid to host. In other words, the OHSAA does not have a revenue stream from sites that want to host. The OHSAA rents facilities for tournaments – from a sectional tournament all the way through the state finals. So, factor number one: rental costs come into play. It is a simple fact to be fiscally responsible. Secondly, not all schools are willing or able to host. Fall banquets, other events, etc., often tie up a school’s facilities, making it unavailable. Each DAB contracts sectional and district sites, while the OHSAA contracts regional and state sites.
Every winter season, teams and individuals from schools all across the state take to the courts, mats, rinks and pools with a dream of extending their season by advancing in their respective sport tournaments. Officials do the same, and like student-athletes, it takes many years of practice and experience to achieve that goal.

The assigning for winter sports tournaments for sectional and district tournaments is overseen by each District Athletic Board, but many other people are involved, including coaches, athletic directors, assigners and OHSAA staff and commissioners. OHSAA administrators take over the selection of officials for the regional and state level.

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS SELECTED THROUGH RIGOROUS PROCESS

Ratings and Votes from Administrators Combine to Select Officials

Every winter season, teams and individuals from schools all across the state take to the courts, mats, rinks and pools with a dream of extending their season by advancing in their respective sport tournaments. Officials do the same, and like student-athletes, it takes many years of practice and experience to achieve that goal.

The assigning for winter sports tournaments for sectional and district tournaments is overseen by each District Athletic Board, but many other people are involved, including coaches, athletic directors, assigners and OHSAA staff and commissioners. OHSAA administrators take over the selection of officials for the regional and state level.

Tourism officials are assigned based on a rating and voting system by those involved in their sport. All coaches of OHSAA sanctioned teams are required to rate officials. The ratings are then averaged to get that official’s overall rating. This becomes a multiplier later in the selection process.

Athletic directors, assigners, local associations and athletic board members then vote for officials. These people are given a limited number of votes to cast for whomever they wish. These votes are then added together to get an official’s total number of votes. The votes and ratings gathered after the season will be used in the next year’s tournament selection process. For example, when selecting officials for the 2013-14 tournaments, the votes and ratings from the 2012-13 season will be used. It is important to note that the local associations with an extremely large amount of officials are given more votes than some of the smaller associations.

The ratings of the officials are then multiplied by the number of votes they received. Then the officials are ranked by this final number. From this list of officials and their final rankings, twice the number of needed officials are taken off the top to become the pool of officials who will receive tournament applications.

When the pool of officials is populated, these officials receive an application on their myOHSAA account. These applications are used as a way to make sure there is a desire to officiate in the tournament and also to make sure that officials are still eligible and available. In order to officiate a tournament game, an official must have officiated a minimum number of games, participated in their local and state meetings and not be a coach or assigner to work the regional or state level.

The list of eligible officials is then sent out to the District Athletic Boards to assign for sectional and district games, while the regional and state assignments are made by Beau Rugg, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner, from the list of eligible officials. State tournament assignments are given proportionally to the number of officials in each district. For example, if 20 percent of all basketball officials in Ohio come from the East District, 20 percent of the officials officiating the state tournament will be from the East District.

Officials are also not permitted or assigned to work consecutive state tournament assignments.

Gymnastics officials apply through the OHSAA office to judge the state gymnastics competition. Eligible and available officials are selected by the state interpreters based off of the official’s National Association of Women’s Gymnastics Judging rating. These selections are then approved by OHSAA Associate Commissioner Dr. Deborah Moore.

Officials who wish to one day work tournament games are encouraged to keep improving their officiating skills. Experience, skill, mechanics and love of the game are the three quickest ways to become a tournament official.
GETTING TO KNOW THE OATA AND THE NATA

The benefits of having a Licensed Athletic Trainer within your school’s athletic program are numerous

The national participation statistics for high school athletics continues to rise, with almost 8 million student-athletes participating last school year, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Approximately two million injuries are suffered annually by high school athletes. The inevitable question posed by parents, athletes, coaches and administrators is, or should be, “Who is taking care of my child in the event that he or she is injured?”

The ideal answer is, “A licensed athletic trainer.” The American Medical Association recognized and addressed this need in 1998 with the proclamation that “emphasis should be given to ensuring the health, safety and well-being of participants in high school athletics…(and that) appropriate measures to ensure funding to provide the services of a certified athletic trainer…” to accommodate that need.

However, a recent four-month national review by Scripps Howard News Service found that only about one in three high schools employ the services of a full-time certified athletic trainer. That means that the approximately 6,400 athletic trainers working in secondary schools cannot provide for the nearly 18,400 private and public schools that sponsor interscholastic sports. This creates a void in quality healthcare for a higher percentage of the sports participants.

Some schools fill this void with part-time athletic trainers, certified first responders, coaches trained in first aid, nurses, EMTs and team physicians, most of which are utilized for game-coverage only. This practice contradicts the statistics that show athletes are two or three times more likely to sustain an injury during practice and conditioning than in competition.

Although multiple professionals are accessible to the high number of participating high school athletes, the licensed athletic trainer provides the best option for continuity of care within the school system. The athletic trainer can also address the need to establish, and to follow, an emergency action plan that spells out who is responsible for the different components of various injury scenarios so that otherwise minor injuries are not clogging emergency rooms and physician offices. This distinction solidifies the need for continued efforts to employ full-time athletic trainers in all of the secondary schools in Ohio.

Annually, an average of $2.6 million is distributed to schools in the form of travel reimbursements & ticket bonuses.

DID YOU KNOW?
MEMBER FINANCIAL BENEFITS

Among the many benefits of OHSAA membership are five advantages tied specifically to finances:

1. No annual membership dues
2. No tournament entry fees
3. Reimbursement for some regional and state team tournament travel expenses
4. Keep a portion of presale tickets for selected tournaments
5. No cost for annual catastrophic insurance premium

In addition, did you know that the OHSAA receives no tax money of any kind? The OHSAA’s operating budget is comprised of three main revenue sources: ticket sales from tournaments events (78 percent), officials dues (11 percent) and corporate partners (11 percent).

St. Clairsville athletic trainer Perry Pritchard tends to a player during the 2012 OHSAA Division IV football state championship game at Canton Fawcett Stadium. Athletic trainers are a crucial part of a school’s athletic department and are supported by the OHSAA and the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association.

As the OHSAA’s CFO, Jordan oversees internal financial operations, the annual budget, tournament financial operations and the independent company that performs the annual audit. He also serves as the financial advisor for the OHSAA Foundation.

JEFF JORDAN

After an 11-year stint at the Ohio Department of Education, Jeff Jordan joined the OHSAA’s administrative staff as Chief Financial Officer in August of 2011. He was director of finance program services for the ODE since 2006 and had oversight of districts in fiscal caution, watch and emergency. Between 2001 and 2010, he was responsible for the ODE’s Office of Federal and State Grants Management.

Jordan was appointed to an ex-officio position on the OHSAA Board of Directors by the ODE from 2001 through April 2011. He has been an OHSAA licensed basketball official since 1991.

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The following memo was sent to 7th and 8th grade principals and athletic administrators in the fall of 2013:

OHSAA 7th and 8th Grade Committee

The OHSAA 7th and 8th Grade Committee supports education-based athletics for member schools and focuses on enhancing opportunities for student-athletes to participate in school-sponsored programs within the guidelines set forth by the OHSAA. We believe the values of participation are an integral part of a student’s educational experience and are enriched when they occur under the supervision of school-approved personnel.

TEN REMINDERS

• Student-athletes must receive a passing grade in five classes during the previous grading period to remain eligible. The five classes must be indicated on the student’s academic record.

• Student-athletes must submit a physical examination signed by a medical examiner prior to participation. NOTE: New form being used by OHSAA – see website to download.

• Remember to host your mandatory parent/athlete meeting for each sports season to cover your district’s code of conduct, OHSAA regulations and any other topics pertinent to the upcoming season. The meeting must be posted on myOHSAA.

• Student-athletes must have the OHSAA Concussion Information Awareness form completed and on file with school administration.

• In reference to the new legislation that became effective on September 30, 2013, confirm your Board of Education has authorized home educated and non-public school students to participate on your interscholastic sports teams and other activities.

• 7th and 8th grade student-athletes CAN participate in open-gym or other training sessions outside of the school season of a sport with students in grades 9-12. However, they CANNOT practice with 9-12 student-athletes during the respective school seasons (see Sport Regulation 36.3, 2013-14 OHSAA Handbook).

• Please double check that ALL coaches meet PAV, Coaching Education, concussion education, etc.

(continued on page 23)
Mr. Beau Rugg, Assistant Commissioner, along with the middle school committee would like to bring your attention to a correction to the wrestling regulations. Under the specific regulations for middle school wrestling (5-b), it should read:

A) No one below the 7th grade shall practice/participate with or against 7th-8th grade wrestlers. 7th and 8th grades wrestlers shall not participate/practice with or against 9-12 grade wrestlers

Additional Questions? The 7th and 8th grade Guide to Participation in 7th and 8th Grade Athletics is available at www.ohsaa.org. This brochure serves as a guide for students, parents and school administrators.

If you have questions, please contact your district athletic administrator or any of the members of the OHSAA 7th and 8th grade Committee (listed below). Thank you for helping to promote education-based athletics in Ohio.

Steve Zimmerman (stevezimmerman@foreshills.edu); Bill Koppel (wmkoppel@gmail.com); Bret Mavis (bmavis@mail.gsn.k12.oh.us); Dan Flynn (dflynn@lasallehs.net); Jeff Kurtz (13jk@sbglobal.net); Karen O’Hare (nrcn_ohare@tccsa.net); Kevin Katafias (kjkatafias@genoaschools.com); Roxanne Price (rprice@ohsaa.org); Tom Martin (martint@gjps.org); Doug Baldwin (wc_d baldwin@seovec.org)
A big challenge for amateur sports today is maintaining a philosophical consistency during the youth-to-interscholastic sports transition, especially as this applies to the focus, safety and welfare of the kids who compete. While all 50 states have a state athletic organization that oversees and governs interscholastic sports (i.e. OHSAA), youth sports are not nearly as organized and lack state-level governance. The challenge, therefore, is creating more synchronized and harmonious communication between youth and interscholastic sports to ensure consistency in values, philosophies and safety pertaining to amateur sports.

At the interscholastic level, great strides have been made in recent years to protect kids against injuries (most recently evidenced by Ohio’s new concussion guidelines), as well as coach training pertaining to contemporary issues in sports. Unfortunately, youth sports often lag behind in these types of educational training, and as a result are not always in synchrony philosophically with the core values of interscholastic sports. The reasons for this disconnect are varied, but mostly center around the lack of local, state and national governing bodies for youth sports (resulting in different rules, regulations and philosophies among youth leagues).

It is important that we continue to work toward seamlessly connecting youth and interscholastic sports as many youth sport competitors eventually move on to play school sports. OHSAA Commissioner Dr. Dan Ross reminds us that while OHSAA does not govern youth sports, he is dedicated to helping share the state model used in Ohio to help youth sports to those interested in learning more.

From a philosophical standpoint, it is abundantly clear from research studies that kids primarily play sports to have fun. With that in mind, it is important that we work together to create common core values and guidelines to help kids enjoy their unique sport experience, as well as develop a philosophical consistency for kids who choose to play youth sports all the way through interscholastic sports. Below are a few examples of core values we should all work toward providing kids who play sports:

- **Addressing sports burnout.** With increasingly more kids specializing in one sport and playing sport(s) year-round, youth sports burnout has become more prevalent. Coaches at all levels need to be better prepared to identify and respond to kids who struggle dealing with the physical and emotional stress associated with youth and interscholastic sports.

- **Keeping up-to-date with safe equipment.** As kids continue to get bigger, faster and stronger, youth and interscholastic sports must keep up by providing the latest and safest equipment. Both youth and interscholastic sports also need to continue reviewing on-field rules and regulations to better protect kids, similar to what has been done with concussions.

- **Delivering psychosocial coach training.** Youth and interscholastic coaches have so many things to pay attention to these days, from traditional issues like playing time, hazing and evaluating talent to contemporary issues like sports burnout, performance supplement usage, and maintaining appropriate boundaries with kids. While coach training might seem like a burden to some, it is more important than ever today to help coaches keep up with the many changes in youth and interscholastic sports so that kids enjoy a fun and safe sports experience.

- **Educating parents about sportsmanship.** Sadly, probably not a week goes by where we don’t hear about a parent outburst at a youth or interscholastic sporting event. In most of these cases a parent uses inappropriate language toward a coach, athlete or official, but in other, more serious situations, actual physical violence and assaults have been reported. Fortunately, the vast majority of these problems can be prevented by proactively providing education to parents designed to help them become positive and supportive fans.

We all benefit when student athletes, coaches, and parents stay on the same page transitioning from youth to interscholastic sports. It is important to remember that youth and interscholastic sports are terrific opportunities for positive self-growth for kids, and not designed to be a mini-professional sports training league.

For more information on sport psychology-based educational training products and services for coaches, parents, and student athletes, please visit www.drstankovich.com
On behalf of Ohio’s dairy farmers, the American Dairy Association (ADA) Mideast is pleased to continue its partnership with OHSAA for 2013-2014, designating chocolate milk as the official beverage of OHSAA. ADA Mideast and OHSAA share a common goal to improve the health and wellness of children.

As a core partner of OHSAA, ADA Mideast continues to encourage student-athletes to make smart food choices and lead a healthy lifestyle through its Fuel Up with Chocolate Milk campaign.

Lowfat chocolate milk is packed with nine essential nutrients and is an ideal beverage for student-athletes. It provides them with the nutrition needed after sporting events and practices: carbohydrates to provide energy and help fuel muscles, protein to support growth and repair of muscles, fluid and electrolytes to rehydrate, and vitamins and minerals to help build strong bones and bodies.

Enjoying nutrient-rich chocolate milk is also a great way to help students, parents and fans be at the top of their game and get their three servings of dairy needed each day, as recommended by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

New this year, Fuel Up with Chocolate Milk is the presenting sponsor of the Respect the Game initiative and will reach more than 866,000 students with a healthy lifestyle message. Co-branded banners will be hung in the gymnasiums of all member high schools and middle schools.

ADA Mideast will also continue to support state semifinal and final events at all 24 OHSAA-sanctioned sports and serve as the presenting sponsor of both the OHSAA Radio Network and the Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity (SEI) coach awards.

Support from corporate partners allows the OHSAA and the OHSAA Foundation to conduct the annual student leadership conference, which drew 1,200 students last October.
2014 OHSAA WINTER STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEWS

By Andrew Mann, OHSAA Sports Information Assistant Intern

WRESTLING – DUAL TEAM

When: February 8
Where: St. John Arena, The Ohio State University, Columbus

The OHSAA dual team wrestling tournament returns to St. John Arena at The Ohio State University for its second year. Lakewood St. Edward (Div. I), St. Paris Graham (Div. II) and Delta (Div. III) took home the championship titles in the inaugural year of the team wrestling state tournament. The one-day state tournament will consist of quarterfinals and semifinals in the morning and afternoon, followed by the finals session in the evening.

BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING

When: February 19-22
Where: C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton

Swimmers and fans will pack Branin Natatorium in Canton for the 87th annual boys and 38th annual girls swimming and diving championships in February. The competition brings Ohio’s best swimmers and divers to Canton to compete against one another over a four-day tournament. In 2013, Cincinnati St. Xavier (Div. I) and Dayton Oakwood (Div. II) won boys state titles, while Cincinnati Ursuline Academy (Div. I) and Gates Mills Hawken (Div. II) claimed girls titles.

WRESTLING – INDIVIDUAL

When: February 27-March 1
Where: Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

The 77th OHSAA state individual wrestling tournament returns to Columbus in February and March as the best wrestlers from across the state compete over the three-day tournament. Three senior wrestlers won their fourth state title last year, joining only 22 others in history to accomplish this feat. In Division II, two seniors seek their fourth state title after winning their third in 2013. The traditional Parade of Champions will open the final matches on Saturday night.

BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING

When: Division II - February 28 and March 1, Division I – March 7 and 8
Where: Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl

In its eighth year, the OHSAA state boys and girls bowling tournament will crown a total of four teams and individual state champions as both the boys and girls tournaments will split into two divisions. The Division II tournament will be held February 28 and March 1 and the Division I tournament will be held March 7 and March 8 at Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl. In 2013, Coldwater took home back-to-back state title for the girls, becoming the first school to win two state titles in the seven-year history. The boys of Canfield won their first state title.

GYMNASTICS

When: February 28 and March 1
Where: Hilliard Bradley High School

The 42nd annual gymnastics state tournament will return to Hilliard Bradley High School for the fifth consecutive year. The team competition will take place on Friday and the individual competition will take place on Saturday. In 2013, Brecksville-Broadview Heights won its 10th consecutive state title and 13th overall, Brecksville-Broadview Heights freshman Alecia Farino looks to return after her dominant performance in the individual competition, winning four of five events including the all-around, and setting a state record on vault (9.90).

ICE HOCKEY

When: March 7-8
Where: Nationwide Arena, Columbus

Nationwide Arena in Columbus hosts its 12th year of the ice hockey state tournament in March. The 37th annual state tournament will feature four teams looking to claim Ohio hockey’s top prize with two semifinal games on Friday and the championship played on Saturday. In 2013, Shaker Heights won its fourth ice hockey state championship, its first in 11 years, defeating Sylvania Northview 3-1.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

When: March 13-15
Where: Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

The 39th annual girls basketball state tournament returns to Columbus for a three-day tournament as the best teams in Ohio compete for the state title. The Division II and Division IV semifinals will be played on Thursday, and the Division III and Division I semifinals will be played on Friday. All four championships games are played on Saturday in that divisional order. In 2013, Kettering Fairmont claimed its first championship in Div. I. Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown wins its fifth straight title in Div. II. Anna wins its third overall title in Div. III and in Div. IV, Fort Loramie wins its first girls basketball championship.

BOYS BASKETBALL

When: March 20-22
Where: Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, The Ohio State University, Columbus

For the 92nd time, the boys basketball state tournament will tip-off featuring the top teams in the state. The divisional order of play is Div. II and IV on Thursday, with Div. III and I on Friday. All four championship games will be played on Saturday, including the introduction of the new members of the OHSAA Circle of Champions. The 2013 boys basketball state champions were Mentor in Div. II, Columbus Bishop Watterson in Div. I and Ottawa-Glandorf in Div. III, while in Div. IV, Cleveland Villa Angela-St. Joseph won its fifth title.
FAVORITE BURGER. BIGGEST FAN.

BURGER KING® IS PROUD TO BE THE #1 SUPPORTER OF OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS.
YOU’VE TRAINED, YOU’VE PRACTICED, YOU’VE PLAYED. NOW FUEL UP.

As an athlete, you don’t need extra vitamins, minerals or supplements — you just need to eat the right things. Eating a variety of nutrient-rich foods from all five food groups will give you the energy you need every day.

UNLESS YOU WANT TO RUN ON EMPTY, YOU’VE GOT TO FUEL UP AND HYDRATE.

4 hours before the game, start hydrating and consider a high-carbohydrate pre-game meal such as:

+ A baked potato topped with veggies and salsa
+ Pasta with red sauce
+ Brown rice and veggies with a side of fruit

2 hours before the game, continue drinking small amounts of fluid and, if you missed the pre-game meal, eat foods rich in carbohydrates and low in fiber such as:

+ A fruit and yogurt smoothie with lowfat granola
+ Toast with jelly
+ Pretzels and fruit
+ Cereal with lowfat or fat free milk and fruit

30 minutes before the game, hydrate with 8–12 oz. of fluid.

If the event is going to last longer than 60 minutes, grab a carbohydrate/electrolyte boost, like a sports drink, with a small serving of fruit.

AND AFTER YOUR EVENT, rehydrate with a beverage rich in carbohydrates and electrolytes such as lowfat or fat free chocolate milk (or lactose-free chocolate milk)

Chocolate milk has a carb: protein ratio of 3:1, is a good source of potassium, and has a moderate amount of sodium

FOR MORE INFO ON HOW YOU CAN GET THE SPORTS NUTRITION EDGE, PLEASE VISIT DRINK-MILK.COM