

The following are the preliminary minutes from the February 20, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 24, 2025, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (February 20, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at the OHSAA Offices in Columbus. President Jay Selgo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

**Board Members In Attendance:** Jay Selgo, president; David Alvarado; Stephanie Evans; Molly Feesler; Mark Rose; Walt Skaggs; Paul Stone; Randy Tevepaugh, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio) and Kimberly Miller (ex-officio, participated virtually starting at 9:13 a.m.).

**Board Member Excused:** Andy Bixler, vice president.

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance, and staff members Charles Anderson, Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Michelle Kern, Zachary Taylor and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others In Attendance:** Josh Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Incoming OHSAA Board of Directors members John Carter, Doug Foote, Matt Hutchinson and Lane Warner; Ray Benjamin and Scott Manahan, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches (participated virtually).

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Paul Stone to **adopt** the agenda for the February 20, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Walt Skaggs, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the minutes from the January 16, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

### III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

#### A. Recommendation to Approve the OHSAA Financial Report through January

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through January. She said the Association currently has \$7.76 million of operating cash, and \$18 million when including investments and board-designated funds. Total cash and investments as of January 31 can cover 8.7 months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

#### OHSAA Financial Report Through January 31, 2025)

	Total Cash	Year to Date Gross Revenue	Year to Date Gross Expenses	Year to Date Net Profit/Loss
District				
OHSAA Office	\$11,776,462	\$9,241,266	\$7,954,211	\$1,287,054
Central	\$989,305	\$299,665	\$344,532	— \$44,8663
East	\$923,694	\$130,619	\$155,746	— \$25,127
Northeast	\$640,952	\$493,644	\$694,550	— \$200,906
Northwest	\$1,600,386	\$460,656	\$432,023	\$28,633
Southeast	\$775,247	\$159,828	\$220,622	— \$60,794
Southwest	\$1,335,034	\$466,504	\$555,651	— \$89,148
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$18,041,080</b>	<b>\$11,252,182</b>	<b>\$10,357,335</b>	<b>\$894,846</b>
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking		\$6,741,687	\$8,550,748	\$10,107,254
Savings		<u>\$1,019,764</u>	<u>\$1,017,341</u>	<u>\$866,346</u>
<b>Total Operating Cash</b>		<b>\$7,761,451</b>	<b>\$9,568,089</b>	<b>\$10,973,600</b>
Months on Hand		3.7	4.6	5.7
Board Designated Funds		\$997,057	\$494,812	\$597,486
Investments - Morgan Stanley		<u>\$9,282,572</u>	<u>\$9,159,378</u>	<u>\$8,538,905</u>
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>\$10,279,629</b>	<b>\$9,654,190</b>	<b>\$9,136,391</b>
Months on Hand		4.9	4.4	4.7
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments on Hand</b>		<b>\$18,041,080</b>	<b>\$19,222,279</b>	<b>\$20,109,991</b>
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)		8.7	9.0	10.4
Athletic Enrichment Fund		\$3,119,977	\$2,609,566	\$2,092,274

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Motion by Mark Rose, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

### IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

#### A. Update on Upcoming Spring Meetings

Director Bob Goldring informed the Board that the sites and dates for the 2025 OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings in April have been set. The OHSAA is required by the Constitution to conduct these meetings in order to explain the upcoming referendum issues, so the majority of the meetings will be spent with Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai reviewing those items. The six locations are Cambridge, Clayton, Logan, Streetsboro, Tiffin and Westerville, with the Tiffin meeting in conjunction with a Northwest District Athletic Board. Registration material will be sent to the membership soon. In addition, the Executive Director's Office will be conducting an in-person meeting with the presidents of the various state coaches associations on Wednesday, April 23, at the OHSAA Office. This meeting is a chance for the staff to share important reminders and discuss timely issues while also hearing the concerns from the coaches associations. Mr. Goldring said invitations will be emailed soon, and Board of Directors members are welcome to attend to listen to the discussion.

#### B. Update on 2025-26 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

Director Bob Goldring said that dates for OHSAA Board of Directors Meetings for the 2025-26 school year have been selected, and most will correspond with the 2024-25 dates. Unless noted, all meetings are on Thursdays at the OHSAA Office in Columbus and begin at 9:00. The dates are: August 28, 2025; **Friday**, September 26, 2025; October 23, 2025; January 15, 2026; February 19, 2026; April 23, 2026, and June 12, 2026 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron). The Board will also conduct closed meetings during the state football finals in Canton in early December and during the state boys basketball tournament in Dayton in late March.

#### C. Review of 2025 OHSAA OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame and 2024-25 Officials-of-the-Year Selections

Director Beau Rugg informed the Board that 14 individuals have been selected to the 2025 OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame after the Hall of Fame Committee met earlier this year, and 21 officials have been selected as OHSAA 2024-25 Officials-of-the-Year. Selected to the hall of fame were: the late **Milt Anthony** (Columbus; basketball); **Mary Black** (Dayton; volleyball); the late **Daniel Delande** (Shadyside; basketball, softball); **James Fox** (Poland; cross country, track & field); **Ralph Green** (Toledo; football, basketball, softball); **Jim Johnson** (Mason; football, basketball); **Matthew Kleiner** (Monroe; football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball); **Ken Kuhlman** (Waterville; football, basketball); **Kenneth Mills** (Poland; football, volleyball, basketball); **Rodney Nichols** (Hillsboro; basketball); **Jonathan Ross** (Columbus; retired - volleyball, basketball, lacrosse); **Glen Smith** (Bucyrus; cross country, track & field); **Lee Spitzer** (Columbus; retired - lacrosse), and **Kevin Sulecki** (Mentor; football).

2024-25 OHSAA Officials-of-the-Year are: baseball: **Jon Saphire** (Worthington); boys basketball: **Dan Holland** (Fort Loramie); girls basketball: **Rebecca Olmstead** (Conneaut); boys cross country: **Kristopher Marshall** (Milford); girls cross country: **Dr. Allison Jones** (Austintown); field hockey: **Todd Shapiro** (Cleveland); football: **Rick Barnes** (Pickerington); gymnastics: **Trisha Sefakis** (Cincinnati); ice hockey: **Robert McGreal** (North Olmsted); boys lacrosse: **Wally Petry** (Cincinnati); girls lacrosse: **Williams Andrews** (Pickerington); boys soccer: **Ed Shoemaker** (Vandalia); girls soccer: **Zack Kinsey** (East Liverpool); softball: **Maria Hottinger** (Hilliard); boy swimming & diving: **Eric Turner** (Springfield); girls swimming & diving: **Joe Vogt** (Massillon); boys track & Field: **Mike Nissenbaum** (Powell); girls track & Field: **Dave Milkovich** (Copley); boys volleyball: **Tim Meyer** (Cincinnati); girls volleyball: **Anne Bean L-Heureux** (Athens), and wrestling: **Paul Coffland** (Cadiz).

The OHSAA celebration of officiating and hall of fame ceremonies will take place June 21, 2025, at the Renaissance Columbus Westerville-Polaris in Westerville.

#### D. Update on Appeals, Legislative Issues and Legal Cases

Staff member Lizzy Wilson provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Warren Howland High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, J-1 Visa. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Warren Howland High School was fined \$100. **St. Henry High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when he participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing himself as a member of the school's boys basketball team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for two regular season contests. **Circleville Logan Elm High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, Bona Fide Legal Change of Residence. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility.

retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Logan Elm High School was fined \$100. **Madeira Middle School** had two student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the school's wrestling team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes were suspended for two regular season contests. **Loveland High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when he participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing himself as a member of the school's boys basketball team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for one regular season contest. **West-Liberty Salem High School** had a student-athlete in boys bowling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in five regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Dayton Dunbar High School** had a student-athlete in boys bowling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in six regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Defiance Ayersville High School** had a student-athlete in girls basketball violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when she participated in 13 regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Cleveland Glenville High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, Bona Fide Legal Change of Residence. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, the school forfeited the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Cincinnati Deer Park High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, Bona Fide Legal Change of Residence. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school was fined \$100. **Cincinnati Summit Country Day School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, when he participated in a contest during the period of ineligibility required within the transfer bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Westerville North High School** violated Football Regulation 1.13 and Football Regulation 1.14, Five-Day Acclimatization Period, when the varsity football team practiced with shoulder pads in violation of the established acclimatization period. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the number of summer contact days in 2025 for the school has been reduced from 13 to 11. **Hubbard High School** had a student-athlete in boys wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in a contest after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Cincinnati Anderson High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when he participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing himself as a member of the school's boys basketball program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for one regular season contests.

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 61 rulings on 56 appeals this school year on 12 dates, and seven appeals have been granted or the penalty has been modified. Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai also provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues, while OHSAA Legal Counsel Josh Fraley provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2025 Referendum Issues

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai, her eligibility team and the OHSAA legal counsels have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws that the Board of Directors would place before the membership for referendum. At the October 24, 2024, and January 16, 2025, meetings, the Board of Directors approved placing five proposed Bylaw modifications before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Ms. Ronai reviewed four additional 2025 proposed items (one Constitution, three Bylaws), and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that they be approved by the Board for referendum. If approved, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. The four recommendations were as follows:

#### **Constitution Article 3, Membership Requirements (Modification)**

This proposed modification would shift the sports offered emphasis onto the total number of sports offered (i.e. six), as opposed to the current regulation that requires two recognized sports per season. Under the

proposed language, as long as a school offers at least one recognized sport per season, and a total of six throughout the school year, it would be fulfilling new proposed membership obligations. With the new proposed focus on total sports offered during a year vs. sports offered per season, the proposed language removes the flexibility for a school to petition the Executive Director's Office for participation in postseason tournaments during the probationary period based on "objective criteria." As for penalties as part of the proposal, not offering a total of six sports during a given year would make the school ineligible for all post-season participation the following school year, while not offering at least one sport during a season would make the school ineligible for postseason participation during that season the following year. This means that a team that did not exist the following year would not be eligible for postseason play the next year.

**Bylaw 2-2-5, Roster Counts for Non-Public Schools in Competitive Balance (Modification)**

The proposed modification would remove the exception created for private school systems which use geographic boundaries to assign students to attend certain high schools. This exception was created to address the unique setup of the Columbus Diocese schools. With the 2019 change in the feeder school option (12.5 mile radius), this exception is no longer being utilized. The proposed language would remove this option to review attendance zone residency for private schools.

**Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, Exception 5, Partial Enrollment Obligations (Modification)**

This proposed modification would remove and replace language to clarify how students receiving home instruction can be eligible for athletic participation at non-public member schools. Since these students are required under state law to be enrolled in a non-public member school in accordance with the partial enrollment policy of the governing board of that non-public school, the proposed language modification would permit any class taken by the home educated student to count toward this partial enrollment requirement as long as the class is taken at the school's physical location, and the class counts toward graduation.

**Bylaw 4-7-4, Transfers, Intradistrict Adult Bad Behavior (New Exception, Renumber Current Exception 6)**

The proposed new exception would mirror current Exception 6 to Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding a student who is a victim of harassment, intimidation or bullying as those terms are defined by the Ohio Revised Code and, as a result of this documented action, the student is compelled to transfer, thus permitting the Executive Director's Office, in its sole discretion, to waive all or part of the 50 percent period of ineligibility for one or more sport/sports seasons provided certain conditions are met. However, the proposed new exception would allow a student to transfer to a different school within the same district if the requirements of this exception have been met.

Motion by Randy Tevepaugh, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the recommendation to place the four additional proposed changes (one Constitution; three Bylaw) up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)**

**A. Recommendation to Modify the Start Date for Permissible Coaching in Team Sports**

Coaching and/or instruction by the school's coaching staff in the team sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball for any number of students from their teams in excess of the limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3 for a maximum of 13 days has been permissible from May 15 through July 31 (General Sports Regulation 7.5.1, 13-Day Rule). **The Executive Director's Office recommended that the start date for the 13-day coaching period begin on the Monday of that mid-May week, which in 2025 would be May 12.**

Modifying the start date in General Sports Regulation 7.5.1, 13-Day Rule, would also mean other OHSA General Sports Regulations would need modified as follows:

- 1.) 7.3.1, Note a.) — The team limit would not be in effect for the sports of basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball from **May 12 (2025) to July 31** when a non-interscholastic team is coached by a coach not employed by the school in which the team members are participating.
- 2.) 7.10.1, Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction — **From August 1 through May 11 (2025)** in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time prior to and after the school season and outside the defined no-contact periods from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3.
- 3.) 7.10.2, Individual Skill/Coaching Instruction — **From May 12 (2025) through July 31** in the sports of baseball, basketball, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball and volleyball, individual skill/coaching instruction may be received by a member of an interscholastic team or individuals at any time from school coaches provided the number of individuals per group per school coach providing instruction does not exceed the team limit set forth in General Sports Regulation 7.3.



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### B. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Spring Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2025 spring sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA staff members Emily Mason (baseball and boys volleyball); John Kronour (softball - for Kelly Schoenly - and boys tennis), and Monroe Britton (boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse). Most updates reflect date changes or modifications or other changes made for clarity purposes. In **baseball**, it was noted that tournaments have expanded to seven divisions, and the state semifinals will be held at Canal Park in Akron Friday, June 13, and Kent State University's Olga A. Mural Field at Schoonover Stadium and Canton's Thurman Munson Memorial Stadium Friday and Saturday, June 13 and 14, and the state finals will be held at Canal Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15. It was also noted that the regional tournaments will be held Tuesday through Thursday, June 3-5. In **softball**, tournaments have also expanded to seven divisions, and the state semifinals and finals will all be played at Akron's Firestone Stadium Wednesday through Sunday, June 4 through 8. In **boys tennis**, it was noted that state qualifiers in Division I will come from the combined Central and Southeast Districts, the combined Northeast and East Districts, the Northwest District and the Southwest District, while state qualifiers in Division II will come from all six OHSAA athletic districts. The state tournament will return to the College of Wooster on Thursday and Friday, May 29 and 30. The **boys lacrosse** and **girls lacrosse** state finals will return to Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus, with the girls finals Saturday, June 7 (4:00 - Div. I; 7:00 - Div. II) and the boys finals Sunday, June 8 (1:00 - Div. I; 4:00 - Div. II).

### C. Recommendation to Modify Start Dates in Golf and Wrestling

Director John Kronour said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the start dates for coaching and contests be modified in golf and wrestling for the 2025-26 school year as follows:

- 1.) Golf coaching and tryouts and the start of the season for competition will be the last Monday in July for the foreseeable future, which will be July 28 in 2025.
- 2.) With Christmas Day and New Year's Day on Thursdays in 2025, wrestling coaching and tryouts will be Friday, November 14, 2025, and the start of the season for competition will be Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Motion by Paul Stone, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** New Business Consent items VI. A., VI. B. and VI. C. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

## VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked the OHSAA staff for all of their work and assistance, and they welcomed the incoming Board of Directors members who were in attendance. Staff member Kelly Schoenly was recognized for her creativity in developing the semifinal and final schedule for the state softball tournament at Akron's Firestone Stadium. Additionally, Board members also said they are looking forward to the upcoming expanded girls and boys basketball tournaments.

Board President Jay Selgo acknowledged a death in the family of Board Vice President Andy Bixler, who missed this meeting, and a recent death in the family of Board member David Alvarado.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Randy Tevepaugh to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Motion passed 8-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

(Unless noted, all meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 9:00 but are subject to change.)

**2024-25 School Year:** April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).