

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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OHSAA Photography Regulations – Updated September 2011

TO: Photographers, Contest/Tournament Staff, Officials and School Administrators
FR: Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services and Henry Zaborniak, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner and Head of Officiating

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has developed the following policies to serve photographers, contest/tournament managers, media coordinators, officials and school administrators during regular-season and OHSAA tournament contests.

These regulations are also found in Section 6 of the 2011-12 OHSAA Media Regulations.

Flash Photography

Authorized news media representatives, who have been approved for credentials by contest managers or the OHSAA, shall be permitted to use electronic lighting equipment (includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras) throughout the course of a given activity in all sports **EXCEPT:**

- Bowling
- Gymnastics
- Diving (including warm-ups)
- Volleyball OHSAA Tournament Contests (see additional volleyball note below)
- Basketball within the free throw lane area
- Golf immediately before and during the swing
- Swimming immediately before the start of a race (so as to not interfere with the starter's signal)

Additional Volleyball Note: During regular-season volleyball contests, electronic lighting is allowed only in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of f2.8. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season volleyball contests, if light meter readings fall below the minimum level, photographers must work with school administrators prior to the start of the match to test equipment and light meter readings to verify the reading and be approved for use of flash.

Strobe Lighting – See OHSAA Media Regulations Section 6-C and 6-D of the OHSAA's 2011-12 Media Regulations

Positioning

In the sport of basketball, photographers are prohibited to position themselves along the baseline within the lane area of the court.

1. The first violation of this policy shall result in a warning from contest managers or the OHSAA, and the second violation of this policy shall result in the removal of the photographer from the contest facility by contest managers or the OHSAA.
2. Photographers may position themselves along the baseline outside the lane area of the court (and are permitted to use electronic lighting).
3. The use of remote-operated cameras behind a basket is permitted (without flash) so long as the guidelines listed above are followed.

In other sports, photographers shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of **football**, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In addition, photographers shall not

be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. In **baseball and softball**, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas unless a photographer's area (typically with a paint or chalk line) has been established by the game manager and the officials approve it prior to the game. Officials have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in or keeping their equipment in the designated dead ball area, if said area has been approved. In the sport of **golf**, photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. In the sports of **bowling, track and field** and **swimming**, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

Photo Sales

Bona fide newspapers, as determined by the OHSAA, may sell photos from OHSAA tournament contests via the newspaper's office or official website. Permission is granted because 1.) newspapers have always been permitted to fill the photo requests of their readership, and 2.) photo sales is not their primary purpose for covering a contest. **Individual credentialed media personnel and spectators may not sell photos from state tournaments.**

1. School officials have the authority to permit or deny freelance photographers (including parents) from having special access at their athletic contests. Access is never guaranteed, and school officials have the authority to decide who is granted access.
2. School officials also have the authority to permit or deny the sale of photos from their regular-season contests.
3. Freelance photographers who are granted a media credential for sectional, district and regional tournament games (and state semifinal games in the sports of football and soccer) may sell photos from the contest as long as the photographer is affiliated with a specific school and can produce a written or on-site verbal show of support from that school's athletic director. However, said photographers may not set up booths/tables, distribute promotional material or request that public address announcements be read that advertise their services.
4. Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet (including school photographers and parents) will not be credentialed for state tournament contests. Photos taken from spectator viewing area at state tournament contests are for personal use only and may not be sold.

Guidelines for Credentialing Student Photographers at OHSAA Tournaments – See Section 6-H of the OHSAA's 2011-12 Media Regulations

OHSAA Tournament Policy/Public Address Announcement on Spectators Taking Photos and Videos

"Spectators taking photographs or videos may not interfere with the view of this contest by other spectators, nor may they take additional space in seats that have been purchased. In addition, all photographs and videos taken by spectators at this event are for personal use only. The use of photographs or videos for commercial, scouting or coaching purposes is strictly prohibited. The OHSAA reserves the right to remove offenders from this contest and invoke additional penalties."

For More Information, Contact:

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