



Oregon School Activities Association
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March 21, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

The Football Ad Hoc Committee conducted its ninth public meeting on March 18, 2019 at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville. All Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Board for review and potential adoption at a future date.

OSAA staff provided a summary of correspondence received after the last meeting. The Committee received no public testimony. The group then convened into a work session to discuss strategies to address the observations/issues identified during the 2018 season.

The group was provided updates on each of the following topics:

- 4A Football – The OSAA Executive Board did approve a petition for Independent Status for McLoughlin High School for the 2019 season. The Board also instructed staff to notify all 5A, 4A and 3A schools of the issue and requested their help in solving the scheduling issues created by the decision. 4A schools are working together to help find replacement games for Baker, La Grande, and Ontario who will be the remaining teams in an already depleted GOL.
- The group was updated on a proposed change to OSAA Executive Board Policy – Certification of Athletic Directors and Coaches that was a first reading item at the February 11 meeting of the Board. The proposed change would modify the current requirement and instead require each schools Player Safety Coach to be certified at an in-person clinic every other year (not annually) and it would also exempt those attending the in-person PSC clinic from completing the Heads Up online certification courses. Player Safety Coaches would still be required to complete the Heads Up online certification courses during the year they did not attend an in-person clinic. This proposed change will be an action item at the next OSAA Executive Board meeting scheduled for May 6.
- OSAA staff updated the group on the progress made towards reaching out to youth organizations and distributing the consensus position statement. The document has now been distributed to all Athletic Directors, Head Football coaches, and identified youth organization leadership around the state. All group members understand that continuing discussion and communication efforts will be essential moving forward and as such OSAA staff outlined potential next steps outlined below for consideration at a future meeting.
 - Continued promotion of the position statement with our print/audio media contacts.
 - Building recognition program – “OSAA Blue Ribbon Youth Football Program”

- Increased social media promotion about position statement
 - Consensus letter from college coaches that agree with the position statement
- The group reviewed proposed changes to the sub-varsity kicking game modification policy. The policy has been simplified for coaches and game officials. A final draft of the modifications is included with this update.
 - The group is currently supporting the criteria listed below that addresses each of the following questions. Feedback from member schools on these proposed benchmarks is encouraged.

Question:

What criteria will be used to determine whether a school that has played down for a two-year time block will be moved back to their original classification?

Answer:

For the two years that they play at a lower classification level, if a team wins 66.7% or more of their games within the classification and wins at least one OSAA playoff game.

-OR-

For the two years that they play at a lower classification level, if a team advances to the Semifinals or Championship game.

Question:

What if a school that has played down for two years fails to meet the criteria to be moved back to their original classification?

Answer:

For the two years that they play at a lower classification level, if a team wins between 22.1% and 66.6% of games within that classification they will have the option to remain at the lower classification level.

Question:

What happens if a school that has played down for two years fails to win at least 22% of their games within the classification?

Answer:

For the two years that they play at a lower classification level, if a team does not win at least 22% of the games within that classification they will have the option to move down another classification level.

Question:

What criteria, if any, will be used to determine if a school that has been successful within their classification be moved up a classification level?

Answer:

The group did not reach consensus on this criterion. Classification feedback from the OADA Conference questions and Delegate Assembly Caucus questions will be considered at the next Committee meeting.

Other discussion items:

- **Playoff Point System:** The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet that calculates a total based on success in the OSAA State Championships. Several states use this type of system to determine when a school is moved up a classification level based on success in their playoff series. Points are awarded for winning at the various bracket levels (Round 1, Quarterfinals, Semifinals, etc....). A benchmark is determined and any team achieving over that benchmark is automatically moved up a classification level.
- **Roster Size Recommendations:** The Committee is currently supporting recommending the following minimum roster sizes to field teams at each of the classification levels below:

1A – 6-player should have a minimum of 12 players to start the season
1A – 8-player should have a minimum of 16 players to start the season
2A through 6A – 11-player should have a minimum of 22 players to start the season
- **6-9-11 instead of 6-8-11:** The Committee began to explore the concept of recommending changes to the current OSAA structure for Football. We are currently aligned in 6-8-11 player framework that has created issues for some schools that are too large to participate at the 8-player level but have low roster numbers that impact their ability to fully participate as an 11-player team. Similar issues occur between the 8-player and 6-player game.

The following topics will be addressed at the next scheduled meeting:

- What would 6-9-11-player structure look like?
- Playoff Point System – can this type of system be integrated into current procedures?
- Youth Football Update – which groups are making progress and strategies to address those who are not.
- Dominance criteria discussion – review of vote at OADA Conference and discussion regarding establishing criteria.

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, like this one, to all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, and football coaches following each meeting. The Committee roster, charge, and any additional committee information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA at bradg@osaa.org. Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

The Committee appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Brad Garrett (bradg@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.

The next scheduled meeting of this Committee is Monday, April 29, 2019 – OSAA Office