

OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, OH 43214
Phone 614-267-2502 | Fax 614-267-1677



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TO: Photographers, Officials and School Administrators

FR: Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services and Henry Zaborniak, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner and Head of Officiating

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has developed the following policies to serve photographers, contest managers and officials during preseason, regular-season and OHSAA tournament contests.

Sport-Specific Notes

Golf – Photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. No flash photography is permitted during the swing (see below).

Basketball, Bowling, Diving, Gymnastics, Swimming and Volleyball – See flash photography notes below.

Baseball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field and Wrestling – No restrictions other than positioning.

Flash Photography

Note that flash photography – which includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras – is permitted except in the following situations:

Basketball – Not permitted in the free throw lane area along the baseline.

Bowling – Not permitted at any time during competition, including warm-ups.

Diving – Not permitted at any time during competition, including warm-ups.

Golf – Not permitted during the swing.

Gymnastics – Not permitted at any time during competition, including warm-ups.

Swimming – Not permitted immediately before the start of a race so as to not interfere with the starter's signal.

Volleyball – Not permitted at any time during OHSAA tournament contests. Permitted during regular-season contests only in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of $f2.8$. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season contests, if light meter readings fall below the minimum level, photographers must work with school administrators to verify the reading and be approved for use of flash photography.

Positioning

Photographers shall respect and adhere to the media boundaries established by each sport's official rule book.

In baseball and softball, a "dead ball" area inside the field of play may be designated for photographers by the contest manager (typically with a white chalk line), but the umpire has the authority to disallow use of that area. In the sports of bowling, track & field and swimming, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

In addition to the flash photography regulation in basketball, photographers may not position themselves directly under the rim.

Photo Sales

Newspapers, radio stations and television stations may sell photos from any OHSAA tournament contest.

School officials have the authority to permit or deny freelance photographers and parents from having sideline access at their athletic contests. Access is never guaranteed, and school officials have the authority to decide who is granted sideline access.

School officials also have the authority to permit or deny the sale of photos from regular-season contests. Freelance photographers may sell photos from OHSAA sectional, district and regional tournament games (and state semifinal games in the sports of football and soccer) as long as they are affiliated with a specific school and can produce a written or on-site verbal show of support from that school's athletic director.

At OHSAA tournament contests, photographers may not set up booths/tables, distribute flyers or request that public address announcements be read that advertise their services.

Freelance photographers who are not affiliated with a bona fide media outlet, which includes school photographers and parents, will not be credentialed for state tournament contests. Photos taken from spectator viewing area at state tournament contests are for personal use only and may not be sold.

In the future, the OHSAA may initiate a system to register freelance photographers for the purposes of obtaining an annual rights fee in exchange for permitting photo sales at OHSAA tournament contests.

Student Photographers

One student photographer per school can be credentialed for state tournament contests in the sports of field hockey, volleyball, soccer, football, wrestling, ice hockey, basketball, baseball and softball, but photos taken by students at those state tournament contests are to be used only for school publications (i.e. newspaper, yearbook, website) and may not be sold or given away.

OHSAA

Tim Stried
Director of Information Services
Ohio High School Athletic Association

Office: 614-267-2502, ext. 124

tstried@ohsaa.org

www.ohsaa.org

Fax: 614-267-1677

4080 Roselea Place
Columbus, OH 43214