

The following are the preliminary minutes from the September 13, 2007, OHSAA Board of Control meeting. The minutes will not become official until they are adopted by the Board at their October 11, 2007, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF CONTROL MINUTES (September 13, 2007)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Control held a regularly scheduled meeting in the Board Room of the OHSAA office building on September 13, 2007. President Phil Ackerman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened with a prayer and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Present: Phil Ackerman, president, presiding; Dan Bise, vice president; Teresa Alberts; Keith Bell; Bob Britton; Dale Gabor; Gene Klaus; Bill Koppel; Karen O'Hare; Mike Richards, and Phil Stevens, and Tom Farbizo (ex-officio) and Jeff Jordan (ex-officio).

Administrative Staff Present: Dan Ross, commissioner; John Dickerson, Deborah B. Moore, Steve Neil, Roxanne Price and Henry Zaborniak Jr., assistant commissioners. **Staff Member Excused:** Bob Goldring.

Others Attending: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Todd Boehm, OHSAA staff; Ron Knight, former OHSAA Board of Control member; Phillip Kuhn, Chris Smith, Jeff Mielcarek, David Barrow, David Burkett and Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Tom Barrick, Doug Stiverson, Tom Woodford and Bob Dunning, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Mike Mauk, Bob Brigati and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Casey Milligan, Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association; John Johnson, Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association; Rob Salisbury, Ohio High School Swimming Coaches Association; Russ King, Ohio Tennis Coaches Association; Vern Kiehl, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches; Carol Russo and Tracey Kornau, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association; Scott Ebright, Ohio School Boards Association; Paul Kurtz; Karin Stradley and her daughter, John Ault and Phyllis Lawyer; Richard Ganulin; and Nancy and John Cox.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Gene Klaus to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the September 13, 2007, Board of Control meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Phil Stevens, second by Karen O'Hare to **approve** the minutes from the August 9, 2007, Board of Control meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Financial Reports

Comptroller Todd Boehm provided the financial report for August. The report is summarized as follows:

Balance — July 31, 2007	\$1,132,462.35
Receipts — August 2007	<u>173,209.82</u>
	\$1,305,672.17
Disbursements — August 2007	<u>487,025.52</u>
	\$818,646.65
Accounted for as follows:	
Checking Account Balance per 5/3 Bank (8/31/07)	<u>\$856,905.76</u>
	\$856,905.76
Less Outstanding Checks	<u>38,259.11</u>
Balance — August 31, 2007	\$818,646.65
Available Funds — August 31, 2007	
Bank Balance	\$818,646.65
Minus Reserve for Building Fund	(5,075.10)
Minus Reserve Fund	<u>(286,230.42)</u>
Working Capital	\$527,341.13
Reserve fund (\$7,621.63 in savings + \$506,147.95 in CD + \$286,230.42 in bank)	\$800,000.00
Building fund (\$5,075.10 in bank balance + \$430,240.74 in investments)	\$435,315.84

Motion by Dan Bise, second by Mike Richards to **accept** the financial reports as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Spring Sports Proposals

State coaches associations were provided the opportunity to present proposed changes in their sports that the Board would act upon at their December meeting. No proposals were presented, although the track and

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cross country coaches association informed the Board that they are considering the following future proposals: 1.) add the triple jump to the order of events for OHSAA tournaments; 2.) reduce the 7th-8th grade shot put to six pounds and have 7th-8th grade boys throw a four kilometer shot put rather than an eight-point shot put, and 3.) change the structure by which lane events are advanced from the semifinals to the finals in OHSAA district, regional and state tournaments.

B. Update on New Member School Meeting of September 6, 2007

Commissioner Ross informed the Board that a meeting took place on September 6, 2007, with 15 schools that are interested in becoming members of the OHSAA. Thus far none of the 15 schools have requested immediate membership. The Commissioner said the new member schools meeting is held twice a year.

C. Update on OHSAA Board Committees

Board of Control members provided updates on some of the committees that have met during this school year. Ms. O'Hare said the 7th-8th Grade Committee, chaired by herself and Bill Koppel, met the previous day and is comprised of superintendents, principals and athletic administrators. The committee's first goal is to develop the philosophy of 7th-8th grade athletics. She said the next meeting will take place in October. Mr. Ackerman said the Travel and Conferences Committee had one meeting in which various issues were discussed, and that the NFHS Hall of Fame Committee also met once and is planning to contact other state associations to see what guidelines they have in place to nominate hall of fame members.

D. Update on Superintendent's Appeals Panel

Commissioner Ross reviewed the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) appeal board process that began this fall. The BASA appeals board is meeting twice a year to hear appeals related to Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, when students or their parents appeal a superintendent's decision NOT to sign off on Exception 6 (one-time transfer when both superintendents enter into a written agreement that consents to a transfer to protect the student's physical or mental well-being). Commissioner Ross noted that in the past the OHSAA Board of Control heard such appeals when they had no authority to overturn a superintendent's decision. A two-hour training session took place prior to the first appeals hearings in August, and six appeals were heard that day.

E. Update of OHSAA Legal Issues/Infractions

The Board of Control was provided with a list of schools that recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Euclid Foest Park Middle School's** baseball team used two sixth-graders in contests, which violated Bylaw 1-1-2 ("Students below the seventh grade are ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics.") and Sports Regulation 34.4 ("Students below the seventh grade may not practice with or participate with seventh through 12th grade students."). The school was reprimanded. **Plymouth High School's** varsity football team did not adhere to the pre-season acclimatization period, which violates Football Regulation 1.12, Five Days of Acclimatization Required. As a result, the varsity head coach will be suspended from coaching one contest and the school's football program has been placed on probation for one year. **LaGrange Keystone High School's** varsity boys soccer team violated OHSAA Soccer Regulation 4.21, Non-Interscholastic Competition ("The number of interscholastic soccer players from the same school on a non-interscholastic squad is limited to five on the roster of that non-interscholastic squad.") and Soccer Regulation 4.8, Non-Interscholastic Competition ("In accordance with Bylaw 10-3-6, interscholastic soccer coaches are prohibited from coaching their own interscholastic squad members in indoor soccer except for 10 days from June 1-July 31."). As a result, the student-athletes who participated illegally in non-interscholastic competition will be suspended from two of the 16 regular season contests for the 2007 season. **Bucyrus High School's** freshman football team used an ineligible player during a freshman scrimmage. The student violated Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 2, because the judge did not sign a change of custody document. The school was reprimanded. **Orrville High School's** boys junior varsity golf team used an ineligible player in a tournament. The student was in violation of Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship ("In order to be eligible in grades 9-12, a student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent during the preceding grading period."). In accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school had to forfeit its place in the tournament and the ineligible student had to forfeit his placement, awards, etc. (Note: Since golf is an individual sport, all eligible participants shall keep their points, records, awards and qualifying positions.)

In addition, Steve Craig, the OHSAA's legal counsel, informed the Board that the OHSAA is a co-defendant in a case involving a woman who fell in the bleachers during a tournament contest.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Recommendations from the OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee

The OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee made the following proposals:

1. The OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee shall be increased by six to include the president of each District Officials Committee.

Motion by Dan Bise, second by Bob Britton to **deny** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

2. All current officials uniforms shall be retained and requiring multiple uniforms in some sports should not be adopted.

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Motion by Bob Britton, second by Karen O'Hare to **approve** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

3. An official that is not a member of any officials association shall be charged 25 percent of the dues at any association meeting in which he or she attends as a guest, effective July 15, 2008.

Motion by Teresa Alberts, second by Dale Gabor to **deny** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

4. Each District Officials Committee president shall be elected for one two-year term and is ineligible to serve consecutive terms.

Motion by Mike Richards, second by Gene Klaus to **deny** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of 2007-08 Board of Control Goals

Board President Ackerman distributed copies of the goals of the Board of Control for the 2007-08 school year. The goals are: 1.) **Priority Goal:** To work collaboratively with the OHSAA Foundation to assist in meeting the needs of the Foundation to sponsor activities and opportunities for student-athletes; 2.) Continue to promote sportsmanship, ethics and integrity; 3.) Provide leadership and support for the development and implementation of a high quality Coaches Education program; 4.) Facilitate and support the work of all Board of Control committees; 5.) Continue to enhance communication at all levels of the OHSAA, and 6.) Continue to evaluate the financial status of the OHSAA, focusing on the Reserve Fund, ticket prices and realizing the maximum value for member schools of all OHSAA branded products.

B. Ratification of 2008 Winter Sports Manuals

The Board was provided copies of the 2008 winter sport manuals in the sports of basketball, bowling, gymnastics, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling that were prepared by OHSAA staff members. The manuals include the sports regulations that appear in the OHSAA Handbook and the tournament regulations that are posted on the OHSAA web site, plus additional information has been added as points of emphasis and for clarity. The manuals are mailed directly to member school head coaches in the respective sports, contest officials and are posted on the OHSAA web site. In the sport of basketball, manuals are also mailed to the athletic administrators. Also included in the mailing are sport specific rule books and attendance cards for OHSAA rules interpretation meetings.

C. Membership List Change

The Board was informed that East Liverpool Christian School has withdrawn its membership from the OHSAA. The withdrawal leaves the total number of member schools for 2007-08 at 830.

D. 2007 Spring Sports Tournament Financial Report

Comptroller Boehm reviewed the financial reports from the 2007 regional and state baseball tournaments; the regional and state fast pitch softball tournaments, and the boys state tennis tournaments. The regional and state baseball tournaments had a profit of \$20,879.77 after earning \$25,306.01 in 2006. The regional and state fast pitch softball tournaments had a deficit of \$3,105.41 after showing a deficit of \$29,111.05 in 2006. The boys state tennis tournaments had a deficit of \$8,208.99 after showing a deficit of \$11,658.15 in 2006.

E. Revision of Lightning and Inclement Weather Sports Regulation

Commissioner Ross informed the Board that the OHSAA staff recommended that a change be made to the lightning and inclement weather sports regulation.

The policy is as follows, with the revision shown in **boldface**.

Occasionally it may be necessary to interrupt an outdoor interscholastic athletic contest due to lightning in the area. Officials, coaches, certified athletic trainers, athletes and administrators should be educated regarding the signs indicating thunderstorm development. Due to the fact that this natural phenomenon is highly unpredictable, upon first sign of lightning or other threatening weather (thunder), the contest officials and school administrators shall monitor weather in the area. Upon the first indication that thunderstorm development is within 15 miles of the contest, the contest official shall suspend the competition until 30 minutes after the storm has left this 15 mile zone. In order to protect student-athletes, spectators and other participants, there shall be access to appropriate shelter in the event of such suspension. All contests suspended shall be resumed at the point of interruption. Weather can be monitored using these methods:

- Monitor Weather Patterns — Be aware of potential thunderstorms by monitoring local weather forecasts the day before and morning of the competition, and by scanning the sky for signs of potential thunderstorm activity.

- Flash to Bang — This method is used to assess how far away lightning is striking. It is determined by counting the number of seconds it takes to hear a clap of thunder after witnessing a flash of lightning. The number of seconds is then divided by five to get the distance, in miles, to the lightning flash. Generally, a **75-second (Note: replaces 30-second)** or less flash-to-bang count suggests it is advisable to move athletes from the field to a safe shelter.

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- National Weather Service — Weather can also be monitored using small, portable weather radios from the NWS. The NWS uses a system of severe storm watches and warnings. A watch indicates conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a warning indicates severe weather has been reported in an area, and everyone should take proper precautions.

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Dale Gabor to **approve** New Business Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D. and VI. E. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VI. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

- A. Scaled Seating for State Boys Basketball Tournaments at Ohio State's Jerome Schottenstein Center
Commissioner Ross said the OHSAA staff recommended that pricing be scaled for seats at Ohio State's Jerome Schottenstein Center for the state boys basketball tournaments beginning in 2008. Ticket prices for the tournaments will remain \$8.00 per contest for tickets allotted to each participating school; \$12.00 for tickets in all other seating areas in the lower bowl and the suite level, and \$10.00 for tickets in all other seating areas in the terrace level.

Motion by Bob Britton, second by Keith Bell to **approve** the recommendation.

Motion passed 9-0.

- B. OHSAA Foundation "Service Week"
Commissioner Ross reviewed with the Board a recommendation that an OHSAA Foundation "Service Week" be approved. As part of the plan, schools would be given the option to play an exhibition game in both girls and boys basketball during the week of Thanksgiving. The exhibition game would replace one scrimmage, admission may be charged and a minimum donation of \$500 from the contest would go to the OHSAA Foundation to help support leadership conferences, scholarships, promotional expenses and other Foundation initiatives. It was recommended that a minimum number schools within each OHSAA District be selected to conduct a "pilot service week" in 2007-08, with statewide implementation to occur in 2008-09.

Motion by Dan Bise, second by Mike Richards to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 6-0 (Keith Bell, Dale Gabor and Bill Koppel abstained).

- C. Media Agreements

Commissioner Ross reviewed with the Board a recommendation that SportsTime Ohio and Time Warner Cable be approved to provide exclusive live coverage of OHSAA state championships in football, girls basketball and boys basketball as well as other events to be determined for the 2007-08 school year. He added that the Association and its official marketing partner, Home Team Marketing, are continuing discussions with companies interested in providing live and delayed video streaming on the internet of many OHSAA tournament events.

Motion by Gene Klaus, second by Karen O'Hare to **approve** the recommendation that SportsTime Ohio and Time Warner Cable provide exclusive live coverage of OHSAA state championships in football, girls basketball and boys basketball and other events to be determined for the 2007-08 school year.

Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Dale Gabor, second by Bill Koppel to authorize the Commissioner and his staff to continue discussions with companies interested in providing live and delayed video streaming on the internet of OHSAA tournament events and to execute a contract if they believe an agreement can be reached that benefits the membership of the OHSAA and the many worldwide supporters of Ohio high school athletics.

Motion passed 9-0.

- D. District Athletic Board Recommendation

Commissioner Ross and OHSAA legal counsel Steve Craig said the OHSAA District Athletic Board had a recommendation regarding the common draw dates for the girls and basketball tournaments. While dates have already been established for the draws (girls on Jan. 20, 2008, and boys on Jan. 27, 2008), it is further recommended that all draws on those dates begin at 2:00 p.m.

Motion by Gene Klaus, second by Teresa Alberts to **approve** the recommendation.

Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Mike Richards that the Board of Control and Staff go into executive session for the purpose of hearing appeals.

Motion passed 9-0.

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VII. APPEALS

A. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, Mr. Paul Kurtz, re: His Son, Grade 10, Worthington Kilbourne High School (Central District)

A 10th-grade student at Worthington Kilbourne High School was ruled ineligible for the first grading period of the 2007-08 school year by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, because he did not receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation during the last grading period of the 2006-07 school year. The student's father, Paul Kurtz, appealed the ineligibility so that his son can participate in interscholastic athletics at Kilbourne immediately.

Motion by Dale Gabor, second by Keith Bell to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, Ms. Karin Stradley, re: Her Daughter, Grade 12, Newark High School (Central District)

A 12th-grade student at Newark High School was ruled ineligible for the first grading period of the 2007-08 school year by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, because she did not receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation during the last grading period of the 2006-07 school year. The student's mother, Karin Stradley, appealed the ineligibility so that her daughter can participate in interscholastic athletics at Newark immediately. The student, her father, John Ault, and Mr. Ault's wife, Phyllis Lawyer, also attended the appeal.

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Keith Bell to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, Mr. Richard Ganulin, re: His Son, Cincinnati Withrow High School (Southwest District)

A student who requests to participate at Cincinnati Withrow High School was ruled ineligible for the first grading period of the 2007-08 school year by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, because he was not enrolled or attending a member school during the last grading period of the 2006-07 school year. He can gain his eligibility by receiving passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent which count toward graduation during the first grading period of the 2007-08 school year at Withrow. The student's father, Richard Ganulin, appealed the ineligibility so that his son can participate in interscholastic athletics at Cincinnati Withrow immediately.

Motion by Keith Bell, second by Bill Koppel to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

D. Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, Abbie and Matt Wymer, re: Their Son, Grade 12, Van Buren High School (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student transferred to Van Buren High School from North Baltimore High School last winter. He was ruled ineligible on June 18 for the 2007-08 school year by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility: "If a student participates in an athletic contest and his or her eligibility has been established by falsified information, the student shall be ineligible in Ohio for a maximum of one year from the date the penalty is imposed." At the August 9, 2007, Board of Control Meeting, the student, his mother, Abbie Wymer, and his stepfather, Matt Wymer, appealed the ineligibility so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics during the 2007-08 school year. The Board of Control voted to table the appeal so that more information on the appeal can be obtained.

Following discussion on the additional information that was obtained:

Motion by Dan Bise, second by Gene Klaus to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 8-1 (Bob Britton dissented).

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Discussion between Board of Control and staff members and John and Nancy Cox was held regarding regulations the Coxes would like to see adopted by the OHSAA following the heat stroke their son suffered while participating in freshman football in Southwest Ohio. Among the items discussed were proper cooling of athletes and clothing recommendations in high heat conditions; mandatory equipment for cooling; temperature guidelines/restrictions; guidelines for equipment needed for trainers; educational materials for parents, players, coaches and school administrators; addressing symptoms in heat-related illnesses, and trainer/coach/school administrator accountability issues.

A motion passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Roxanne Price, Deborah Moore and Bob Goldring, recorders.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(All meetings on Thursdays in the OHSAA Board Room at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated.)

October 11 2007; December 6, 2007; January 17, 2008; February 14, 2008; April 3, 2008; May 8, 2008; June 12, 2008; August 7, 2008; September 11, 2008; October 9, 2008, and December 4, 2008.

