

# **2021-22 OSSAA MEDIA REQUIREMENTS, CONDITIONS AND GUIDELINES**

## **(SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME)**

### **Media Playoff Passes**

Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) issues media playoff passes only to individuals employed **full-time** in the sports department of a recognized media outlet. The media playoff pass is good for admission to all OSSAA playoff events during the 2021-22 school year, but may only be used by the pass holder when attending an event in a working capacity as an employee of a media outlet. The playoff pass will be needed to access any areas designated for the working media, such as sidelines, press boxes and media tables. An attempt to use a media playoff pass when the pass holder is not attending the event in a working capacity as a member of the media may result in revocation or cancellation of the pass.

### **Application Process for Media Playoff Passes**

The link for media outlets to apply for playoff passes can be found on the OSSAA website under the MEDIA tab.

- 1 - Each full time sports department employee that will be covering OSSAA playoff events during the entire 2021-22 school year will need to request their own pass through the link. Only one pass can be requested per individual.
- 2 - Each individual requesting a pass will need to complete the free Implicit Bias course on the NFHS Learn website.
- 3 - Each individual requesting a pass must acknowledge that they have completed the Implicit Bias course and that they have read and agree to all contents of the Requirements and Conditions for media at OSSAA playoff events.
- 4 - Once all passes from your sports department have been requested, the sports director or sports editor must send an e-mail to Van Shea Iven at [vsiven@ossaa.com](mailto:vsiven@ossaa.com) with a complete list, in alphabetical order, of the people in your sports department who are authorized to receive a pass. Names not on the sports director/sports editors list, will not receive a pass.
- 5 - Approved passes will be printed and mailed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> full weeks of each month.
- 6 - If an employee needing an OSSAA Playoff Pass is seasonal, part-time or a stringer, please contact Van Shea Iven at (405) 840-1116 with this information.

Each pass requested will require a picture of that employee to be uploaded so it can be printed on the pass. A request for a pass for use at a specific event will not be considered if the request was received fewer than 48 hours prior to that event. Playoff passes are to be used only by the person whose name and pictures is on the pass. OSSAA has the right to refuse or revoke the OSSAA media playoff pass if the

applicant has falsified information on their request form or for improper conduct such as using the pass to attend a contest as a fan. Every effort will be made to honor all requests; however, OSSAA reserves the right to evaluate each request individually and limit the total number of passes to be issued. Requests must be made via the website link, and requests made by telephone and/or e-mail will not be granted. Pass requests for spouses, friends or children will not be granted. Replacement passes for lost, stolen, misplaced or misspelled passes can be purchased for \$20 per pass.

An applicant must complete the free Implicit Bias course on the NFHS Learn website before a media pass is issued to the applicant. By checking the box on the application, the applicant certifies the Implicit Bias course was completed by the applicant. The media pass may be revoked if OSSAA determines the applicant failed to complete this course.

By completing and submitting the media pass application, the applicant acknowledges and agrees to accept the risk of physical injury, serious harm, loss, and damages associated with the performance of the applicant's duties while at a competitive athletic event, including the risk of loss or damage to property brought to the event by the applicant. The applicant also agrees to release OSSAA, and its employees, agents, and representatives, from any liability for such injury, harm, loss, and damages.

The applicant also acknowledges and agrees that, in using the OSSAA media pass, the applicant will not be working or acting for OSSAA, and the applicant will not be an employee or agent of OSSAA. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that OSSAA will not be responsible for anything said or written by the applicant or any organization represented by the applicant, or any alleged act or omission by the applicant or any organization represented by the applicant, in connection with an OSSAA event.

The applicant also agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, OSSAA, and its employees, agents, and representatives, from any liability, claim, expense, costs, including attorney fees, or damages associated with: (a) any act, omission, or statement, written or oral, by the passholder, or from the distribution or publication of any statement or image, electronic or photographic, by the passholder which is associated with an OSSAA event; and/or (b) the use of any cameras, wires, cables, or electronic devices brought to an OSSAA event site by the passholder.

### **Media Entrance**

The majority of OSSAA playoff event sites will have an OSSAA pass gate where pass holders may gain admittance. In all other situations, pass holders will be directed to the main gate and will be granted admission by showing their 2021-22 OSSAA media playoff pass. In some instances an additional pass may be required to gain access to the field of play and/or press box. In those instances, an OSSAA staff member or event director will be available on site to provide the additional required pass.

### **Site-specific Requests**

Media members are responsible for contacting the host site directly at least 72 hours prior to the contest with any site-specific requests.

### **Radio Broadcasting**

Radio stations interested in broadcasting audio only from an OSSAA playoff event prior to the state tournaments and/or state championship games must contact the host site at least 72 hours in advance to gain approval and to make sure that they can accommodate all requests for phone lines, internet, seating, etc. . Radio stations interested in broadcasting audio only from an OSSAA basketball state tournament must contact the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters (OAB) by calling (405) 848-0771 or e-mailing Nancy Struby at [struby@oabok.org](mailto:struby@oabok.org).

### **Video-recording for Use in TV Sportscasts or Electronic Media**

Only media members with approved OSSAA playoff passes will be allowed to video record any portions of state playoff events for use in televised sportscasts or on-line sports news services. Media outlets are not permitted to broadcast or display more than three minutes of their recorded video from any playoff event. Areas at playoff events for video-recording by the media will be designated.

### **Live Television or Video Live Streaming**

The NFHS Network holds the license for the video broadcast or live stream of all OSSAA playoff events. If the NFHS Network is video live streaming an event, no other video broadcast or video live stream will be allowed. If the NFHS Network is not video broadcasting or live streaming an event, all outlets interested in video broadcasting or video live streaming that event must gain approval by filling out the appropriate form and submitting it to the OSSAA four business days prior to the event. This form can be found on the OSSAA website under the MEDIA tab. No video live streaming by anyone other than the NFHS Network on websites, social media or other platforms will be allowed without prior approval. Failure to submit a form for approval will result in paying the full amount plus \$100 the first time, the full amount plus \$200 the second time, the full amount plus \$300 the third time, etc.

**Photography**

Any photos taken by the media will be used for the sole purpose of print, broadcast, or electronic news coverage. No unauthorized duplication or sale of OSSAA playoff event pictures will be allowed.

**Post-Game Interviews**

Due to the limitations of some tournament sites, post-game interviews may be held adjacent to the contest field or venue. Media members should not attempt to interview participants or coaches in team bench areas, nor should they interrupt or interfere with official post-game ceremonies or any post-game team meetings. Team locker rooms are absolutely off limits to all media members before, during and/or after games. If a media member enters a locker room for any reason, their OSSAA media playoff pass will be revoked and they will be asked to leave.

**Post-Game Reporting Facilities**

OSSAA recognizes the importance of prompt and timely reporting from state playoff events, and attempts to select event sites with adequate facilities for reporters to complete and send their work to their media outlets. If you will need additional time to complete and send your report, please make sure that the site director is aware of this 48 hours prior to the event starting so plans can be made to accommodate your needs.

**OSSAA Board Policy**

1. Approved DOT-COM media may purchase passes for \$50 per pass.  
(Social media and apps do not qualify)
2. Passes are not valid for students in grades K-12.
3. Approved recruiting services registering with the OSSAA may purchase no more than two passes for \$50 per pass.