



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

News Release

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Policy to Assess No Fees to Member Schools Continues **OHSAA BOARD APPROVES FLAT OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2009-10**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors has approved a proposed \$11.7 million operating budget for the state office and a \$6.2 million operating budget for the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards for the 2009-10 school year, virtually the same budget that was approved for 2008-09, Commissioner Daniel B. Ross has announced.

The Board was able to keep the operating budget flat by anticipating that attendance figures for OHSAA tournaments will not increase and by freezing ticket prices for those tournaments, while at the same time approving two measures that will impact the state office's revenue: 1.) more ticket income from OHSAA sectional and district basketball tournaments will move from District Athletic Boards to the Columbus office, and 2.) a moratorium has been placed on travel reimbursements for member schools that participate in many of the state tournament individual sports which traditionally are not revenue-generating. The latter two measures were approved for five years.

In addition, the Board reaffirmed the Association's longstanding policy to remain one of the few state associations that does not assess fees to OHSAA member schools. There are no fees charged to schools to be members of the OHSAA; there are no fees charged to schools to enter OHSAA tournaments, and the Association pays the annual \$700,000 premium on catastrophic accident insurance that covers student-athletes, cheerleaders, students who may assist licensed athletic trainers and student managers involved in OHSAA-sponsored sports.

"The Board's number one goal is to not cut back on the overall services that we provide to the member schools," Ross said. "However, we're just like everyone else in the country in that the economy has had a major impact on our budget. Our expenses continue to rise and, as an organization that realizes the majority of its revenues from gate receipts, we've seen the attendance numbers for many of our tournaments fall. This is especially true for regional and state tournaments in football and boys basketball, the two sports that predominantly help pay for the other 22 sports that we offer.

"The reason we proposed a flat budget is that we have projected that the trend of higher expenses and lower attendance will continue," Ross said. "We therefore have made appropriate changes for 2009-10 that ensures that the policy of not charging fees during these tough times to our member schools — who obviously are having their own budget concerns — remains in effect as it has since the 1997-98 school year."

Ross said the OHSAA will continue to study other cost-cutting measures and will explore additional opportunities to generate revenue. He added that, as the economy improves in the future, it is possible the Board of Directors will address lifting the moratorium on payment of state tournament travel reimbursements for individual sports.

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OHSAA APPROVED PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-10

<u>Location</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Net Profit (Loss)</u>
Central District	\$770,240	\$770,240	\$0
East District	\$370,055	\$370,055	\$0
Northeast District	\$1,715,400	\$1,715,400	\$0
Northwest District	\$1,461,500	\$1,461,500	\$0
Southeast District	\$468,300	\$468,300	\$0
Southwest District	\$1,447,300	\$1,447,300	\$0
District Board Totals	\$6,232,795	\$6,232,795	\$0
Columbus Office	\$11,717,400	\$11,717,400	\$0
Grand Totals	\$17,950,195	\$17,950,195	\$0

MORATORIUM ON TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

- affects 13 of 24 OHSAA-sponsored sports
- sports not affected:
 - fall** — field hockey, football, soccer, volleyball
 - winter** — basketball, ice hockey, wrestling
 - spring** — baseball, softball
- the projected savings is \$255,000
- major expenses for tournaments, besides travel reimbursements, include:
 - facility rental
 - police and security
 - traffic and parking
 - first aid and EMS
 - ushers, ticket takers, tournament managers
 - scorers and timers
 - contest officials
 - trophies and medals
 - printing (tickets, souvenir programs)
 - pre-tournament mailings
 - hospitality

Fall Sport Affected

Boys & Girls Cross Country	— \$72,127*
Boys & Girls Golf	— \$31,349
Girls Tennis	— \$8,698

2008 Deficit

Previous Travel Expenses Paid

- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(1)**
- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**
- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**

Winter Sport Affected

Boys & Girls Bowling	— \$16,114
Gymnastics	— \$23,674
Boys & Girls Swimming and Diving	— \$36,167

2008 Deficit

Previous Travel Expenses Paid

- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(1)**
- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**
- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**

Spring Sport Affected

Boys Tennis	— \$9,028
Boys & Girls Track and Field	— \$118,549.96*

2008 Deficit

Previous Travel Expenses Paid

- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**
- each participant and coach per zone allowance **(2)**

Note: The zone allowance is a rate per participant and coach based on the county in which they reside in accordance to the distance from the state tournament site.

- (1)** ranges from \$12.00 to \$37.00 per participant and coach
- (2)** ranges from \$17.00 to \$54.50 per participant and coach

* Indicates deficit also reflects all expenses incurred at the regional tournaments