

**OHIO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
SCHOOL HANDBOOK**



**2024-2025
ATHLETIC SEASONS**

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ATHLETIC TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

The Ohio Christian School Athletic Association sponsors post-season athletic tournaments for junior and senior high school students, both boys and girls, by the request and in response to the needs of our member schools. OCSAA has no part in the planning of or jurisdiction over regular season play and competition.

Schools participating in OCSAA tournaments are required to abide by the philosophy, purpose, dates and rules set forth in this handbook.

The OCSAA is not affiliated with the State of Ohio or any other state or federal entity. The OCSAA is considered a religious, not for profit association.

All Christian and Religious based schools and Home School Associations that are accepted for membership in the OCSAA agree to abide by the rules, regulations and tournament dates set forth in this handbook including **Prayer and National Anthem** before all OCSAA Final Four and Championship contests. The OCSAA does not allow club teams, church/youth group programs, or non-religious based schools membership at this time.

I. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the OCSAA athletic tournament program is to provide both fellowship and athletic competition for students and coaches of the member schools (Matt. 22:39; Heb. 10:25).

We ask all participating schools and Home School Associations, to have a Christian philosophy of athletics. We expect all schools involved in our post season tournaments, ensure that their respective teams, coaches, parents and fans conduct themselves accordingly.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. MEDICAL COVERAGE

A completed Medical Examination Form for students participating in OCSAA tournaments must be signed by a physician, the participant, and by a parent or guardian and must be on file with the principal (and suggested to have before participating in a practice). In addition, participating schools are required to have completed Emergency Release Forms for each student. These forms are to be in the possession of a school or team representative at each tournament contest in case medical attention is required if parents are not available.

Schools are encouraged to equip their teams and coaches with the necessary emergency first aid equipment and supplies for each contest. OCSAA strongly recommends each coach and cheerleading advisor to have current emergency first aid and CPR training certification.

B. INSURANCE COVERAGE

All schools and Home School Associations participating in an event with the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association are required to have adequate insurance coverage for students and sponsors/teachers. OCSAA does not assume responsibility for these coverages. The school's student accident insurance should cover most reasonable and customary medical expenses. Workman's Compensation should cover sponsors/teachers. OCSAA and/or the host school will not be responsible for stolen or damaged articles that might be incurred.

C. COACH ELIGIBILITY

The OCSAA does not have any specific eligibility requirements for coaches.

D. STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

1. AGE LIMIT

If the age of 15 years is attained on or after August 1, and the 8th grade is not completed, the student shall be eligible to participate in the 5-8th grade tournament competition.

If the age of 19 years is attained on or after August 1, and the 12th grade is not completed, the student shall be eligible to participate in the 8-12th grade competition. At the beginning of each sport season the school shall provide the correct birth date information for the tournament Roster Forms if applicable.

2. SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Students from grade levels 8-12 are eligible for participation on high school teams and students from grade levels 5-8 are eligible for participation on junior high teams. To constitute a high school team, most players on the roster and during a contest must be in grades 9-12. Schools may request a waiver to allow 7th graders to participate on a high school team if it would be the difference of not having a team.

Chartered (by the Ohio Department of Education) schools are encouraged by OCSAA to be following eligibility guidelines set by the Department of Education. Note: Junior high students playing in high school games would lose a semester(s) of high school eligibility if she/he transfers to a school (public or private) that is a member of OHSAA.

A junior high student of an OCSAA member school may participate in OCSAA tournaments for the school they are enrolled on both JH and SH teams if 1) the student has participated in at least three-quarters of their junior high team's regular season contests 2) the student must comply with all age limitations, semesters of eligibility guidelines and applicable enrollment guidelines as set forth by the OCSAA.

No student athlete may participate in OCSAA Tournament play for more than one OCSAA member school in the same tournament.

A school may register a varsity or a junior varsity team in a senior high tournament.

3. ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

An individual is considered an enrolled (full-time) student if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) the student must be taking a minimum of five credit hours of classroom instruction per participating semester at the member's school 2) upon completion of graduation requirements, the student will receive his or her diploma from the member school.

The OCSAA does not allow part-time students to participate in athletics. Home school, Vocational Ed and Pre-College students see (Bylaw, II D. 7, 8, 9).

Students shall be enrolled by the 5th calendar day of the school's credit grading period (e.g., quarter, trimester, semester) to be eligible for tournament competition. Enrollment shall be continuous after a student has officially enrolled in a school until the student is officially withdrawn. Full-time students must be enrolled in a minimum of five credit hours of classroom instruction per participating semester. The student will not be participating in athletics at any other school during that academic year.

After a student completes the eighth grade, the student shall be eligible for a period not to exceed eight semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

Birth date and enrollment information will be provided by the principal for the Roster Form if applicable and is to be submitted as directed on the form in the situation of an omitted or a transfer student (See section III).

Student Athletes must participate for the school in which they are enrolled, they are not allowed to play for any other school. School's competing in an OCSAA tournament game with an athlete enrolled at a different school, must forfeit that game. Exceptions: see (Bylaw, II D. 5, 7, 8, 9, 10).

4. ACADEMIC

Students will be eligible as determined by the policies and guidelines as established by the board and administration of each participating school.

5. TEAM MEMBERSHIP

A girl(s) may play on a boys' team if there is no girls' team in that sport.

Note: If a school receives any type of federal funds, it automatically places itself under the federal mandates of Title IX regulations requiring equal opportunity for both boys and girls.

A student of an OCSAA member school may participate in athletics at another school if 1) their OCSAA member school of enrollment does not offer that specific sport(s) 2) the student cannot participate in athletics at more than two schools during that academic year one of which includes the OCSAA member school 3) the student cannot participate in multiple sports at different schools during the same sports season 4) the student cannot be enrolled at another school 5) the student must comply with all age limitations, semesters of eligibility guidelines, graduation limits and applicable enrollment guidelines as set forth by the OCSAA.

6. EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Exchange Students are eligible to participate on a member school's athletic team. The student must be in accordance with player age limitations and eligibility guidelines of the member school and OCSAA.

The student is eligible to participate for a maximum of one school year provided the student complies with all provisions of student eligibility.

7. HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Home school students are eligible to participate on a member school's athletic team. Home School students must follow age limitations, semesters of eligibility guidelines, graduation limits and applicable enrollment guidelines as set forth by the OCSAA. Home School students are prohibited from participating in established athletics for any other school during the academic year. The OCSAA does consider students enrolled in a "state funded virtual academy" home school students and they are allowed to play for a member school as long as 1) the individual will not be participating in established athletics for any other school during the academic year. 2) The state funded virtual academy does not already offer organized athletics for the enrolled students to participate in.

8. VOCATIONAL ED. STUDENTS

Vocational Students: In order for a student to maintain her/his athletic eligibility at an OCSAA member school while enrolled in a vocational or fine arts program during the 11th and 12th grades 1) the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses 2) has not or will not be participating in athletics for any other school except the OCSAA school they are registered at during their enrollment at the vocational school 3) was a full-time enrolled student for at least 9th and 10th grades at the OCSAA school they are registered at prior to enrollment at the vocational school

9. PRE-COLLEGE STUDENTS

A student enrolled full time in a postsecondary institution is eligible to participate at the member school 1) provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses in the postsecondary institution 2) in compliance

with the member school's graduation requirements with a diploma to be awarded by the member school.

10. STEM STUDENTS

A student enrolled in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is eligible to participate at the member school 1) provided the student is receiving high school credit for a minimum of five one credit courses 2) in compliance with the member school's graduation requirements with a diploma to be awarded by the member school 3) provided the STEM school does not sponsor interscholastic athletics and the student will not be participating in athletics at any other school during that academic year.

10. TRANSFER STUDENTS

A transfer student is considered eligible to participate on a member school tournament team if 1) the student has transferred in by the 5th day of the semester 2) the student is full-time 3) the student has not participated in the same sport at the school they are transferring from, that they are participating in at the member school 4) the student must comply with all age limitations, semesters of eligibility guidelines and applicable enrollment guidelines as set forth by the OCSAA **NOTE:** If the transfer student has participated in the same sport at the school they are transferring from, that they are participating in at the member school, they are not eligible to compete in OCSAA sanctioned events in that sport for that season

E. STATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

OCSAA and OHSAA schools may compete in both tournaments during the same season.

F. REGISTRATION AND TOURNAMENT FEE GUIDELINES

Schools may register and pay their \$100 annual membership fee along with their \$50 per team tournament fee for the entire year during the fall tournament season. You have the option to pay your winter and spring per team tournament fees during each tournament season. We ask that you make a copy of the Information form and fees paid for your files. **NOTE:** The OCSAA has the authority to approve or disapprove any "Petitions of Registration" or "Withdrawal". Teams can not advance in the tournament until all fees are paid in full!

G. RECORDS, ROSTERS AND SEEDING GUIDELINES

Member schools are required to submit OCSAA approved Record & Roster forms located on our website <http://www.ohiocsaa.org>. The forms need to be filled out completely and returned by the date mentioned in the OCSAA correspondence. Failure to fill the forms out completely or return them in a timely manner may result in your team receiving the lowest possible seed. The initial roster submitted will be considered your "official" tournament roster. Only players listed on that roster may participate in OCSAA tournament games. If you need to make a roster change, you must submit a new roster to the OCSAA with your reasons for the change. The OCSAA will review the roster and rule on whether the change will be allowed. Any team playing in an OCSAA tournament game with a player not listed or listed incorrectly on the "official" roster will be disqualified by forfeit. (See III. D.)

SH Seeding is done by the OCSAA Members using our online voting form. The guidelines used by the seeding committee can be found on our website: <http://www.ohiocsaa.org/seeding.htm>.

H. VIOLATIONS / REINSTATEMENT PROCESS

All violations with the potential of a one-year suspension will be subject to review by the OCSAA. At the discretion of the OCSAA, the school may receive a one-season suspension or may be offered to pay a \$50.00 Reinstatement Fee to be eligible for tournament competition the following year. The following violations may result a one-year suspension:

1. Late arrival for contest (2nd time during 3-year probation period).
2. Failing to appear for contest (payment for officials and workers included).
3. Withdrawing from tournament after record/roster deadline date.

4. Vandalism (individual or team). Payment for damages included.

I. APPEAL PROCESS

A school may contest a violation notice/resulting penalty or a handbook policy by submitting a written appeal to the OCSAA. Appeals must be presented in writing within 30 days of the adverse decision notice. The appeal must contain strong evidence to support the school's/individual's position. The OCSAA will review the written appeal at its earliest scheduled meeting. The OCSAA shall render a decision in writing within 30 days. If the appeal is rejected, the school/individual in question may request permission to appear in person before the OCSAA at its next scheduled meeting. The OCSAA shall render a decision in writing within 30 days. Consent for such an appearance, including the number of persons involved, must be approved in advance and in writing and shall bear all expenses of such an appearance.

J. GRIEVANCE PROCESS

For grievances involving tournament facilities, structure and execution, officials, or chairperson, you are instructed to notify the OCSAA in writing. Protests arising from the decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials during the game will not be considered. Their decisions and interpretations are final. Correctable errors must be corrected during the game and within the time established by the playing rules. For grievances dealing with another school's players, coaches, spectators, staff, or representative, we ask that you first approach their school administration and board regarding the situation. If no response or resolve is made at this point, we ask that you contact the OCSAA.

K. INCLEMENT WEATHER

If school administration has to cancel any tournament contest due to inclement weather, The administration of the school canceling should notify the OCSAA and the visiting school of her/his decision to cancel. For a regional or final four tournament, if one of the teams cannot participate due to inclement weather, the OCSAA shall cancel the tournament that day. The administrator will determine when the school will next be permitted to play.

The host school is instructed to keep all schools updated on any cancellations. The host school should notify all schools by 10:00 A.M. regarding any changes in game times for that day. Teams are asked not to travel out until first being contacted by the host school. The host school should contact all registered schools for emergency phone numbers prior to the day of the tournament. Teams canceling due to inclement weather will not be penalized. If all scheduled contests are cancelled, the team roster fees will be refunded.

If a contest is canceled, the first available and agreed upon date for both schools will be used. If the senior high state finals are canceled, it will be rescheduled for the following weekend. If either day of a junior high tournament is canceled, the tournament will be rescheduled according to the first available and agreed upon date for all schools. If the original tournament site is not available, the site will become that of the top-seeded school.

L. SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

You are encouraged to inform your student body and parents as to the Christ-like, Spirit-controlled behavior expected during athletic contests before interscholastic competition begins. Ways to communicate these expectations could be by way of assemblies, pep rallies, meet-the-team night, or letter. Please note the following:

1. It is requested and recommended that schools assign a staff member to be in attendance to monitor coach, team, and spectator conduct during home and away tournament contests.
2. Taped music, radios, and pep bands are not permitted on the tournament site
3. Posters will be permitted if approved by the tournament chairman but are to be removed by the school preparing them at the conclusion of the tournament / contest.
4. Ejected spectators are not permitted admission for the remainder of a contest or remaining contests of a tournament.
5. Review the National Federation sportsmanship guidelines in the appendix of this handbook.

M. RECORDING OF CONTESTS

1. School and team representatives as well as players parents may record games involving only their team during a tournament. No livestreaming or broadcasting as in FB Live is allowed without consent of the OCSAA. No publishing or making recordings available online of any kind without the consent of the OCSAA.
2. Digitally recording, copying, and distribution of state finals and final four contests are not permitted by anyone. The OCSAA does allow the State final game recordings to be distributed to individuals (not posted online) as a keepsake and made available only after the conclusion of the tournament and with the permission of OCSAA.
3. Trading of recordings for scouting purposes should be between the two teams involved in a future contest and not for scouting of a third-party team.

N. ADMISSION FEES / SCHOOL ADMISSION FORM

Admission fees will be set by the “host” school.

The fee provides admission into both on-site tournaments (e.g., soccer/volleyball; boys basketball/girls basketball; baseball/softball)

Fee is good for one day and for all contests.

The School Admission Form is required for free admission for all visiting teams upon arrival at the tournament site. The form must be accurately completed and signed by an authorized school administrator for all staff and students for each participating team for the following positions:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Athletic Director | 5. Cheer squad and advisor |
| 2. Team coach and assistants | 6. School administrators |
| 3. Team players | 7. Bus driver |
| 4. Statisticians | 8. OCSAA representatives and spouse/children |

O. OFFICIAL SCORER

The home team in each tournament contest will provide an experienced individual for scoring and a scorebook to serve as the official scorekeeper according to the guidelines set forth in the NFSHSA sport rulebooks. Home team designations will be announced in each Finals Bracket.

Volleyball: The home school is responsible for supplying an assistant scorekeeper (AS) to track libero replacements during each game of a varsity match.

P. CHEERLEADERS

A maximum of eight (8) cheerleaders with an advisor will be admitted at no charge at the admission gate by presenting the School Admission Form and only for the sessions in which their team is playing.

1. Mascots and cheerleaders are permitted on the playing floor only during a time-out, Pre-game warm-up, and half-time intermission.
2. Cheerleaders are to stay off the playing floor while the game is being played and at least six feet away from the boundary lines if facilities permit.
3. Dance routines are not permitted.
4. Mini trampolines are not permitted.
5. Posters will be permitted if approved by the tournament chairman but are to be removed by the school preparing them at the conclusion of the tournament/ contest.

Q. REPORTING

Schools hosting tournament game(s) are required to report contest results with scores to the OCSAA as soon as time permits.

The host school will keep all gate and concession money to pay referees and all contest workers.

FOR JUNIOR HIGH 8 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS: The host school will keep all gate and concession money to pay referees and all contest workers. OCSAA will provide all trophies and awards.

FOR SENIOR HIGH 16 TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS: The host school will keep all gate and concession money to pay referees and all contest workers. OCSAA will provide all trophies and awards.

III. TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

A. TOURNAMENT AUTHORITY

The tournament chairman is to be recognized as the authority at the scene of the tournament unless OCSAA Director is present. Referees are the game authorities. All authority figures are to be respected, whether we agree with the decisions made. The OCSAA Director or assigned Proxy will make all decisions that arise regarding tournament rules/regulations and must settle any disputes. The OCSAA Handbook and/or the National Federation of State High School Associations Rulebook should be consulted when necessary. If there is an irregularity in an OCSAA tournament game, which cannot be satisfactorily settled through the chairman and tournament policy/guidelines, call the OCSAA.

B. CONTEST RULES

The National Federation of State High School Association Rulebook will be used for all contests and sports unless overruled by guidelines from this handbook. (Rulebooks can be ordered by calling (816) 464-5400.

Junior High and Varsity Soccer Tie-Breaking Procedures:

1. Procedures will be identical as outlined in the National Federation Rulebook, except there shall be one 5-minute overtime period (note - not sudden victory).
2. If still tied, a second, 5-minute period (not sudden victory) will be played. If still tied, penalty kick procedures will be used according to the NFHS Handbook.

C. ROSTER LIMITS

It is suggested rosters are filled to the maximum, if possible, according to the following:

1. Soccer teams: 25 members maximum
2. Volleyball teams: 14 (max.)
3. Basketball teams: 14 (max.)
4. Baseball/softball teams: 15 (max.)

Non-roster players may dress, warm-up, and sit/stand in the team bench area during tournament contests.

D. ROSTER CHANGES

A school that desires to add a student athlete to the official team roster after rosters have been submitted must contact the OCSAA for permission to do so. To be eligible for participation a student must meet all requirements for age limitations and enrollment. You may only add a player to your official roster as a replacement for a player who was originally listed on the official roster and is now not able to participate in the tournament. Any player added must already be on a team roster at your school and have been so all season (JH/JV/V). A new roster including all additions and changes must be filled out and submitted to the OCSAA for final approval. (See Section II, "Student Eligibility). Only correctly listed athletes (including uniform numbers) on the official roster will be permitted to compete unless the mistake was made by OCSAA personnel, and the roster was correctly submitted ahead of time. Any roster changes must be submitted and approved by the Sunday preceding the scheduled Finals.

E. DEVOTIONS/PRAYER

Due to the doctrinal and theological differences of all member schools, devotions are not required. (See section IV. B. 4 for prayer guidelines)

F. CONDUCT CODE

COACH: Any coach ejected by an official during tournament play shall be ineligible for the remainder of the contest and for the next tournament contest. Any contest suspension not served will carry over and be served the following year in the same sport during the tournament and if employed at a different OCSAA member school. A coach who has been suspended may attend the contest but must be seated in the spectator area and may not give instructions to the players or to the acting coach any time prior to or during the contest.

PLAYER: Any player ejected by an official during tournament play shall be ineligible for the remainder of the contest and for the next tournament contest. Any contest suspensions not served will carry over and be served the following year in the same sport during the tournament and if enrolled at a different OCSAA member school. A player who has been suspended may not sit on the team bench, enter the locker room, or be affiliated with the team in any way traveling to, during, or traveling after the contest(s).

GENERAL: Coaches will be responsible for their players before, during, and after contests. Visiting teams are to respect host facilities. Any player or coach guilty of destruction or vandalism of property of the host school facilities will be a). responsible for repair costs and for making restitution with the host school, and b). possible contest suspensions. Any end-of-season suspensions would carry over and be served the following year in the same sport.

We encourage coaches to be mindful of not running up the score with no apparent attempts to change the tone of the contest in a true mismatch of overall team abilities.

TAUNTING AND BAITING: This is an unacceptable behavior which is tolerated as being part of the game but has no place whatsoever in interscholastic athletics. Using ridiculing motions, pointing fingers and gesturing are ways in which an opponent can be taunted. "Trash talk" does nothing but taunt or bait resulting in further inappropriate conduct and behavior. It is contrary to the basic concept of fair play and honorable competition.

Taunting an opponent by players or spectators or the official by spectators is exactly opposite of the type of conduct and behavior which participation and competition is intended to teach and cannot be tolerated as part of an educational program and educational experience. Administration and coaches must get directly involved in eliminating this type of conduct from the game. When no action is taken, it is sending the message that is acceptable behavior. Allowing players or spectators to commit acts of taunting or baiting without a reprimand or removal from the game is really telling the player or spectator that it is okay. Officials must also begin to strictly enforce the rules which prohibit such unsportsmanlike conduct. (National Federation of State High School Association)

G. LATE ARRIVALS/FORFEITS

A late arriving team(s) will be given a 15-minute grace period after the scheduled starting time or 15 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game, whichever is later, to start the contest. The team must be dressed and prepared to start within the 15-minute period. No warm-up time will be given. A late arriving team(s) may be subject to a 3-year probation period. The second violation during that period could result in a one-year ineligibility period.

If a team fails to appear, or is not ready to play within the 15-minute grace period, the space on the bracket shall be declared vacant. A team not appearing will be subject to a one-year ineligibility period. The opposing team will be awarded a "bye" into the next round of competition.

H. OFFICIALS

The contest/tournament chairman guidelines for the hiring of officials are as follows:

1. He/she must be currently state certificated or licensed.

2. He/she must be a "Class 1" official for all contests if scheduling permits.
3. A contracted official must: a) not **currently nor previously be** on the payroll of either of the participating schools or a sponsoring church if church sponsored.
4. Two licensed officials are required for all junior high soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball early round contests (three officials are recommended if scheduling permits). Three officials are required for all senior high soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball early round contests. Three officials are required for all championship contests in both junior and senior high. Two licensed officials are required for all volleyball contests at both the junior and senior high levels. Two-line judges are required for all matches at all levels. Line judges should be experienced and if possible, should include one judge from each competing school.
5. If hosting multiple senior high tournament contests:
 - a. For basketball, no official may work two consecutive games.
 - b. For volleyball, no official may work more than three consecutive contests.
 - c. For soccer, a three-man crew may work consecutive matches as long as the head referee's position is rotated for the second match. A two-man crew may not work consecutive matches.
6. If hosting a junior high tournament:
 - a. For soccer and basketball, no official may work more than two consecutive games.
 - b. For volleyball, no official may work more than four consecutive contests.
7. If on the day of a tournament game it is determined that an official does not meet the guidelines outlined above, both teams will be required to wait 30 minutes in an effort for the host school to secure a qualified official(s). If qualified licensed officials are not secured and present at the end of the 30-minute period, the visiting team (if playing the host school's team) or in the case of two neutral teams playing, the team with the better ranking has the option to postpone, reschedule, and host the make-up contest as time permits.
8. If on the day of a tournament game and one or more officials are not present at the scheduled contest start time, both teams will be required to wait 30 minutes in an effort for the host school to secure a qualified official(s). If qualified licensed officials are not secured and present at the end of the 30-minute period, the visiting team (if playing the host school's team) or in the case of two neutral teams playing, the team with the ranking has the option to postpone, reschedule, and host the make-up contest as time permits.

I. EQUIPMENT /FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS

1. **UNIFORMS:** All jerseys are required to be numbered according to the National Federation Rule Book regulations. Violations of proper numbering will be subject to N.F.R.B. penalties. Teams are required to bring home and away uniforms or a reversible, two-color shirt to avoid a potential "same color" conflict with the opposing team.
2. **GAME BALLS:** The home team is responsible to provide the game ball at each level of tournament play. Balls used will be regulation size and weight according to National Federation Rules.
3. **VOLLEYBALL NET:** Height - 7' 4 1/8" (Sr. Girls); 7' 0" (Jr. Girls)
4. **PLAYING AREA:** Due to the many variations and limitations of the facilities of the participating schools, the following are the required regulations for playing areas for tournaments as determined by the OCSAA.
 - a. Soccer: 55-75 yards x 100-125 yards
 - b. Volleyball: Court-30' x 60' (English) 9m X 18m (Metric) with 20' ceiling clearance court-wide
 - c. Basketball: (SH) 50' x 84' with 20' ceiling clearance (JH) 42' x 74' with 20' ceiling clearance (Current National Regulations)
 - d. Gym Seating Capacity: 100

If a host school does not have the facilities/field that meet the minimum requirements to host, they must secure a facility/field that meets minimum requirements at least forty-eight hours before tournament contest is to be played, unless visiting school agrees to waive 48-hour period. If host school

does not secure facility/field that meets minimum requirements and visiting school does not agree to waive the 48-hour period, the visiting school will have the option of hosting tournament contest. Host school must let visiting school know that their field or court does not meet OCSAA requirements at the time of scheduling.

IV. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE

A. CLASSIFICATIONS

Currently, the OCSAA is an open tournament with no specified divisions. Tournaments are single elimination and aligned with seeded brackets. (See IV. C for minimum # of teams)

B. FORMAT

1. FIRST AND SECOND ROUND CONTESTS

Top seeded teams will host lower seeded teams (i.e., #1 hosts #8). All tournament games are single elimination. It is the host school's responsibility to contact their opponent, schedule the game in accordance with the OCSAA athletic calendar, and hire officials and workers. Teams are to play the contest during the allotted Monday through Saturday listed on the bracket. Failure to do so may result in a forfeit. Early round winners are to notify the OCSAA and their next opponent with their game results.

2. REGIONALS

Regional games are designed to determine one regional tournament champion. Senior high regional winners will advance to the State Final Four tournament held at the Pleasant Valley Ranch. Junior High tournaments have a North and South regional winner. All Regional games must be completed by the Saturday listed on the bracket.

3. STATE FINALS

Senior high state finals are held at "TBD" and chaired by the OCSAA Director or assigned Proxy. The four regional champions (currently one open class) compete for the OCSAA state championship title. In volleyball and basketball (boys and girls) one team advances from each region, Softball and soccer have an open seeded tournament and do not crown regional champions. Senior High Final Fours are currently held on Friday and Saturday. The State Track & Field meet is held on Saturday.

Please be advised that during the Senior High Final Four weekend for basketball, soccer and volleyball, semi-final games will begin approximately 20 minutes after the end of the previous contest regardless of the originally announced start time. All state consolation and championship games will begin approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of the previous game's awards ceremony. All teams, players, coaches, and fans should arrive in time and be prepared for either an early or later game start, then the originally announced start times.

Junior high state champions are crowned in both the north and south regions for volleyball and basketball (boys & girls). The soccer champion is crowned from an open soccer bracket of all state-wide teams. Junior High Finals are held on Saturday. If a second day is needed, semi finals will begin on Friday afternoon.

4. CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

All tournament games except for soccer, will be required to start the contest with Prayer and the National Anthem followed by the official OCSAA Statement of Conduct and ending with the announcement of both rosters. Host schools that do not normally allow the National Anthem or Prayer due to established beliefs and practices are excluded. All OCSAA hosted Finals will start contests with Prayer and the National Anthem followed by the official OCSAA Statement of Conduct and ending with the announcement of both rosters.

C. SEEDING BRACKETS

The tournament bracket will be composed by the OCSAA using the seeding results as submitted by the member schools. SH teams representatives will vote by using our online seeding form. JH teams will be seeded by the OCSAA. Both JH and SH teams are seeded using the information contained on the OCSAA website: www.ohiocsa.org/seeding.htm. The OCSAA requires a minimum of 8 teams per sport JH and 16 teams per sport SH to host a State Championship Tournament. Senior High Soccer can be played with a minimum of 12 schools using a statewide bracket.

D. AWARDS

Trophies are awarded at both the north and south junior high state finals and plaques and medals at the senior high state finals. Senior high regional winners will also be awarded a team trophy and be allowed to cut down a net (basketball). Senior High basketball state champions will be allowed to cut down a net. We do not allow Junior High winners to cut down the nets. All trophies and awards are furnished by the OCSAA.

E. STATEMENT OF CONDUCT

The Ohio Christian School Athletic Association is pleased to sponsor the following tournament contest. In keeping with the intent and value of Christian school athletics, we ask all players, coaches, and spectators to always maintain exemplary Christian behavior. Those not complying with this request will be approached by school, tournament or OCSAA personnel and be asked to cooperate (those declining will be asked to leave the premises). Please help to make the game enjoyable for all. Thank you.

F. LICENSING AND IMAGE USAGE

The OCSAA does not allow any of its images, logos, or specific wordings to be used in publications, on t-shirts or other merchandise or on gymnasium signs and banners without express permission from the OCSAA. Examples include but are not limited to: "OCSAA", "OCSAA official log image", OCSAA Final Four Logos", and the wording of "The Ohio Christian School Athletic Association".

V. Health and Safety Guidelines

A. NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

The National Federation Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee has identified target groups within the school community that are responsible for conducting themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. The following are expectations of these groups.

EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Adopt policies that promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity.
- Serve as a positive role model and expect the same for parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel.
- Support participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize the value of school activities as a vital part of education.
- Attend and enjoy school activities.

EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

- Develop a program for teaching and promoting the ideals and fundamentals of good sportsmanship within the school, the league/conference and state.
- Provide appropriate supervisory personnel for each interscholastic event.
- Support participants, coaches, and fans who teach and display good sportsmanship.
- Recognize exemplary behavior and actively discourage undesirable conduct by participants, coaches, and fans.
- Attend events whenever possible.

EXPECTATIONS OF COACHES

- Always set a good example for participants and fans to follow, exemplifying the highest moral and ethical behavior.
- Instruct participants in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsmanship the No. 1 priority.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the event, and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants, and fans with respect. Shake hands with officials, opposing coach in public.
- Develop and enforce penalties for participants who do not abide by sportsmanship standards.
- Not to run up the score. Attempts should be made to change the tone of the contest in a true mismatch of overall team abilities.

EXPECTATIONS OF OFFICIALS

- Accept role in an unassuming manner. Showboating and over-officiating are not acceptable.
- Maintain confidence and poise, controlling contest from start to finish.
- Know game rules thoroughly and abide by established Code of Ethics.
- Publicly shake hands with coaches of both teams before contest.
- Never exhibit emotions or argue with participants and coaches when enforcing rules.
- Treat opponents with respect; shake hands prior to and after contests.
- Respect judgment of contest officials, abide by rules of the contest, and display no behavior that could incite fans.
- Cooperate with officials, coaches, and fellow participants to conduct a fair contest.
- Accept seriously the responsibility and privilege of representing school and community; always display positive public action.
- Live up to high standard of sportsmanship established by coach.

EXPECTATIONS OF SPIRIT GROUPS

- Stimulate desired crowd response using only positive cheers, signs, and praise without antagonizing or demeaning opponents.
- Treat opposing spirit groups and fans with respect.
- Recognize outstanding performances on either side of the playing field or court.
- Know the rules and strategies of the contest to cheer at proper times.
- Maintain enthusiasm and composure, serving as a role model.

EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS AND OTHER FANS

- Realize that a ticket is a privilege to observe a contest and support high school activities, not a license to verbally assault others or be generally obnoxious.
- Respect decisions made by contest officials.
- Be an exemplary role model by positively supporting teams in every manner possible, including content of cheers and signs.
- Respect fans, coaches, and participants.
- BE A FAN . . . NOT A FANATIC

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches, and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponent who fouls out while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of officials.
- Cheerleaders lead fans in positive school yells in positive manner.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at end of contest, regardless of outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at end of contest for performances of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for injured player, regardless of her/his team.

- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

- Yelling or waving arms during opponent's free-throw attempt. (ACSI: Schools give encouragement to their own players during free-throws)
- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs, or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming loss of game on officials, coaches, or participants.
- Laughing or name-calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own yells instead of following lead of cheerleaders.

B. NFHS CONCUSSION RULE

Implementation of NFHS Playing Rules Changes Related to Concussion and Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all adults involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus, it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students.

Note: It has always been the ultimate responsibility of the coaching staff, in all sports, to ensure that players are only put into practice or contests if they are physically capable of performing. However, all adults involved in the conduct of interscholastic competition have responsibilities in this endeavor.

The OCSAA has adopted a sports regulation which incorporates the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules. This regulation reads:

“Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems, nausea, headache, double or fuzzy vision, feeling sluggish or groggy, sensitivity to light) shall be **immediately removed** from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with **written authorization** by an appropriate health care professional.

In Ohio, an ‘appropriate health care professional’ shall be a physician, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both Doctors of Medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an athletic trainer (A.T.), licensed under ORC Chapter 4755.”

C. Lindsay’s Law: Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Youth Athletes

All OCSAA Member Schools are required to comply with “Lindsay’s Law” with regards to watching the required video, receiving a copy of the SCA information sheet and turning in a signed and dated SCA attestation form to the school where they participate. All AD’s, coaches, parents, guardians, student athletes and any other individual that participates in the school’s athletic programs must comply with the above mentioned requirements in order to participate in any OCSAA sanctioned events.

What is Sudden Cardiac Arrest?

A Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) occurs when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating, cutting off blood flow to the brain and other vital organs. Sudden cardiac arrest is fatal if not treated immediately, most often by a defibrillator.

Who is Lindsay?

Senate Bill 252 is named for national heart health advocate and former Miss Ohio Lindsay Davis who suffers from a heart condition and has since dedicated her career to raising awareness of this potentially fatal condition.

"Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one killer of student athletes," said Davis. "At any moment I could have died because coaches and teachers had no idea this was even a possibility for someone who looked as healthy as I did at that age."

<http://ohiosenate.gov/republicans/press/hite-joins-former-miss-ohio-to-announce-passage-of-lifesaving-bill-addressing-risk-of-sudden-cardiac-arrest-in-student-athletes>

Lindsay's Law

Lindsay's Law, Ohio Revised Code [3313.5310](#), [3707.58](#) and [3707.59](#) went into effect in 2017.

In accordance with this law, the Ohio Department of Health, the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and other stakeholders jointly developed guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students and youth athletes participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity, their parents, and their coaches about the nature and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest.

The following resources were developed to implement Lindsay's Law:

For **frequently asked questions and answers**, [click here](#).

For **parents/guardians** and **youth athletes**:

- [Required video](#)
- [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)
- [Required Signature Form](#)

For **coaches**:

- If you are a coach for an interscholastic sport and are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, please visit their [website](#) for information about their training requirements around Lindsay's Law.
- If you are a coach in a community program, please use the following resources:
 - [Required video](#)
 - [Required SCA Informational Handout](#)

ODH Contact Information

Ohio Department of Health
School Nursing Program
246 North High Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: 614-466-1930

Email: BCHS@odh.ohio.gov

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