

**Ohio High School Athletic Association**

**Doug Ute, Executive Director**



**April 21, 2022**

**TO:** Member Schools’ Superintendents

**FR:** Doug Ute, Executive Director

I wanted to take a few minutes to share with you a message that may assist you in your work with your local board of education and/or community regarding the OHSAA referendum voting that will take place between May 1 and 16. *To clear some misinformation being spread, there are no issues on the 2022 ballot related to the Association’s long-standing transgender policy.*

In fact, the OHSAA already has had a policy effectively governing transgender student-athlete participation since the 2015-16 school year. This policy was developed by staff with recommendations from both medical and legal consultants and was then codified within the bylaws by a vote of the member school principals of the OHSAA.

The policy is reviewed annually with updates and editorial changes made as necessary, as permitted within the bylaw. The OHSAA’s current policy strikes an important balance between permitting transgender students to participate and preserving the integrity of girls’ sports by considering the tremendous variation among individuals as it relates to strength, size, genetic makeup, muscular structure and ability. To that end, less than 1 (one) percent of all Ohio student-athletes have been approved for participation in accordance with the OHSAA transgender policy. Furthermore, these approvals have not resulted in any disruption of competitive equity in athletic contests in Ohio over the past seven years. The current policy can be viewed by going here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/OtherEligibiltyDocs/TransgenderPolicy.pdf>

Again, there is no upcoming vote or any proposed changes to the policy, which has been successfully implemented over the past seven years. Hopefully this message has provided you with clarity. Feel free to share this with your administrative team and/or board. We apologize if you have had to deal with this issue and/or any concerns in your district. Please know that we are appreciative of your support of interscholastic athletics as we continue to offer fair and equitable participation opportunities for all student-athletes.