2026-27 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 to individuals employed full-time or part-time in the sports department by recognized media outlets. The media playoff pass is good for admission to all OSSAA playoff events during the 2026-27 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 allow access to all areas designated for the working media, such as sidelines, press boxes and media tables. No one will not be allowed in any areas designated for the working media without an OSSAA media playoff pass. 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.

These people qualify for a 2026-27 OSSAA Media Playoff Pass
1 – Sports department employees of newspapers, magazines, radio stations or television stations – these passes are free (if there is a subscription to the website, a log in and password must be provided to the OSSAA for the entire school year)
2 – Full-time employees of an approved website that covers high school sports on a regular basis – these passes are $50 per pass (if there is a subscription to the website, a log in and password must be provided to the OSSAA for the entire school year)
3 – Individuals that are recognized by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters and/or the Oklahoma Press Association.

These people do not qualify for a 2026-27 OSSAA Media Playoff Pass
1 – Social media accounts only
2 – Groups that only video live stream
3 – School photographers
4 – High school age students and below
5 – Highlight video or mix tape video producers and/or photographers
6 – Family members and friends of approved media members
7 – People who work for, manage or own media outlets, but are NOT providing high school sports coverage
8 – New newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, online publications and websites that cover high school sports on a regular basis will go through a one-year trial period before they can receive an OSSAA Media Playoff Pass unless they are members in good standing with the Oklahoma Press Association or the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

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 beginning September 1st.

1 – Each sports department employee that will be covering OSSAA playoff events during the 2026-27 school year will need to request their own pass through the link. Only one pass can be requested per application.

2 – Each full-time and part-time sports department employee or stringer of a recognized media outlet that will be covering OSSAA playoff events during the entire 2026-27 school year will need to request their own pass through the link. Only one pass can be requested per individual. The name of the requestor/contact needs to match the name of the attendee so they can agree to the terms of accepting the pass. If the names don't match, the request will be cancelled.

3 – Each individual requesting a pass must acknowledge that they have read and agree to all contents of the Media Requirements, Conditions and Guidelines at OSSAA playoff events.

4 – Once all passes from your sports department have been requested, the sports director, editor or owner must send an e-mail to Van Shea Iven at vsiven@ossaa.com with a complete list, in alphabetical order, of the people in your sports department who are authorized to receive a pass. Please specify which part time or contract labor employees will only need a pass for specific sports and/or seasons. Names not on this list will not receive a pass. If you have a subscription to your website, please provide a login and password for the entire school year.

5 – Approved passes will be printed and mailed or available at the front desk of the OSSAA office by 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2026, September 25, 2026, October 16, 2026, November 6, 2026, January 29, 2027, February 23, 2027 and April 9, 2027.

6 – Emergency passes will be printed if time allows at $50 per pass. Please remember that our time is as valuable as yours.

7 – If an employee needing an OSSAA Media Playoff Pass is seasonal, part-time or a string, please contact Van Shea Iven at (405) 840-1116 with this information after they have requested a pass to let us know the sports and/or seasons they will be employed.

8 – If a media member gives their pass to someone else to gain admittance to an OSSAA playoff event or to gain access to areas reserved for the media, the pass will be taken and that media member will no longer be eligible for a pass in the future.

9 - If there is a subscription to a website, a log in and password must be provided to the OSSAA for the entire school year.

10 – New newspapers, radio stations, TV stations, online publications and websites that cover high school sports on a regular basis will go through a one-year trial period before they can receive an OSSAA Media Playoyff Pass unless they are members in good standing with the Oklahoma Press Association or the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters.

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 picture 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, the OSSAA reserves the right to evaluate each request individually and limit the total number of passes to be issued to an outlet. Requests must be made via the website link. Requests made by telephone 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.

By completing and submitting an application for an OSSAA media playoff pass, the applicant acknowledges the risk and danger of physical injury, serious harm, loss, and damages incidental to the performance of the applicant's duties and to attending a competitive athletic event, including the risk of loss of or damage to property brought to such an event. You agree to assume all such risk incidental to attendance at OSSAA playoff events, and to release OSSAA, and its employees, agents, and representatives, from any and all liability for such injuries, 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 the OSSAA, and the applicant will not be an employee or agent of the OSSAA. The applicant acknowledges and agrees that the 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 it's 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
Several 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 2026-2027 OSSAA media playoff 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 broadcasting any OSSAA football state championship game must contact Van Shea Iven at (405) 840-1116 to reserve a spot in the press box. Radio stations interested in broadcasting OSSAA basketball state tournaments must gain approval from the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters (OAB) by calling (405) 848-0771 or e-mailing Nancy Struby at struby@oabok.org. Radio stations interested in broadcasting any other OSSAA playoff event must contact the host site at least 72 hours prior to the event to make sure they can accommodate all of the station's requests for phone lines, internet, seating, etc.

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 clearly 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 live streaming an event, all outlets interested in broadcasting or video live streaming that event must gain approval by filling out the appropriate form and submitting it to the OSSAA in advance of the event. The deadline for these will be listed on each form. This form can be found on the OSSAA website under the MEDIA tab and on the sports specific page. Forms turned in after the deadline will have an additional $50 late fee. No video live streaming by anyone other than the NFHS Network on websites, social media, gamechanger 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 for the first round of the playoffs, the full amount plus $200 for the second round of the playoffs, the full amount plus $300 for the third round of the playoffs, etc. All forms that arrive after the deadline are not guaranteed of being approved.

Photography/Videography
Photographers/Videographers are to be working for a newspaper, radio station, TV station, magazine or approved website that covers high school sports on a regular basis. Any photos or videos taken will be used for the sole purpose of print, broadcast, or electronic news coverage. No unauthorized duplication or sale of OSSAA playoff event pictures or videos will be allowed. Photographers and/or videographers cannot be hired by a school, team, student-athlete or family and use their media pass for personal use. Anyone found to be in violation of these guidelines will have their media pass revoked.

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. Media members will be expected to finish their game reports in a timely manner after the completion of the games. If you will need additional time to complete and send your report, please make sure that the site director is aware of this 72 hours prior to the event starting so plans can be made to accommodate your needs.

Respect of Others
Any member of the media who threatens or harasses other media members, schools, administrators, coaches, officials, fans, or student-athletes, whether verbally, in writing, or through social media, will have their credentials revoked and will be ineligible to receive credentials in the future.

OSSAA Board Policy
1. Approved DOT-COM media may purchase passes for $50 per pass. If there is a subscription to the website, a log in and password must be provided to the OSSAA for the entire school year.
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.