

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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February 7, 2012

3-3-4 –Competitors shall not wear or use any device to aid their speed, buoyancy or body compression...

Please be advised that there has been no change in the way the NFHS or the OHSAA is interpreting the above referenced rule. The only case book situation that speaks to an interpretation relative to injury is as follows:

“A swimmer during the 50 free jams, breaks or dislocates his/her index finger as he/she finishes the race. The athletic trainer/coach tapes two or more fingers together or stabilize the injury...

Ruling: Legal. **Comment:** Tape may be worn for valid medical reasons to cover a wound or treat an injury only.”

There is no language within the rule itself or the Situation that requires a doctor’s note. The referee as per usual does have the authority to approve the wearing of tape/bracing if in his or her opinion it is being used to treat an injury or cover a wound. In cases like the injury to a finger during a race, the decision is easy.

However because of so much controversy and confusion over the role of taping or bracing of body parts in swimming that are not related to protecting a wound or an existing injury, the OHSAA has required that written medical authorization to wear the tape/brace be presented to the referee in order for the student to compete with the tape or brace. The OHSAA is advising referees to accept this authorization from the following medical professionals: a physician (defined in this case as an MD – medical doctor, DO – doctor of osteopathy or a DC – doctor of chiropractic) a licensed athletic trainer or a physical therapist. We recommend that the referee require this authorization for any taping or bracing that is not obviously for a wound or a traumatic injury treatment.

OHSAA