



# OHSAA BOARD APPROVES CHANGES TO SCHOOL SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS

Following a recommendation from the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee, the OHSAA Board of Directors in August approved a change to the SEI School Awards Program beginning with the 2010-11 school year.

Rather than only providing the opportunity for OHSAA member schools to win the Harold A. Meyer (HAM) Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, the SEI School Awards Program will have a tiered system in which the precursor to winning the HAM Award will be for schools to have met the Respect The Game Challenge, a submission form that confirms that they have emphasized sportsmanship, ethics and integrity within their schools. In addition, six HAM Award winners will annually be presented the Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship, signifying that they have some of the state's top sportsmanship programs.

Schools that meet the Respect The Game Challenge will receive a decal for their gymnasium floor or a banner that says they have "Met the Respect The Game Challenge." The criteria for winning the Meyer Award will not change — schools must verify that they have completed an eight-part program within their school community in which they have implemented a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity program. A major change, however, will be that schools will no longer submit materials in a three-ring binder but will instead provide a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation that verifies they have met the criteria and show examples of their program. Winners will continue to receive the Harold A. Meyer banner.

Six schools that are considered to have had the best HAM submissions will be presented the Commissioner's Award for Exceptional Sportsmanship. Additional criteria will be assurance from other administrators that the school community and athletic teams have demonstrated outstanding sporting behavior and that the school has not had any coaches or student-athletes ejected from contests during the previous year. Additionally, schools in consideration for this award must submit a 30-second Public Service Announcement on sportsmanship. Winners will receive a crystal award that will be presented at the 2012 OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournaments along with a year's use of Dr. Mike Thomson's "Respect The Game - Respect Yourself" online program that sends coaches, captains, athletes and parents weekly sportsmanship, ethics and integrity audio and video podcast messages.

"The OHSAA has awarded the Harold A. Meyer Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award for the past 19 years, and the concern from the SEI Committee is that this program has become somewhat stagnant," said Roxanne Price, OHSAA assistant commissioner and chair of the Association's SEI committee. "Some long-time winners were not making updates to their annual submissions; a few individuals were upset when substandard submissions were not presented the award; not many new schools were submitting applications, and there were concerns that some winning schools were not displaying appropriate sporting behavior at contests. So we're hopeful that the new, tiered program will help revitalize the SEI School Awards Program and will help create more awareness about the importance of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity within Ohio's schools.

"I want to commend the subcommittee that was formed to develop these changes and thank the Board of Directors for approving the recommendation," Price added.

OHSAA Associate Commissioner Bob Goldring chaired the subcommittee that developed the revised program. The subcommittee also consisted of OHSAA Assistant Commissioner Jerry Snodgrass; Bill Hanna, principal at Ottawa-Glandorf High School; Mark Princehorn, athletic administrator at Hilliard Davidson High School and representative of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; Kelly Whelan, a long-time registered basketball official; Kathy Mercer, volleyball coach at South Charleston Southeastern High School and representative of the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association, and Scott Dempsey, girls soccer coach at Bexley High School and representative of the Ohio Interscholastic Soccer Coaches Association. ©

## Did You Know?

### OHSAA.ORG OFFERS HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

Have a coaching job opening? Need a game for your schedule? Looking to sell or buy used equipment? The OHSAA web site provides several features for member schools to make the lives of athletic directors and school administrators a little easier.

Under the "Member Schools" dropdown menu at [ohsaa.org](http://ohsaa.org), schools can find open dates, job postings and equipment classified pages, among many other resources.

The open dates page is a listing of schools looking to fill their schedules for any of the 24 OHSAA sports, while the job postings page provides schools the opportunity to announce their openings to a wider audience. The equipment classifieds page allows schools a forum to sell or buy used athletic equipment.

Visit [www.ohsaa.org](http://www.ohsaa.org) and find the "Member Schools" dropdown menu at the left for these helpful resources. To make a posting on any of the three pages, email Brenda Murray at [bmurray@ohsaa.org](mailto:bmurray@ohsaa.org).



A capacity crowd looks on as the girls Division II 1600 meter run takes place at the 2010 boys and girls track and field championships. Over 25,000 spectators filled the stands during the two-day event at The Ohio State University. The 37th annual girls track and field championships return to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium June 3-4.