

To: All OHSAA Member Schools' Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Administrators

From: Jerry Snodgrass, Executive Director

Good afternoon to each of you. It is my goal to keep each of you up to date with current issues as they relate to our sports' seasons while being conscious of the vast amount of communication you are having with your own school personnel. I'd like to provide a few updates:

- At the time of this email, we are still looking at potential options for winter sport tournaments. As each day goes by, the possibility becomes less and less. However, before any final decision is made, there is a great deal of information we are collecting before closing the door completely. It is not my intent to 'string anyone along' but as I have indicated from the onset with staff – I want them to be creative.
- While factors continue to change, our tentative adjustments to spring sports remains in place. This continues with the assumption that we will return to school on April 6. I am monitoring this daily and should this change, it will obviously necessitate an adjustment.
- Our current "No-Contact" period continues at least through April 5. Many questions have arisen regarding electronic communication with student-athletes. There is no restriction on that and recognizing the importance of coaches in the lives of student-athletes, we encourage it. However, not to conduct groups workouts from a distance.
- We have a scheduled news conference tomorrow (with restricted attendance) to address current issues. I continue to inform media that communications will go through our member schools first and while I am entertaining questions from media, I am intending to merely update them on the very items I am providing in this communication. You may view this live by logging on to: <https://ohsaa.boxcast.com/#/> and selecting the "Press Conference" icon.
- Asking for All School Administrators' Help: One of the biggest challenges we currently face is the emotional outcry from student-athletes. My background as a parent, teacher, coach and administrator understands as well as anyone the time/effort student-athletes commit. This crisis also has brought the importance of school sports to the forefront. However, I cannot compromise the advice of experts in the decisions that have been made and will continue to be made. I will be very clear in tomorrow's press conference that sports are an extension of the classroom, not THE classroom. So are school musicals, school plays, FFA programs, concerts, etc. who equally put in time, effort and commitment. But, so much of this is being propelled by school coaches. Some of the communications from coaches are challenging and certainly contradict your own school's policies. I am asking administrators to reach out to the coaches in your district and inform them of the importance of THEM being leaders in solving this crisis and to take the lead in their communication with student-athletes. With 65,000 coaches in Ohio alone – I need your help in communicating to them the importance of this. Right now, it is the biggest challenge our staff faces. I am asking for your help and appreciate everything you can do. I commend you for helping to discourage non-school events, "voluntary practices", "captains' practices" and the like. That has been a tremendous help.

- Business continues as normal for us, though I have instituted a Teleworking policy that we have. There should be no slowdown of services to our member schools. You can imagine the flood of calls and emails we are getting from the public but we are committed to serving our member schools first. All staff are working normal hours and we have a teleconference meeting every day. While a recorded message is on our main phone line, we put a direct line call list out in the fall to all Athletic Directors in a “welcome packet”. Please follow this link (<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/About-the-OHSAA/OHSAWhoTo%20ContactList.pdf>) to access that call list. This allows us to serve our schools first as the public does not have these individual numbers.
- Each of our departments are working on nearly every issue that is affected by the current crisis. Everything from eligibility requirements for next fall’s student-athletes to upcoming referendum voting to District Athletic Board Elections are all being worked on. All upcoming meeting dates are being reviewed for which need postponed, canceled OR alternative ways to conduct them are also being reviewed. I will share all of those with you as we make those decisions.
- For Athletic Directors: Many timelines/deadlines – from Spring Sport Parent Meetings to Voting Deadlines for Winter Sport Officials – are being adjusted. However, please continue to take time to vote for winter officials. That can be done regardless of deadlines and is important for us to move forward.

As we all know, extending spring sports into the summer months is extremely problematic. A large number of Athletic Administrators in the state are not on year-round contracts. Providing administrative oversight – which is absolutely necessary – presents some challenges that may not be able to be solved. I continue to ask our staff to be creative in their approach – especially with how important school events are. I also am conscious, though, of the challenges that every single decision faces.

Thank you for your continued support and the efforts each of you are putting forth to deal with the current crisis.

Serving Our Member Schools and Enriching Opportunities for Students