

# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEMO

**November 13, 2008**

**TO:** Media Members

**FR:** Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services

**RE:** Credentials For State Football Finals

Enclosed you will find credential information for the 2008 Ohio High School Athletic Association State Football Finals in Massillon and Canton. Included in this packet are:

- A. 2008 State Football Finals Media Information and Policies
- B. Maps of Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium and Canton Fawcett Stadium
- C. Application Forms for the State Football Finals
  1. A form for the print media and print media photographers
  2. A form for radio or television doing play-by-play broadcasts
  3. A form for radio news, TV news and web sites not originating play-by-play broadcasts (single game request or all games request)

**The schedule for the 2008 finals is as follows:**

**Friday, November 28**

Division VI-Massillon, 11:00

Division IV-Canton, 3:00

Division II-Massillon, 7:00

**Saturday, November 29**

Division III-Canton, 11:00

Division V-Massillon, 3:00

Division I-Canton, 7:00

**Fax Application To:**

Tim Stried  
(614) 267-1677

**Please remember to include your e-mail address  
on your application.**

**For questions, e-mail Tim Stried at [tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org)**

# 2008 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT MEDIA INFORMATION

The following information was prepared to assist you with your coverage of the upcoming OHSAA state football finals. Please contact Tim Stried ([tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org), or 614-267-2502, ext. 124) at the OHSAA office should you have additional questions.

## General Guidelines

**DATES:** Friday and Saturday, Nov. 28 and 29, Canton Fawcett Stadium and Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium.

**LOCATIONS:** **Canton**-Fawcett Stadium is located just off I-77 by the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton (1835 Harrison Ave. N.W.). See parking directions below. **Massillon**-Paul Brown Tiger Stadium is located off of 20th St. in Massillon (One Paul Brown E. Brown Dr. S.E.). See parking directions below. For further information, visit the Stark County OHSAA Football Finals Committee's web site at [www.ohsaafbfinals.com](http://www.ohsaafbfinals.com).

**TIMES AND FORMAT:** **Friday:** 11:00—Division VI, Massillon; 3:00—Division IV, Canton; 7:00—Division II, Massillon; **Saturday:** 11:00—Division III, Canton; 3:00—Division V, Massillon; 7:00—Division I, Canton.

## REQUESTING CREDENTIALS:

**NEW IN 2008** Fax a request using one of the attached documents (or one posted on the OHSAA web site) or a request on company letterhead to Tim Stried at the OHSAA for credentials at both Canton and Massillon. The deadline to apply for credentials is 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25.

Contact Tim well in advance of the finals to request any special needs. Do not wait until a few days before the finals or when you arrive at the finals to make special requests.

**CREDENTIAL CONFIRMATION:** The OHSAA will post a list on its web site of those who have been approved for credentials by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

**PARKING: Canton:** Media parking in Canton is in the Barr Lot near the Pro Football Hall of Fame. If you were not previously mailed a parking pass, show a company identification card or a letter from a superior on company letterhead and you will be admitted. If coming from the south, turn left (west) onto Fulton Rd. Go under I-77, pass Halter Ave. N.W. and turn left onto Barr Ave. N.W. If coming from the north, turn right (east) onto Fulton Rd. Pass Blake Ave. N.W. and turn right onto Barr Ave. N.W. You must make the walk to the press box on the opposite side of the parking lot. A golf cart will make periodic stops for those who need assistance or have equipment to haul. **Massillon:** Media parking in Massillon is on the upper **West** side of the stadium. If you were not previously mailed a parking pass, follow the same procedures as in Canton (show a company identification card or a letter from a superior on company letterhead and you will be admitted). The stadium is located off of 20th St. in Massillon (One Paul Brown E. Brown Dr. S.E.). When on U.S. Route 30, take State Route 21 north to State Route 172 east (Lincoln Way). Follow 172 through Massillon until you reach 20th St. Turn right (south) onto 20th St. and follow the signs to the stadium.

**MEDIA ENTRANCES:** Most credentials will **not** be mailed in advance.

**Canton:** All media members can pick up credentials at the brown ticket booth at gates 7/8 in the southwest corner of Canton Fawcett Stadium.

**Massillon:** All media members can pick up credentials at the "will-call" window at the middle concourse area of the **West** side of the stadium. This is the side closest to Washington High School.

**WORK SPACE:** Reporters may continue to work in the football press box following each game. You are generally expected to complete your stories anywhere from 90 minutes to two hours upon the conclusion of the game.

**TELEPHONES/WIRELESS SERVICE:** The OHSAA will provide two courtesy telephone lines for media use in each press box. These lines are to be used for print media members to transmit their stories back to their newspapers. Calls are to be collect, with a credit card or with a toll-free number. There is also free wireless service available in each press box.

The OHSAA will also install an additional DSL line exclusively for photographers to use. At Canton, the photographers' DSL line will be installed in the Timken lockerroom under the grandstands. At Massillon, the photographers' DSL line will be installed in a room adjacent to the south lockerroom.

**NEW IN 2008** Should you need to order a telephone line in either press box or an additional line in the noted lockerrooms (photographers only), please indicate this on your credential application request form. Tim Stried of the OHSAA office will place your order with Ameritech, and Ameritech will subsequently bill you for your line and their services. For questions, please e-mail Tim Stried. No courtesy lines will be available for radio stations providing play-by-play or live updates, so, unless you are doing a cellular broadcast, a telephone line must be requested.

**INTERVIEWS:** The head coach and a minimum of two players from both the winning and losing teams will be available after each game in a designated interview room as soon as possible following the awards ceremony. Additional interviews may be conducted outside of each locker room.

You are also permitted to conduct interviews on the field after each game. **However, please do not interfere with the post-game awards ceremony on the field, and please allow the head coaches and their designated players to go to the interview room as soon as the awards ceremony is completed.**

**POST-GAME PHOTOS:** Still and TV photographers will be permitted on the field for “celebration” types of photos. You will then be asked to leave the immediate team area so that fans can view the awards ceremonies.

**TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM EACH STADIUM:** Vans are available to shuttle media members from stadium to stadium. They will leave immediately after each game and will also be making return trips for those involved in post-game interviews and story writing/filing. Detailed directions on how to go from stadium to stadium will be printed in the championship game program.

**HOSPITALITY:** There are hospitality areas at both stadiums where food and drinks will be served. Those with media credentials will be accommodated in or near the press boxes. Those with field passes will be accommodated in the Timken lockerroom (Canton) and the room adjacent to the south lockerroom (Massillon).

**PROGRAMS/RESULTS:** Media members can expect to receive programs and rosters prior to kickoff. Statistics will be distributed to media members after each game as soon as possible. Priority will be given to those still on the air producing a live broadcast and those on deadline.

**HOTELS:** For an updated local hotel listing, visit the Stark County OHSAA Football Finals Committee’s web site at [www.ohsaafbfinals.com](http://www.ohsaafbfinals.com).

## Guidelines for Television

### SportsTime Ohio

- A. SportsTime Ohio, the Ohio High School Athletic Association's official television partner, will be providing live coverage of all six championship games.
- B. “Hometown” stations (non-regional or state cable companies) that have followed the schools during the season are permitted to also televise the state championship games, given the following:
  - 1. “Hometown” stations must use SportsTime Ohio's production for the game.
  - 2. “Hometown” stations must work out all the particulars with SportsTime Ohio and pay any fees that SportsTime Ohio may assess.
  - 3. “Hometown” stations can use their own announcers only if each site has enough broadcast positions available to accommodate said station.
  - 4. If space is limited, “hometown” stations must obtain a copy of the game from SportsTime Ohio and use STO's production and announcers.
  - 5. Airing of the game in either scenario means the “hometown” station must also pay the OHSAA tournament rights fee. The rights fee schedule is posted on the OHSAA web site at: [www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp](http://www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp).
  - 6. Checks or cash must be collected prior to game time. Make checks payable to the OHSAA.
  - 7. Airing of the game by the “hometown” station must be via tape-delay. The “hometown” station can air the game as early as 10:00 p.m. the day of the game.
  - 8. “Hometown” stations must request credentials and obtain particulars for announcers from Tim Stried at the OHSAA.
- C. The contact at SportsTime Ohio is Pat Kilkenney  
Phone: 216-736-4446  
E-Mail: [pkilkenney@sportstimeohio.com](mailto:pkilkenney@sportstimeohio.com)

### Other Television Regulations

- A. Credentials may be given to TV stations and TV videographers for “spot news coverage.” This means that they are shooting highlights to show on a newscast/sportscast or for a web site. No video can be shown live, and stations/companies are limited to showing a maximum of three minutes of highlights. An exception would be if someone is shooting for a high school sports news magazine show.
  - 1. When submitting a credential request, please provide specifics on what your production plans are (will you be bringing a satellite truck plus a station truck, etc.).

## Guidelines for Streaming Companies/Radio

### OhioHSsports.com

- A. OhioHSsports.com, the Ohio High School Athletic Association official web-based partner, will be providing live video streaming of all six championship games.
- B. No other companies are permitted to audio or video stream the six state championship games on either a live or delayed basis.
  - 1. This means no “hometown” internet companies/web sites are permitted to video or audio stream the six state championship games.
  - 2. This means that no radio stations are permitted to stream audio to their station web sites of the six state championship games, live or delayed.

### Radio Stations

- A. Radio stations are permitted to broadcast contests live.
  - 1. OHSAA rights fees must be paid. The rights fee schedule is posted on the OHSAA web site at: [www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp](http://www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp).
  - 2. Radio stations must request credentials from Tim Stried at the OHSAA.

3. Credentials may be given to radio stations for “spot news coverage.” This means that they are providing reports or interviews for a newscast/sportscast. No rights fees shall be assessed if live, periodic updates are given. Space limitations may not guarantee press box access for these reporters.
4. Checks or cash must be collected prior to a station going on the air. Make checks payable to the OHSAA.

### **Other Key Guidelines**

#### **State Finals Photography Guidelines**

- A. The spirit of these guidelines is to permit local newspapers to sell images.
  1. The official photographer of the OHSAA state tournaments retains exclusivity regarding on-site marketing and sales presence, on-site promotional consideration, OHSAA souvenir program and broadcast advertising and staff-level event access.
  2. Newspapers covering the finals for news-gathering purposes are permitted to respond to and fill requests from their readers and/or on-line viewers to reproduce and sell images that appear in print or in the newspaper’s official web site photo galleries.
  3. Auxiliary media web sites or web sites established by individual photographers/photography companies are not covered under these guidelines.
  4. No media representatives will be permitted to directly or indirectly market the sale of photography at the event site proper. This includes the distribution of brochures, flyers, signs or promotional apparel worn by media representatives. **Note:** Event site proper includes the facility proper and any adjacent facilities or parking locations.
  5. Any media outlet determined to have obtained media credentials for the sole purpose of commercial photography gain, as determined by the OHSAA, will have future credential privileges jeopardized.

#### **Credential Requests from Specialty Web Sites, Specialty Publications**

- A. Specialty web sites or specialty publications developed solely to list/profile/rank recruiting prospects or teams and/or to provide chat rooms/forums/blogs, or those considered in poor taste or not in compliance with the mission of interscholastic athletics as determined by the OHSAA, **will not** be granted credentials.
- B. Specialty web sites or specialty publications will be considered for credentials should they demonstrate a record of sustained coverage of high school sports, which should include (but is not limited to):
  1. Publishing stories, scores and statistics in a timely basis about individual contests;
  2. Publishing feature stories about high school sports teams, coaches and student-athletes.
- C. Specialty web sites or specialty publications will be considered for credentials if they are providing reports, highlights or interviews. No rights fees shall be assessed if live, periodic audio updates are given. No video can be shown live, and web sites are limited to showing a maximum of three minutes of highlights. Space limitations may not guarantee press box access for these reporters.

**To view the complete 2008-09 OHSAA Media Regulations, go to the following link on the OHSAA web site:  
[www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp](http://www.ohsaa.org/news/default.asp)**