

# The OHSAA Rebounder's Report

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

Issue #4, January 18, 2011



A busy time. Most teams play multiple games each week in January and illness and injuries creep into the picture; definitely a tough stretch for teams. A tribute to all coaches who are able to keep their teams focused while not being in a league race. The challenge is often keeping players focused during the long haul between now and tournament time. Those in the thick of league races may have a few less challenges, but everyone faces the long month of January ahead. Best of luck to everyone.

*Jerry Snodgrass*  
Assistant Commissioner

## Hazing?

### *Be Diligent in Your Efforts!*

We often think "hazing" is something of the past or that "I had to go through it so it is ok for them to go through it", or "it is part of what makes our team...a team". Better reconsider. We are so concerned with team selection, injuries, team chemistry, etc., we might overlook some of these important items. They are the very things that can ruin a team....and a coach's career. I would encourage ALL coaches in Ohio to spend a little time with your team on this issue; bring captains in separately and review issues as they relate to hazing. Hazing can be a difficult term to precisely define as the hazing activity may be engaged in on a voluntary basis or be seemingly "light-hearted" in nature. Typically in High School, upper classmen force younger players to show subservience to the veteran players. As a result, the self-esteem of younger players is lowered because of being forced to complete humiliating acts or to endure intimidation. Hazing is an act, whether physical, mental or psychological. By definition (NFHS Interscholastic Athletic Administration Magazine), hazing is *any act or ceremony which creates the risk of harm to the student or to any other party and that is committed as a form of initiation into a particular club or activity. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, activities that involve the risk of physical harm, whipping, branding, ingesting vile substances, sleep deprivation, over-exposure to heat or cold, restraint, nudity, or kidnapping. Hazing could also include actions or simulations of a sexual nature, activities that create a hostile, abusive, or intimidating environment for the student.*

*DON'T OVERLOOK IT...it may be too late!*

## Get Items in Order for Tournament

Hard to believe but seed meetings are around the corner. When coaches vote for seeds at the sectional level, they are required to list their win-loss record by division. Might be a good time now to start looking at your schedule and listing the division of each opponent.

## Issues with Flash Photography?

Several calls have come in regarding officials not permitting flash photography at contests. Flash photography IS PERMITTED at basketball contests with limitations; photographers cannot be in the lane-line extended under the basket. Officials who officiate multiple sports often confuse the policies with volleyball...where it is not permitted. Complete photography policies are available at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/news/media/PhotographyRegulations.pdf>

## Open Draw vs. Assigned Sites

This dominates discussion at MANY District Coaches' meetings....and it is interesting. There are some areas of the state WANTING an 'open draw' while other areas of the state make their voices known that it is not wanted. It all depends where you are. Each District Athletic Board (DAB) is given the authority within the OHSAA's Constitution to set up and organize sectional and district tournaments. They MUST take aspects into consideration that may be unique in their respective geographic area. It certainly is easier to conduct an open draw in an urban area where they may be 14-16 teams in a 20 mile radius of an available site but much harder when the same number of teams is scattered over a 1600 square mile area. Does \$\$\$ play a role? Certainly it does and to a degree....it must.

## How are Match-ups Decided in Regional Tournament Play?

Ever wonder how it is determined what District matches up against another district in the Regional tournament? An actual DRAW is held at the OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting in October to determine match-ups. The OHSBCA actually draws pills to decide which line in the Regional a District winner goes on and this is recorded at the public meeting of the OHSAA's Board of Directors. Those pairings can be viewed at: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/boys/tournamentinfo.htm> & <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/bk/girls/tournamentinfo.htm> An issue or two down the road, I will address and explain why some district winners must travel to a Regional far outside their district for Regional play. It is interesting....and all based on the fact there are six DISTRICTS in Ohio but must feed to 4 REGIONALS. More to follow .....

## Non-Interscholastic Date Approaching

Coaches were reminded through state rules Interpretation meetings (and also explained in the Pre-Season Manual) about the all-important "Non-Interscholastic Date". Those dates are 1/31/2011 for girls and 2/7/2011 for boys. Though players on school teams are not permitted to tryout, practice, or compete with non-school teams at ALL during the season, the penalty gets more severe if they do this on or after these dates; they become ineligible for any tournament play.

## Speaking of Non-Interscholastic Play.....

It appears that spring/summer AAU/Club teams are organizing NOW...based upon the volume of recent phone calls. This is a VERY good time to remind your players that OHSAA Regulations do NOT permit them to TRYOUT, PRACTICE, or COMPETE on any non-school team during the season of play. Consider communicating with your Jr. High Coaches to have them remind their players. Help protect their eligibility. You can always check the Pre-Season Manual for Coaches/Officials that answers nearly every off-season question you or your Jr. High coaches might want to have answered.

## Pre-Game Music? Listen first.....

Today's youth listens to music 'we' did not listen to. Cassette players and CD players are a thing of the past. Music is part of just about everyone's pre-game today. But...have you listened? In the spirit of education-based athletics, I URGE you to listen to that music before you play it. It is the responsibility of game administration to screen music for appropriate content and decibel level. Consider fans of all ages.

## Statistically Speaking

**1146**

The number of OHSAA Member Schools in 1916.

**830**

The number of OHSAA Member Schools in 2010.

**15  
11**

The number of GIRLS' coaches ejected through 1/14/11  
Number of sub-varsity girls' coaches ejected through 1/14/11

## Next Issue: January 26

**6  
5**

The number of BOYS' coaches ejected through 1/14/11  
Number of sub-varsity boys' coaches ejected through 1/14/11