

The following are the preliminary minutes from the April 23, 2026, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 11, 2026, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (April 23, 2026)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at the OHSAA Offices in Columbus. President Stephanie Evans called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

Board Members In Attendance: Stephanie Evans, president; Randy Tevepaugh, vice president; John Carter; Ray Hibbs; Matt Hutchinson; Tom Nerl; Mark Rose; Lane Warner; Jeff Wheeler, and Jared Cole (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Beau Rugg (participated virtually), Ronald Sayers and Tim Stried, directors; Laura Vermilya, chief financial officer, and staff members Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, Michael Cornathan, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Amanda Harding, Steve Hoffbauer, Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Michelle Kern, Claudia Markoff, Kelly Schoenly and Lizzy Wilson.

Others In Attendance: Joe Fraley, OHSAA legal counsel; Andy Bixler and Scott Kaufman, OHSAA Southwest District Athletic Board; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Gerald Cooke and Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Tom Nerl to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the April 23, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ray Hibbs, second by John Carter to **approve** the minutes from the February 19, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting and the March 20, 2026, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve the OHSAA Financial Report through March 31, 2026

Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through March 31, 2026. She said nearly all winter sports tournament reports have been submitted, and she expects the net profit for those tournaments to be approximately \$323,000 (the proposed budget expected a loss), and expenses to be six percent favorable to budget.

When combining cash and investments, the OHSAA's current total cash was at \$19.2 million, which would cover 9.3 months of expenses, which is similar to where the Association stood a year ago. The financial report is summarized as follows:

OHSAA Financial Report (Through March 31, 2026)

District	Total Cash	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
		Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$12,541,306	\$12,794,806	\$10,949,805	\$1,845,001
Central	\$1,057,105	\$891,650	\$897,917	— \$6,267
East	\$986,998	\$496,656	\$361,195	\$135,461
Northeast	\$684,878	\$1,538,797	\$1,602,835	— \$64,038
Northwest	\$1,710,066	\$1,518,120	\$1,146,310	\$371,810
Southeast	\$828,378	\$607,141	\$524,561	\$82,580
Southwest	\$1,422,468	\$1,243,356	\$1,327,060	— \$83,704
Totals	\$19,231,199	\$19,090,526	\$16,809,683	\$2,280,843
		Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking		\$7,235,258	\$5,488,140	\$7,992,201
Savings		\$1,051,899	\$1,049,971	\$1,024,392
Total Operating Cash		\$8,287,157	\$6,538,111	\$9,016,593
Months on Hand		4.0	3.3	4.5
Board Designated Capital Improvements		\$279,910	\$279,428	\$1,003,101
Investments - Morgan Stanley		\$10,664,133	\$10,934,708	\$9,188,064
Total Investments		\$10,944,043	\$11,214,136	\$10,191,165
Months on Hand		5.3	5.4	5.0
Total Cash & Investments on Hand		\$19,231,200	\$17,752,247	\$19,207,758
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)		9.3	8.7	9.5
Athletic Enrichment Fund		\$2,218,873	\$2,212,158	\$3,141,500

Board of Directors Minutes (4/23/26) — 2

Motion by Lane Warner second by Tom Nerl to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA 990 (From August 1, 2024-July 31, 2025)

Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya provided the Board with the OHSAA tax form (IRS Form 990) from August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, which the Association is required to file as a 501(c)(3) organization. She said the form is completed by a certified public accounting firm with input from herself, and the Executive Director's Office recommended that the form be approved.

Motion by Randy Tevepaugh, second by Ray Hibbis to **approve** the OHSAA 990 as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Travel Stipends for 2026 Winter and Spring Sports

Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya said that the Executive Director's Office recommended that tournament travel stipends for 2026 winter and spring sports be provided to qualifying schools in team sports at same level as last year and similar to the fall sports. Teams that advanced to regional and state level tournaments would be compensated as follows:

- Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball: teams would receive \$750 for each regional tournament contest and \$1,500 for each state tournament contest.
- Ice Hockey: teams would receive \$750 for reaching the regional finals and \$1,500 for each state tournament contest.
- Baseball and Softball: teams would receive \$750 for each regional tournament contest and \$1,500 for each state tournament contest.
- Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse: teams would receive \$750 for reaching the regional finals and \$1,500 for each state tournament contest.

Motion by Mark Rose, second by Matt Hutchinson to **approve** the team tournament travel stipends as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

D. Recommendation to Approve School Fees for 2026-27 School Year

Chief Financial Officer Laura Vermilya reminded the Board that at the Board of Directors Special Meeting on May 3, 2021, the Board approved annual fees for OHSAA member schools would be \$100 per OHSAA recognized sport. At that meeting and at corresponding meetings during the past five school years, the Executive Director's Office has recommended that the fee be reduced to \$50 per OHSAA recognized sport. At this meeting, Ms. Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office again recommended that the fee be reduced to \$50 per OHSAA recognized sport.

Motion by Tom Nerl, second by John Carter to **approve** the recommendation on school fees as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Review of 2026 Winter Tournaments

OHSAA sport administrators provided brief updates to the Board on their respective winter sports tournaments. Tournament/site managers and host sites were all thanked for their great work. Of note, the 42 games of the girls and boys basketball tournaments were all held over a four-day (girls) or three-day (boys) period in the Dayton area, with the University of Dayton, Wright State University and Vandalia Butler High School hosting semifinal games and all finals held at the University of Dayton. In gymnastics, Brecksville-Broadview Heights won the team state championship for the 23rd straight year, and site manager Joan Rehus was recognized for her great work at the state swimming and diving tournament. In wrestling, it was noted that use of USA Bracketing went well.

B. Update on OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that three of the six in-person OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings have been held, with another meeting taking place later that day in Cambridge and the final ones at Streetsboro High School on Monday and in Tiffin on Tuesday. 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 have been spent with Director Ronald Sayers reviewing those items. The three meetings that have been completed have been at Logan High School, Clayton Northmont High School and in Westerville. Mr. Ute thanked the schools that have volunteered to host some of the meetings.

C. Reminder of 2026 Referendum Voting Process

Staff member Ronald Sayers reminded the Board that online voting for the 12 referendum issues (one Constitution, 11 Bylaws, including three that are 7th-8th grade issues) will begin on Friday, May 1, and will be closed on Friday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. Member school principals are required to vote but may abstain on any issue. The results will be available on Monday, May 18.

Board of Directors Minutes (4/23/26) — 3

D. Reminder of 2026 District Athletic Board Election Process

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai reminded the Board that petitions for OHSAA District Athletic Board positions are due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, and that voting for the expired and unexpired positions will take place between May 1 and 15. There are 15 expiring and/or interim positions that will be voted upon that will follow the normal election process.

E. Reminder of Process/Date to Approve 2026-27 General Sports Regulations and Sport-by-Sport Regulations

Director John Kronour informed the Board that several members of the OHSAA Executive Director's Office have met and will be meeting again to discuss changes to the General Sports Regulations. The recommended changes will be reviewed by Executive Director Ute in the near future before a virtual meeting will take place in late May to obtain approval of the proposed changes from the Board of Directors. The sport-by-sport regulations will be presented at the June 11 Board of Directors Meeting that will be held in Akron.

F. 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. **Parma Normandy High School** had a student-athlete in ice hockey violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending the school full time. Further, the student did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-3-1. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Normandy was fined \$250. **Cleveland St. Joseph Academy** had two student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility in regards to Transfer Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-System Transfer. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th day of the 2025-26 school year. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athletes' eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school was fined \$100. **Toledo Start High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.2 when he participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing herself as a member of the school's boys bowling program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for remainder of the Division I OHSAA Bowling Tournament. Start also had two boys basketball student-athletes violate Bylaw 4-5-1, Conduct, Character and Discipline, when both students engaged in a post-game confrontation. The Executive Director's office accepted the school's self-imposed penalties of a four-game suspension for both students. During its probationary period in 2024-25, **Toledo Emmanuel Christian High School** had multiple violations: 1). Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer: a boys basketball student-athlete 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 all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated, and 2). Bylaw 3-2-1 and General Sports Regulation 4, Coaches Requirements: Four coaches participated in coaching activities without receiving a Pupils Activity Permit with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. In accordance with the note under General Sport Regulation 4, Penalties for Failure to Acquire PAPP, the school was fined \$1,000 (\$250 per coach) for the coaches not being properly certified during their sport season. Based on the totality of the violations, and in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has placed Emmanuel Christian on probation during the 2025-26 spring season. **Cortland Lakeview High School** had a student-athlete in boys track and field violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season competition after failing to pass five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Lakeview was required to forfeit any regular season contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Spencerville High School** violated Track and Field Sport Regulation 1.5, Specialty Relays, when the school hosted a track and field meet and indicated in the results that the 4x1,600 relay was held, when, in fact four times in the 1,600-meter run were combined to create the 4x1,600 relay results (which is not permissible). In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1 Forfeitures, and Bylaw 11, Penalties, the school was fined \$100 and must forfeit the contest. **Cincinnati Walnut Hills High School** had a student-athlete in girls track and field violate Track and Field Sport Regulation 1.10, Exhibition, when she participated in an unscored exhibition meet hosted by the University of Cincinnati. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Walnut Hills was fined \$100. **Columbus Northland High School** had a student-athlete in boys volleyball violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when he participated in regular season competition after failing to pass five one-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 any regular season contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated.

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 105 rulings on 98 appeals held during 18 hearings this school year, and 26 appeals were either granted or the penalties modified. Most of the rulings dealt with the transfer bylaw. Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai also provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues. In addition, Legal Counsel Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on current OHSAA legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

Board of Directors Minutes (4/23/26) — 4

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation to Approve 2026-27 Tournament Entry/Withdraw Dates and Dates for Tournament Draws/Seed Meeting

Director John Kronour provided the Board with proposed tournament entry and withdraw dates and the dates for the draw/seed meetings for each sport for the 2026-27 school year and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the dates be approved. The dates will be published as part of the General Sports Regulations in the 2026-27 OHSAA Handbook.

Motion by Mark Rose, second by Ray Hibbs to **approve** the dates as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2026 Football Tournament Initial Regional Assignments

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with proposed 2026 initial regional assignments for each school and recommended that these be approved. It was noted that some changes to the assignments could occur prior to the season due to schools choosing to move up to Division I, new member schools being added or consolidation. The initial assignments are posted on the OHSAA website under the football section.

Motion by Tom Nerl, second by Randy Tevepaugh to **approve** the football divisional dividing lines and initial regional assignments as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve Self-Supporting Status for 2026-27 School Year (Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 4)

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai said OHSAA bylaws require that the Executive Director's Office annually establish requirements for transfer students who do not live in the same school district as their parents or legal guardians but are financially self-supporting (Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 4). She said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the requirements remain the same as those approved for 2025-26, with the minimum monthly income earned remaining at \$500. She also noted that, should current Referendum Issue 7B pass (New Bylaw 4-7-8, Superintendent's Memorandum of Understanding, Transfer), this Exception would be stricken. However, it was recommended that the Board still give approval to this recommendation contingent on Referendum Issue 7B not passing.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Ray Hibbs to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS — OTHER

A. Recommendation to Approve 2026 and 2027 Tournament Divisional Dividing Lines for Five Fall Sports and 2026 Tournament Divisional Dividing Lines for the Four Fall Competitive Balance Sports

The Board was provided with 2026 and 2027 tournament divisional dividing lines for the sports of boys cross country, girls cross country, boys golf, girls golf and girls tennis and 2026 tournament divisional dividing lines for the Competitive Balance sports of football, girls volleyball, boys soccer and girls soccer.

While the divisional dividing lines will not change, at its June meeting the Board will be asked to approve final school assignments to each division and representation (although there is no representation in football), once the deadline is met for schools to request to move to Division I or to a higher division in those individual sports in which a school currently has one gender in a lower division, and it chooses to have them both compete in the higher of the two divisions.

Director Ronald Sayers said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the Board approve the tournament divisional dividing lines as follows:

Boys Cross Country

Division I, 78 teams (523 males or more from October 2025 enrollments)

Division II, 160 teams (232 to 522 males)

Division III, 160 teams (132 to 231 males)

Division IV, 158 teams (131 or less males)

Total Teams: 556

Girls Cross Country

Division I, 66 teams (516 females or more from October 2025 enrollments)

Division II, 135 teams (236 to 515 females)

Division III, 133 teams (137 to 235 females)

Division IV, 134 teams (136 or less females)

Total Teams: 468

Board of Directors Minutes (4/23/26) — 5

Boys Golf

Division I, 211 teams (247 males or more from October 2025 enrollments)

Division II, 211 teams (130 to 246 males)

Division III, 212 teams (129 or less males)

Total Teams: 634

Girls Golf

Division I, 218 teams (200 females or more from October 2025 enrollments)

Division II, 216 teams (199 or less females)

Total Teams: 434

Girls Tennis

Division I, 182 teams (277 females or more from October 2025 enrollments)

Division II, 182 teams (276 or less females)

Total Teams: 364

Football

Proposed 2026 school tournament divisional alignments are as follows:

Division I, 72 teams (601 males or more from October 2025 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 106 teams (356 to 600 males)

Division III, 106 teams (257 to 355 males)

Division IV, 104 teams (197 to 256 males)

Division V, 105 teams (150 to 196 males)

Division VI, 107 teams (107 to 149 males)

Division VII, 108 teams (106 or less males)

Total Teams: 706

Girls Volleyball

Division I, 64 teams (567 females or more from October 2025 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 73 teams (384 to 566 females)

Division III, 130 teams (256 to 383 females)

Division IV, 129 teams (179 or 255 females)

Division V, 129 teams (128 to 178 females)

Division VI, 130 teams (90 to 127 females)

Division VII, 134 teams (89 or less females)

Total Teams: 789

Boys Soccer

Division I, 64 teams (618 males or more from October 2025 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 72 teams (416 to 617 males)

Division III, 147 teams (243 to 415 males)

Division IV, 144 teams (157 to 242 males)

Division V, 145 teams (156 or less males)

Total Teams: 572

Girls Soccer

Division I, 64 teams (564 females or more from October 2025 enrollments plus 2025 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 72 teams (376 to 563 females)

Division III, 130 teams (226 to 375 females)

Division IV, 129 teams (160 to 225 females)

Division V, 129 teams (159 or less females)

Total Teams: 524

Motion by Randy Tevepaugh, second by Lane Warner to **approve** the initial tournament division dividing lines as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked the OHSAA staff for their work on the various winter tournaments along with the thousands of workers and volunteers at all of the statewide sites. Many said they are already looking forward to the upcoming spring tournaments. Staff members were also thanked for their work organizing and conducting the annual meeting held the previous day with the presidents of the various statewide coaches associations and for their work in preparing for the Board of Directors Meetings.

Glen Gillespie, Board ex-officio and executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA), said his organization held its final meeting of the current school year last Sunday at the OHSAA Offices, and he said the same offices will again be utilized for the OIAAA Summer Institute that will take place June 9-11.

In addition, Executive Director Doug Ute led a moment of silence for Kaci Jean Ronai, the daughter of OHSAA Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai who unexpectedly died March 22 just short of four months old.

Motion by Mark Rose, second by Randy Tevepaugh to **adjourn** the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

2025-26 School Year: June 11, 2026 (8:30 at 7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron).

2026-27 School Year: August 27, 2026; October 1, 2026; October 29, 2026; January 14, 2027; February 18, 2027; April 22, 2027, and June 10, 2027 (8:30 at 7 17 Credit Union Park in Akron).