



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

## Significant Changes to the OHSA's General Sports Regulations - 2015-16 -

- Sports Regulation 6.4.1, OHSA Sponsored Tournament Entry/Withdraw Procedures & Draw/Seed Meeting Dates**  
This General Sports Regulation addresses the requirement for coaches to send a coach or administrator to a mandatory Sectional/District seed/draw meeting. Language has now been added to address the same consequence if a coach/administrator fails to SEED as instructed – a fine of \$150.00 and any additional consequences by respective District Athletic Boards.  
**Rationale:** Many districts are utilizing online seeding. The Seeding procedure is required for every team entering a tournament. This revision clearly states that seeding is required and a fine will be levied if a school coach or administrator fails to do so.
- Sports Regulation 6.5, OHSA Sponsored Tournament Entry/Withdraw Procedures & Draw/Seed Meeting Dates**  
This General Sports Regulation makes slight adjustments to the official date at which schools may enter a tournament or withdraw from a tournament.  
**Rationale:** Schools do have the opportunity to enter or withdraw from an OHSA Tournament right up until the dates listed. Not meeting these dates results in various penalties. Most changes are necessary annually due to date changes of seasons.
- Sports Regulation 7.1.3, Non-School (Non-Interscholastic) Programs or Teams (Definition of a “Team Member”)**  
Language was added to better identify what a “team member” is as it applies to all OHSA Bylaws and Sports Regulations.  
**Rationale:** The adoption of Lacrosse as an “emerging sport” made it necessary to identify members of teams in that sport and any future ‘emerging sports’ in the same manner that other recognized sports are identified.
- Sports Regulation 7.3.1, Non-School (Non-Interscholastic) Programs or Teams**  
Language was added to this General Sports Regulation to identify that a student who played for a different school the previous year, then transfers, will now be counted in the 50% limitation of team members permitted on the same non-school team.  
**Rationale:** This addition became necessary mainly due to transfers student-athletes in winter-spring sports. A student who played for “School A” then transferred to “School B” previously would not be counted in the 50% limitation of players permitted on the same non-school team after he/she transferred due to language. Now, after August 1, any transfer who played a sport for any school the previous season will be counted in that 50% limitation for the ‘new’ school that he/she transferred to.
- Sports Regulation 8.2, Individual Skill Instruction**  
Revisions to language were made to better clarify what type of instruction members of a school team may receive during and out of season by school coaches and non-school coaches.  
**Rationale:** There continues to be an increasing number of non-school ‘trainers and instructors’ offering student-athletes private lessons during a sport’s season as well as outside the season. The addition of the “Individual Instruction Regulation” permitting school coaches this opportunity outside the season has become very confusing. Language revisions make it clearer what is permitted for all.
- Sports Regulation 9, Conditioning, Weight Training, Physical Fitness Programs**  
Minor revisions were made to better clarify what can and cannot take place during Conditioning, Weight Training and Physical Fitness Programs.  
**Rationale:** This simply adds clarity to explain that our regulations that prohibit conducting conditioning programs and physical fitness programs are relative to those that played on the school coach’s team the previous season. It also removes ‘weight lifting’ from this regulation; please see revisions to Sports Regulation 11 below.
- Sports Regulation 11, No Contact Periods**  
Revisions were made to better clarify what is prohibited as well as a few things that are permitted via exceptions.  
**Rationale:** While better defining various activities that are prohibited, this also provides a **major** exception that was previously not granted – coaches may now supervise weight programs ONLY during the no-contact period.

- **Sports Regulation 14.1, Ejections for Players**

This regulation was revised to add language that now includes penalties for student-athletes ejected from a scrimmage. Ejection from a PRE-season scrimmage or a Preview will now result in suspension from the FIRST REGULAR SEASON CONTEST in addition to all remaining contests the day of the ejection. Ejection from a scrimmage held *during the season* will now result in suspension from the next regular season contest (1) or OHSAA Tournament contest. This also includes a **major** change that now WILL permit a player to be in the locker room area and the 'bench area' during the time of suspension; language was also added to carefully articulate that players are not permitted to participate in pre-game warm-ups of any fashion during the time of suspension. This does NOT change any of the consequences of an ejection for a coach.

**Rationale:** With an increase in the number of unsporting conduct issues during scrimmages, the decision was made to enforce penalties for ejections from scrimmages. Previously there were no consequences for being ejected from a scrimmage in all sports except hockey. This policy is now consistent for ALL sports.

- **Sports Regulation 16.1, Recognized and Emerging Sports** — Added some language to address recognized sports; developed new language to introduce the concept of an emerging sport.

**Rationale:** With the formal adoption of Lacrosse in 2016-17, there needed to be a 'category' in which it would fall since it clearly does not meet many of the current requirements (minimum number of teams, number of teams needed to add divisions, etc.) that all other adopted sports fall within. This provided the opportunity for Lacrosse to be adopted outside the realms of other sports while also opening the door to other 'non-traditional' sports or activities.

- **Sports Regulation 16.3, School Assignments/Divisions**

Revisions were made to better define divisional assignments for tournament play, as well as clarifying the exception in football that not every team qualifies for the post-season tournament. This also clarifies that enrollment numbers for cross country are figured by adding the enrollment of both genders and dividing in half.

**Rationale:** This better defined what has actually been done and defines better that enrollments used for cross country divisions are figured differently to insure a boy's team and girls' team are the same division in a school.

- **Sports Regulation 16.4, Failure to Appear/School Closures**

This revision added clarity to what occurs when schools close due to inclement weather and/or when host sites close due to inclement weather. For individual sports, a tournament is scheduled to continue if a school is not able to travel to a contest. In the event a host site is closed due to unforeseeable circumstances, the District Athletic Boards or the OHSAA are to work with finding reasonable alternatives, including rescheduling. This also indicates that forfeitures COULD occur as a result of Failure to Appear.

**Rationale:** Inclement weather in recent years has brought about several circumstances that were not previously addressed or clarified within past regulations. These revisions to this Regulation were done to put actual policy in place.

- **Sports Regulation 19, Non-Recognized Sports**

Language in this regulation was added that will provide catastrophic insurance coverage (currently at a cost to the OHSAA) for any "Emerging" sport as well as "Recognized" sport.

**Rationale:** The addition of the "Emerging Sport" category and Lacrosse in 2016-17 and the subsequent decision to include "Emerging Sports" in the OHSAA's current Catastrophic Insurance policy made this revision necessary

- **Sports Regulation 20, Regular Season Participation Limit**

Sports Regulation 20 addresses teams and individuals that exceed the number of regular season contests permitted by specific sport regulations (22 games permitted in basketball for example). Language was added to identify that any student who has exceeded the number of contests permitted in individual sports OR participates in contests before the season is permitted to start is ineligible but other individuals that did not exceed or violate the regulation are not ineligible.

**Rationale:** This revision became necessary to address teams in individual sports that may violate the contest limitations OR the official season start but other individuals may not have. This provides those that did not violate the regulation in an individual sport the opportunity to be eligible for the OSHAA post-season tournaments of those sports.

- **Sports Regulation 23, Previews**

This regulation that defines 'Previews' was revised with added language to permit a Preview in a sport to be held from the first day of practice until the date of the first regular season contest – with an exception in Football that has a defined period in which a Preview may be held.

**Rationale:** The addition of "Foundation Games" and "Jamborees" as well as the overlap of seasons has made it more and more difficult for schools to conduct a Preview within the very narrow window of time previously permitted. With this change, it opens up a window of time that a Preview may be held – from the first practice until the first regular season game. Since Previews generate revenue for the school, opening this window may provide more opportunities to conduct Previews and thus increase revenue.

- **Sports Regulation 34, No Contests and Forfeits**

This regulation was revised to clarify the difference between a "no contest" and a "forfeit".

**Rationale:** Previous language in this regulation *only* addressed "No Contests" and did not address what actually creates a forfeit. With an unfortunate increase in the number of events being forfeited, it became necessary to clearly define both.

- **Media Regulations, 1 and 2, Videotaping**

Language was added to clarify that videotaping may be used for IN-GAME coaching only.

**Rationale:** Most NFHS playing rules have now permitted the use of video on mobile devices. Previous language would have one believe it could be used for scouting purposes when using any video to scout an opponent clearly is NOT permitted. This language clarifies that video devices may be used on the bench, sideline, or dugout as specified in NFHS rules as part of actual 'in-game' coaching by coaches involved in coaching the actual game.

- **Media Regulations, 3, Drones**

This creates an entirely new section within the "Media Regulations" banning the use of drones at all OHSAA Tournament contests.

**Rationale:** Over the course of the past school year, drones went from an obscure issue to one that has seen a rapidly growing use for many different reasons. It became necessary for all states to adopt a policy addressing their use. This policy also provides the latitude for schools to adopt their own policies for regular season contests.

- **Media Regulations, C., Use of OHSAA Trademark (Logos)**

This is a new regulation adding a statement about limited use of the OHSAA tradenames/trademarks and directs the Board to more thoroughly adopt a policy regarding its limited use.

**Rationale:** Growing unauthorized use of the OHSAA's logo and tradenames has necessitated this to be done. Once a more complete policy is approved, it will be posted on the OHSAA's website.