



Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Newsletter

May 2026

oh.nhsbca.org

Volume 12 Issue 8

Upcoming Events

Girls Midwest Live

Cedar Point Sports Center
Sandusky, OH

June 19th & 20th

Boys Midwest Live

Cedar Point Sports Center
Sandusky, OH

June 26th & 27th & 28th

Golf Outing

TBD Golf Course
Columbus, OH

September 19th

OHSBCA Coaches Clinic

St. Charles Preparatory
School, Columbus, OH

September 20th & 21st

OHSBCA Election

Ballots Due

October 5th

OHSBCA Fall Meeting

OHSAA Offices

October 19th

Girls Practice Begins

October 30th

Boys Practice Begins

November 6th



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE



Joe Balogh

The Basketball Coaches Association recently met with the Executive Director of the OHSAA, Doug Ute, to discuss several important topics regarding the state basketball tournament, officiating procedures, tournament structure, and future considerations for high school basketball in Ohio. Much of the discussion centered around feedback gathered through the state tournament survey and ways to continue improving the overall tournament experience for schools, coaches, players, and fans.

It was confirmed that Dayton will continue to serve as the primary site for the state basketball tournament. Due to NCAA tournament setup requirements, the Girls State Tournament can only be conducted Thursday through Saturday, while the Boys State Tournament will continue to run from Thursday evening through Sunday. Discussion also took place regarding the possibility of continuing to us Butler High School for Girls State tournament. Coaches spoke positively about the atmosphere and environment at the facility; however, concerns were raised regarding the perception of the venue not being a college arena.

Additional conversation focused on tournament experiences at Wright State University and University of Dayton. Wright State received feedback concerning ticketing procedures, fan seating locations, and the convenience of concession stands. There is consideration being given to involving local booster clubs to assist with concessions and improve the overall experience. Several coaches indicated that the atmosphere and organization at Wright State currently do not match the experience provided at the University of Dayton. Conversely, feedback regarding the University of Dayton was overwhelmingly positive, with coaches describing the tournament as professionally managed and well organized. The OHSAA also indicated that additional information regarding hotels and restaurant options near Wright State will be distributed, noting that the area offers more accommodations and dining opportunities than many coaches may realize.

The possibility of moving the state tournament to Columbus was also discussed. However, concerns

were expressed regarding scheduling conflicts with Ohio State University potentially hosting NCAA women's tournament games or hockey events. Coaches were also informed that Spectrum continues to provide game film of the state finals approximately three weeks following the conclusion of the tournament.

Regional tournament site assignments and the possibility of utilizing TBA (To Be Announced) regional locations generated significant discussion. OHSAA representatives expressed concerns regarding excessive travel times for participating schools. Several coaches commented that they preferred knowing regional locations in advance and generally did not favor the use of TBA sites.

Officiating procedures were another major topic of discussion. This marked the first year since moving away from the myOHSAA system that coaches were reintroduced into the selection process for tournament officials. Coaches were asked to submit a list of 5 to 15 officials to the OHSAA. Each appearance on a submitted list counts as one point toward consideration for tournament assignments. Official selection is determined through a formula utilizing input from four groups: coaches, athletic directors, league assigners, and official administrators. It was also noted that officials are not permitted to work state finals in consecutive years. Additionally, all state tournament officials must complete a questionnaire that includes disclosure of any conflicts of interest related to potential assignments.

The current state tournament game times are expected to remain unchanged moving forward. Coaches also discussed the need to better educate spectators that one semifinal ticket provides admission for both semifinal games. OHSAA continues to explore the possibility of scheduling all divisions on back-to-back tournament days in the future. Tournament rotation was also reviewed, with Division I remaining permanently as the final game of the tournament schedule while the remaining divisions rotate annually.

Discussion also took place regarding tournament rankings and the use of MaxPreps data. It was stated that the decision to use MaxPreps RPI or MaxPreps Rankings rests with the coaches association.

The topic of implementing a shot clock in Ohio high school basketball was also addressed. At this time, the OHSAA Board is not prepared to make a motion regarding a statewide vote on the shot clock. Coaches were encouraged to communicate directly

OHSBCA Directory

President

John Feasel
Olentangy
ohsbravescoach@gmail.com

Vice-President

Brett Larrick
Elyria Senior
larrickbrett@elyriaschools.org

Past President

Doug Graham
South Point
dgraham@southpoint.k12.oh.us

Executive Director

Joe Balogh
Ontario, Ohio
joe.balogh@ohiobkcoaches.com

Treasurer

Pat Carroll
Uniontown Lake
hoopmaster@ohiobkcoaches.com

Secretary

Bob Von Kaenel
Dover
vonkaenelbob498@gmail.com



with athletic directors within their districts to express their opinions on the matter.

Additional discussion centered on the possibility of separating public and private schools for tournament competition, with some indicating that such changes could potentially occur in the future. Coaches were also informed that basketball division assignments are expected to be approved during the June Board of Directors meeting.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of brand-new basketballs during regional tournament competition. In response, OHSAA indicated that coaches may bring a game ball to exchange for the new tournament basketball if desired.

Finally, district-specific concerns were discussed. Representatives from the Northwest District indicated that the pod system used during tournament play was viewed as a positive step forward, although additional discussions regarding alternative tournament options are expected with the Northwest District Board. Representatives from the Southeast District continued to express concerns regarding being the only region in the state utilizing NCAA-style seeding procedures for tournament play.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The OHSBCA will be offering an exciting opportunity designed specifically for first- and second-year head basketball coaches. A Mentorship Program that will provide invaluable professional development, mentorship, and resources to help support new head coaches in their transition into leadership.

Understanding the unique challenges that come with stepping into a head coaching role, this program connects new coaches with experienced mentors who can provide guidance, insight, and support throughout the season. Participants will also gain access to a variety of coaching resources aimed at enhancing their effectiveness both on and off the court.

The program benefits include:

- A complimentary OHSBCA membership for the 2026-2027 season, valued at \$25.00
- A waived registration fee for the 2026 OHSBCA Clinic, valued at \$105.00
- Assignment of an experienced mentor who can offer advice and support
- Access to OHSBCA's online coaching resources, including training materials and best practices
- Scheduled in-person and Zoom meetings to facilitate discussions, share strategies, and provide ongoing mentorship
- Additional gifts and coaching-related resources provided by the OHSBCA

Participation in this program is limited to 20 applicants, and the registration deadline is July 10, 2026. The cost to enroll is \$150.00.

We believe this program is a tremendous opportunity for new head basketball coaches to build their

knowledge, expand their coaching network, and gain the confidence needed to lead a successful program. If you have any questions or would like to register a coach, please reach out to ohsbcpublicrelations@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to developing coaches and student-athletes.

OHSBCA COACHES CLINIC

The Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) is pleased to announce that the 2026 OHSBCA Clinic will be held at the Frank Murphy Convocation Center, located on the campus of St. Charles Preparatory School in Columbus, Ohio. St. Charles is a four-year Catholic college preparatory school founded in 1923. Originally established as a seminary, the school now serves as an all-male high school within the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, with a strong reputation for academic and athletic excellence.

Mike Ryan, Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director at St. Charles, expressed the school's enthusiasm, "we are thrilled to host the OHSBCA Clinic in 2026. St. Charles is eager to welcome coaches from across the state to our exceptional facilities, providing a dynamic setting for learning and collaboration. With a tradition of excellence, both academically and athletically, we are proud to support the growth of high school basketball in Ohio. We look forward to offering a memorable experience for all attendees and contributing to the success of the OHSBCA Clinic."

The Frank Murphy Convocation Center, which opened in 2023, is a state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance both athletic performance and fan experience. It features seating for 1,300, three video boards, and a dropdown scoreboard, making it an ideal venue for the clinic.

"We are excited to partner with St. Charles Preparatory School and host the 2026 OHSBCA Clinic at the impressive Frank Murphy Convocation Center," said Adam Hall, OHSBCA Clinic Director. "This state-of-the-art facility will provide an exceptional environment for learning and networking. St. Charles has a long-standing tradition of excellence, both academically and athletically, and we're grateful for their commitment to supporting high school basketball in Ohio. We're confident that this clinic will be a fantastic experience for coaches, helping to foster collaboration and growth across our basketball community."

The 2026 OHSBCA Clinic will be held September 20th & 21st.

**CHECK OUT THE OHSBCA
ON THE WEB
oh.nhsbca.org**

OHSBCA Directory

District 1 Director

Jeff Brink, Springfield Local

District 2 Director

Sean O'Toole, Gilmour Academy

District 3 Director

Brett Larrick, Elyria Senior

District 4 Director

Josh Hose, Massillon Washington

District 5 Director

Joe Dunlevy, Indian Creek

District 6 Director

Joe Bedingfield, Willard

District 7 Director

Dave Boyce, Perrysburg

District 8 Director

Todd Boblitt, Bluffton

District 9 Director

Carla Siegel, Fort Loramie

District 10 Director

Michael Bates, Africentric

District 11 Director

Rodney Brown, River Valley

District 12 Director

Clint Crane, Caldwell

District 13 Director

Heath McKinniss, Oak Hill

District 14 Director

Josh Arey, Peebles

District 15 Director

Adam, Preifer, Centerville

District 16 Director

Ricardo Hill, Indian Hill



FUNDRAISING UNIVERSITY



NOMINATIONS FOR OHSBCA HALL OF FAME

Any coach can nominate a worthy candidate for the OHSBCA Hall of Fame. From time to time, questions are raised why coach so and so is not in the Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. Sometimes it is just a simple fact that the coach has not been nominated for this honor.

Any coach can nominate a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Nomination Forms can be obtained by contacting chairperson Greg Nossaman of Olentangy Liberty or by downloading the form from our OHSBCA web site (oh.nhsbca.org). Complete the requested information and mail to:

Greg Nossaman
Olentangy Liberty High School
3584 Home Road
Powell, OH 43065
Telephone: 740-657-4209
Email: greg_nossaman@olsd.us

Let's Honor "ALL" our great coaches!

OHSBCA COMMUNICATIONS

Monthly newsletters from September through April will be published and sent to all active members with a valid email address. The information will be short and coincide to keep you updated on the latest happening of Ohio basketball.

Hooplines will be published twice a year. The Year in Review will be released in January which contains the rich history of the OHSBCA. The Spring Edition will be issued in May, highlighting all of the award winners that the OHSBCA honors for the past basketball season.

Social Media will posted current updates on the OHSBCA happenings. You can get them at:

Twitter: @ohiobkcoaches
Facebook: Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association
Instagram: ohsbca1947

BOB ARNZEN AWARD

The Bob Arnzen Award is awarded to coaches who have devoted 20 consecutive years or more service to the same school at any level and must be an active member of the OHSBCA for the past five years. Recipients will receive a plaque at halftime of their respective state tournaments.

If you qualify for the 2024-25 school year, please submit a complete the online application at the OHSBCA website (oh.nhsbca.org) and click on forms. Select the Bob Arnzen Award form:

Joe Balogh
Awards Director
Phone: 419-512-0164
Email: joe.balogh@ohiobkcoaches.com

DUE SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

OHSBCA

OHSBCA COACHES OF THE YEAR

For the year 2026, the following coaches were selected by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association as Coach of the Year for the respective Divisions.

Boys D1 - Mike Price, Oak Hills

Boys D2 - Steve Mehalik, Brecksville

Boys D3 - Keith Gunther, Youngstown Ursuline

Boys D4 - Jeremy Dixon, Urbana

Boys D5 - Derek Dibling, Fredericktown

Boys D6 - Shawn McGregor, Kirtland

Boys D7 - Aaron Elwer, Delphos St. John's

Girls D1 - James Hrusovsky, Mentor

Girls D2 - Carey Largent, Big Walnut

Girls D3 - Jason Tincher, Bellbrook

Girls D4 - Kory Santoro, Bellevue

Girls D5 - Jake Shoup, Norwayne

Girls D6 - Ray Neill, Margareta

Girls D7 - Connor Ruffer, Stryker



Mike Price



Steve Mehalik



Keith Gunther



Jeremy Dixon



Derek Dibling



Shawn McGregor



Aaron Elwer



James Hrusovsky



Carey Largent



Jason Tincher



Kory Santoro



Jake Shoup



Ray Neill



Connor Ruffer

OHSBCA Directory

Girls DD 1 & 4

Mike Miller, Triway

Girls DD 2 & 3

Andy Booth, Wadsworth

Girls DD 5 & 12

Troy McClellan, Strasburg

Girls DD 6 & 7

Natalie Lantz, Shelby

Girls DD 8 & 9

Tracy White, Versailles

Girls DD 10 & 11

Carly Largent, Big Walnut

Girls DD 13 & 14

Jon Buchanan, Fairland

Girls DD 8 Director

Beth Simmons, Summit CD



GOLF OUTING

The OHSBCA will be hosting a golf outing on Saturday, September 19, 2026 in the Columbus Area. This golf outing is the day before our annual clinic and we will have a shotgun start at 1:30 PM. So plan on bringing your staff down a day early for a round of golf. After the round, a meal will be provided. We will only be accepting the first 32 teams so please make sure to register your team.

OHSBCA SHOT CLOCK SHOOTOUT

The OHSBCA will, once again, sponsor the Shot Clock Shootout of the Christmas holidays. The 2026 Shot Clock Shootout has been finalized. This two-day event will take place over the Christmas break on Saturday, December 19th and Sunday, December 20th. at the Canton Memorial Field House, featuring ten games over a two-day period.

Saturday, December 19, 2026

12:00 PM - Avon Lake vs St Vincent St Mary (Girls)

1:45 PM - Walsh Jesuit vs Olmsted Falls (Boys)

3:30 PM - Lakewood vs Dover (Boys)

5:15 PM - Louisville vs Northwest (Boys)

7:00 PM - Archbishop Hoban vs Massillon (Boys)

Sunday, December 20, 2026

12:00 PM - Marysville vs Brecksville (Girls)

1:45 PM - Olentangy Berlin vs Northwest (Girls)

3:30 PM - Fremont Ross vs New Philadelphia (Boys)

5:15 PM - Lakewood vs Canton McKinley (Girls)

7:00 PM - Gilmour Academy vs Canton McKinley (Boys)

FUTURE ELECTIONS

In 2026, the following positions are to be elected:

1. **Even Number Districts Directors** (3-year term)
2. **Girls District Directors of Districts 2 & 3, District 5 & 12, Districts 6 & 7, and Districts 15 & 16** (3-year term)
3. **Special Election for District 5 Director** (2-year term)

Qualifications for the **District Director and Girls District Director** is that the candidate must be a member of the OHSBCA. Candidates for all these positions must send a letter of intent to the President of the OHSBCA stating the position in which they will be a candidate for by July 1st.

28.5 OHIO CLASSIC

The OHSBCA is proud to host the first-ever 28.5 Ohio Classic on Jan. 31, 2026, at Big Walnut High School! A historic day for Ohio high school hoops—girls' teams, coached by women and officiated by women.

Saturday, January 30, 2027

10:45 AM - Orrville vs Delaware Hayes

12:30 PM - Wynford vs Dublin Jerome

2:15 PM - Delta vs Versailles

4:00 PM - Fairview vs Shelby

5:45 PM - Archbishop Alter vs Dublin Coffman

7:30 PM - Strongsville vs Big Walnut

MIDWEST LIVE SCHOLASTIC EVENT

Once again, the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association will be hosting a Midwest Live Scholastic Event for both the Girls and Boys. These events will be held during the NCAA Division I Recruiting Period in June. The Girls event will be held on June 19 & 20 and the Boys event will be played on June 26-28. The top Girls and Boys players and teams will assemble at Cedar Point Sports Center in Sandusky, Ohio to participate in this summer tournament.

The Girls event will have 110 high school teams from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. The Boys event will have 140 high school teams from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

OHSBCA ASSISTANT COY

For the year 2026, the following coaches were selected by the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association as Assistant Coach of the Year for the respective Divisions.

Boys D1-3 - Matt Wiekert, New Albany

Boys D4-5 - Todd Cook, Waynesville

Boys D6-7 - Tad Secrest, Caldwell

Girls D1-3 - Steve Borgis, Brecksville

Girls D4-5 - Steve York, Waynesville

Girls D6-7 - Phil Barhorst, Fort Loramie



Matt Wiekert



Todd Cook



Tad Secrest



Steve Borgis



Steve York



Phil Barhorst

CENTURY AWARD

OHSBCA members who achieve Century Award status (100-200-300-400-500-600-700 wins) during the season should complete the Century Award Form located on the OHSBCA website (oh.nhsbca.org), click on Forms, then click forms online, and click the Century Award).

- * Varsity coaches may count their varsity wins in Ohio only
 - * Boys and Girls wins may be combined for total wins.
 - * Junior Varsity, Freshmen, and Junior High coaches may count their wins at any level towards their totals
- Questions contact:

Joe Balogh

Awards Director

Phone: 419-512-0164

Email: joe.balogh@ohiobkcoaches.com

DUE SEPTEMBER 10, 2026