

Overview

Now in its 105th 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 600 high schools and 800 7th-8th grade schools belong to the OHSAA, which represents over 350,000 students competing in 24 sanctioned sports (12 for boys and 12 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 hearing appeals of 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 eight 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 \$700,000. Additionally, the OHSAA reimburses schools for many of their tournament expenses and allows schools the opportunity to keep some of the receipts from the sale of tournament tickets.

OHSAA High School Eligibility Checklist

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes will likely mean you are NOT eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- I am officially enrolled in an OHSAA member high school.
- I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count toward graduation, during my last grading period.
- I have at least one parent living in Ohio.
- I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation.
- If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with my previous school and my new school to ensure that all proper forms have been submitted to the OHSAA.
- I have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- I did not turn 19 before August 1, 2011.
- I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$200 per item.
- I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- I have not competed in a mandatory open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program.
- I have not been coached or provided instruction by a school coach in a team sport or cross country, track & field and wrestling other than during my sport season or for no more than 10 days between June 1 and July 31 (applies to team sports only).
- I am not competing on a non-school team during my school team's season.
- I have not been recruited to attend this school.
- I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at my school.
- My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at my school which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a DVD prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues and address sporting behavior.
- My school reviewed its concussion management protocol and my parents and I viewed a short presentation on concussions that is available at no cost at www.nfhslearn.com.

2011-12 Edition

Student-Athlete Eligibility Guide

Published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association



Ohio High School Athletic Association Regulations Overview

Participating in your school's interscholastic athletics program will provide some of your most memorable and enjoyable moments ever. Since your school is a member of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, there are standards that must be met in order to be eligible to compete.

The essential eligibility requirements in this publication are only a summary of some of the regulations affecting student eligibility. Most requirements are published in the OHSAA Handbook, which can be found in the offices of your principal and athletic administrator and is posted on the OHSAA web site (www.ohsaa.org). Your school district also has the authority to establish additional academic standards and codes of student or athletic conduct.

Any questions you have concerning the OHSAA standards or your athletic eligibility should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator. You should also meet with these administrators EVERY TIME before you change your course schedule or drop a course. Should you transfer schools, you must follow up with your previous school and your new school to ensure that all proper forms have been submitted to the OHSAA.

The eligibility standards of the OHSAA have been adopted by the member schools and were accepted by your school when it became an OHSAA member. You are urged, as a student-athlete, to study these standards carefully since you are responsible for compliance with these standards.

Best wishes as you learn the valuable lessons that come with your participation in interscholastic athletics!

Student athletes and parents have the opportunity to ask school administrators and/or coaches questions on OHSAA and school eligibility requirements, the school's Athletic Code of Conduct policy and other issues during preseason meetings that the OHSAA requires schools to hold no later than two weeks after the beginning of each

