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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. A. Miller and J. Miller

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SUMMARY

- Grants the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OSHAA) the sole authority to establish rules of play and eligibility regulations for interscholastic activities for grades 7 through 12 among its member schools.
- Provides exceptions to the OHSAA's exclusive rulemaking authority found in existing law.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

OHSAA exclusive rulemaking authority

The bill grants the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) the sole authority to establish rules of play and athletic eligibility regulations for interscholastic athletics among its member schools.¹ Currently, Ohio law authorizes school districts to implement athletic programs, and the regulation of interscholastic athletics is largely left to school districts and OHSAA.

Exceptions to sole authority

The bill provides exceptions for certain existing laws that regulate interscholastic athletics, consisting of the following:

¹ R.C. 3313.5316.

State Statutes Addressing Interscholastic Athletics	
R.C. Section	Description of Authority
3313.53	Permits boards of education to establish extracurricular programs, including athletics.
3313.535	Requires boards of education to establish a minimum grade point average (GPA) as a condition for participation in interscholastic athletics. ²
3313.537	Entitles students who are district residents, but who attend community schools or STEM schools, to participate in interscholastic athletics at the district school to which the student would have been assigned.
3313.538	Prohibits a student who attends school in Ohio from being denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely because the student's parents do not reside in the state, so long as the student resides in Ohio with a specified guardian or relative that has legal or temporary custody.
3313.539	Requires schools to provide students and parents with information on head injuries; requires coaches and referees of interscholastic athletics at all public and private schools to remove from practice or competition an athlete exhibiting signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion or head injury; and prohibits removed athletes from returning to practice or competition until the athlete has been assessed and cleared for return by a statutorily authorized licensed health care professional.
3313.5310	Requires coaches at public and private schools to remove from participation an athlete exhibiting syncope or fainting; requires coaches to annually complete a sudden cardiac arrest training course; and prohibits students from participating if predisposed, known to have experienced symptoms, or removed from participation due to symptoms until cleared by a statutorily authorized licensed health care professional.

² OHSAA also imposes academic eligibility standards.

State Statutes Addressing Interscholastic Athletics	
R.C. Section	Description of Authority
3313.5311	Entitles students who attend a private school to participate in interscholastic athletics at the district school to which the student would have been assigned or, under specified circumstances, the district in which the nonpublic school is located, if the private school does not offer that athletic activity.
3313.5312	Entitles students who are district residents, but who are home schooled, to participate in interscholastic athletics at the district school to which the student would have been assigned.
3313.5314	Prohibits students from being denied participation in interscholastic athletics solely due to the student’s participation in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program.
3313.5315	Permits any international student who attends an Ohio elementary or secondary school to participate in interscholastic athletics at that school on the same basis as students who are Ohio residents if the student holds an F-1 U.S. visa. ³ The student cannot be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics solely because the student’s parents do not reside in this state.

Background – OHSAA rulemaking

OHSAA is a nonprofit organization that regulates, supervises, and administers interscholastic competition amongst its member schools, consisting of 818 high schools and 751 7th-8th grade schools.⁴ Schools voluntarily become members of OHSAA and renew membership annually. The Board of Directors of OHSAA adopts contest rules and regulations for member schools. For more information on the composition of OHSAA and its rulemaking process, see the [2022-2023 OHSAA Handbook \(PDF\)](#), which may be accessed by scrolling to the “Member School Quick Resource Center” on the home page of the OHSAA website: ohsaa.org.

³ An F-1 visa or academic student visa is a nonimmigrant visa that permits an individual to enter the U.S. as a full-time student in a degree, diploma, or certificate program at an accredited college, university, seminary, conservatory, elementary or high school, or other academic institution or in a language training program. <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment>.

⁴ OHSAA 2022-2023 Member Handbook at 4.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	07-14-22
