

WHAT IS OFSAA?

OFSAA is an organization comprised of student-athletes, teacher-coaches, teachers, principals, and sport administrators all committed to the philosophy of *Education Through School Sport*.

Approximately 270,000 student-athletes and 16,000 teacher-coaches participate in school sport in this province. Every individual who is involved in school sport is a member of OFSAA. Being a member of OFSAA means that you are entitled to all of the services that the Federation has to offer.

OFSAA encompasses far more than school sport Championships. Our primary responsibility is to work with volunteer teacher-coaches to provide top-quality Provincial Championships for Ontario's student-athletes, but we also see an important role for the Federation in dealing with issues that affect students, coaches, schools and communities across Ontario, such as drug free sport, equity, fair play, and safe schools.

Mission Statement

The Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) is a provincial federation of Associations encompassing volunteer coaches, students, and administrators. OFSAA is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of the educational value of school sport.

As an advocate for school sport, OFSAA provides leadership in advancing the educational benefits of participation through its services, resources and the conduct of secondary school sport Championships.

Guiding Principles

- We believe in "fair play" in school sport.
- We value the enjoyment, growth and personal achievement students realize through their participation in school sport and its contribution to life-long learning and a positive healthy lifestyle.
- We are an advocate for school sport and protect the interests of student-athletes in the education system.
- We support the development and recognition of teachers and coaches as the foundation of our organizations.
- We respect the diversity of needs, interests and abilities among students in the province.
- We promote equitable opportunities for students to participate in school sport.
- We are committed to ensuring representation and involvement from all regions of the province.
- We believe in the educational value of interaction among students, teachers and coaches provincially, nationally and internationally.
- We support partnerships with other organizations who share our values and objectives.
- We recognize the need for financial viability, and we are committed to securing stable resources and providing cost-effective services.

Programs Offered by OFSAA

OFSAA Coaching Symposium and OFSAA Women's Sport School

OFSAA Coaching Symposiums and OFSAA Women's Sport School are essential to the development of high school teacher-coaches. These two events allow coaches from around the province to gather, share ideas and learn more about sport and coaching. The events are held in alternating years in the spring and are organized by teacher-coaches.

Ontario Olympic Youth Academy

The Ontario Olympic Youth Academy (OOYA) is a three-day conference focused on igniting the spirit of Olympism in Ontario's youth. The Academy provides an excellent forum for students to learn, discuss, and celebrate the Olympic ideals. OOYA develops leadership skills in an environment that promotes friendship, inter-cultural understanding, harmony and fair play.

Coaching in Ontario Schools

Coaching in Ontario Schools is a new program co-developed by OFSAA and SAO to give volunteer coaches the special skill-set that they need to coach effectively in the schools environment. This six-hour course combines information needed by coaches of beginning to intermediate athletes (similar to Level One NCCP Theory) with what they specifically need to work with athletes in the school environment, including OFSAA rules, how to work with your school and Board administrations etc. Materials accompanying the course include a workbook and a video soon to be released in DVD format.

Special Recognition Awards

- Each year thousands of volunteer teachers, parents and interested individuals devote their time to developing Ontario's youth through high school sport. It is only through the dedication of these people that school sport is possible. Currently, OFSAA recognizes teacher-coaches through the OFSAA Leadership in School Sport Award.
- OFSAA believes that the underlying value of high school sport is sportsmanship. Perhaps the most significant contribution school sport makes to students and their educational experience are the lessons associated with sportsmanship and how good sports carry themselves. It is for this reason that we select one team at each OFSAA team sport championship to receive the OFSAA Sportsmanship Award.
- NBA Canada, in partnership with OFSAA, has developed a new Sportsmanship Program, which will serve to recognize basketball teams that display the values of sportsmanship throughout the season or in a particularly exceptional act of sportsmanship. These team sportsmanship awards are awarded each year to both boys' and girls' basketball teams in each of the four classifications (Single, Double, Triple and Quadruple A).

Publications

OFSAA also publishes a tri-annual bulletin, a biannual newsletter and a wall calendar which informs teachers, coaches, and students about important school sport related items as well as important dates.