



# OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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**May 8, 2009**

**TO:** OHSAA Member School Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

**RE:** Clarification of Finances Associated with Coaching Education

Concerns have been brought to the attention of the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and administrative staff regarding the finances associated with the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) *Fundamentals of Coaching* course that is required for Ohio's coaches. The purpose of this memo is to clarify those concerns.

According to NFHS Assistant Executive Director Tim Flannery, a former 16-year Ohio athletic administrator whose chief duty is to oversee the NFHS *Fundamentals of Coaching* course, developing the course cost the NFHS \$620,000, and annual costs are \$722,000. The latter costs includes a "help desk;" web site development, hosting and maintenance; on-line course development; payment of royalties; production and editing of video; writing and producing scripts; promotional materials; travel by the NFHS staff; new course development, and funding the salaries of the three full-time staff members and part of a fourth staff member who administer the program. These costs are extensive, and if the OHSAA were to have developed its own curriculum the unit cost per course would be prohibitive.

Since the OHSAA has neither the financial nor staff resources to develop and maintain such a course, we have taken advantage of the opportunity to join 42 other states and have adopted the NFHS course, which is nationally accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Coaching Education. Six additional states are considering adopting this course in the coming year. Adopting other courses offered by groups such as the American Sport Education Program was not considered prudent since costs for some of these courses can run more than \$100.

The cost for Ohio's coaches to take the NFHS course is \$55 for the recommended blended version (course delivered in a combined classroom setting and on-line) or \$65 for the on-line version.

- In the blended version, which is the preferred course, the OHSAA pays the NFHS \$37 per participant (which includes \$2 for the "Ohio component" of the course); each instructor receives \$10 per participant, and \$3 per participant goes toward administrative and operations costs. This leaves a balance of \$5 (although when the cost the OHSAA pays the NFHS rises to \$42 per participant on September 1, 2009, the blended version of the course will be a break-even venture). It should also be noted that in many situations, the local instructor turns down the \$10 per participant fee, so the overall costs for participants is \$45.
- In the on-line version, the OHSAA again pays the NFHS \$37 per participant and there is the \$3 administration/operations cost. This leaves a balance of \$25.

The dollars realized by the OHSAA from the course are earmarked exclusively for educational activities that include:

- The DVD produced for preseason team meetings with student-athletes and parents;
- Materials for the *Respect The Game* sportsmanship program;
- Future development and production of leadership DVDs for student-athletes and coaches, and
- Future development of an OHSAA Education Academy that will provide training and learning opportunities for student-athletes, parents, coaches, officials and the media.

The Board of Directors' action to require the coaching education course was never intended to generate revenue to fund OHSAA operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We hope this information clears up any questions you may have regarding the finances surrounding the OHSAA coaches education program. Feel free to contact the OHSAA office should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

*Mike Richards*

Michael Richards, President  
Ohio High School Athletic Association  
Board of Directors

*Dan Ross*

Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D., Commissioner  
Ohio High School Athletic Association