



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1

Wilsonville, OR 97070

503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 <http://www.osaa.org>



January 2, 2020

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
Kelly Foster, Associate Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update from the Petition to Play Down Task Force – December 19, 2019

The Petition to Play Down Task Force met at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville on Thursday, December 19, 2019 for the sixth time to review the Petition to Play Down policy. The Task Force was put together by the OSAA Executive Board after the most recent Classification and Districting Committee concluded. The OSAA Executive Board felt that a discussion and review of the current policy and how it may be improved warranted creation of a Task Force.

The OSAA staff briefly went over the correspondence since the last meeting. The staff refreshed the Task Force on its goals and charge and the group got to work on the agenda. The Task Force was given an update from the October Delegate Assembly and the December Executive Board meeting regarding the proposal to add a “Dominant Activity” policy and two-year review, which was passed. The outcome of this policy change had an affect in boys soccer, as Woodburn met the qualifications at the 2-year review to be placed back at their original classification (5A) in boys soccer only.

The Task Force then moved on to reviewing the four criteria in the current Petition to Play Down policy. The staff presented the Task Force with all of the historical data over the past three years to identify potential schools who met the four criteria. The Task Force believes the original criteria is the correct conditions as it encompasses most of the schools and so they do not believe the original criteria needs to be changed, but there should be consideration for a second set of criteria for those schools who only meet three of the four criteria. The information was presented in an excel document so that the data can easily be sorted in different ways to look at a possible second set of criteria for schools who meet only three of the four criteria. The Task Force and Staff will try and identify those schools who meet three of the four criteria to determine if there is a common tendency to put forth a second set of criteria for the Executive Board to look at in such cases to potentially move a school into a lower classification. The Task Force came up with three possible secondary criteria to be used when a school who petitions to play down only meets three of the four criteria.

- 1) Participation numbers of the team sports programs and compare those numbers to the average number of participants within their Classification.
- 2) Looking at the school’s ADM numbers and determine if they are in the lower 30% in ADM numbers.
- 3) Looking at their team sports results for all contests within their classification and possibly using the school’s teams finished in the bottom 50% of the final Rankings at their current classification at least 62.5% (instead of 75%) of the time for the previous three years. And the school’s teams finished in the bottom 20% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 37.5% (instead of 50%) of the time for the previous three years.

The Task Force also discussed a set of criteria for schools who qualified to Play Down for the four-year time block that potentially may want to continue to Play Down and apply for the next four years. There was discussion of omitting any Dominant Activity from the data and using the reverse criteria then the Petition to Play Down uses:

- 1) Documentation showing that the school’s teams finished in the top 50% of the final Rankings at their current classification less than 25% of the time for the previous three years.

- 2) Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the top 20% of the final Rankings at their current classification less than 50% of the time for the previous three years.
- 3) Documentation showing that the winning percentage for the school's teams in teams sports was 75% or less at least 60% of the time for the previous three years.

The Task Force invites feedback from member schools on the Petition to Play Down policy suggestions in areas they should address. Specific information the Task Force is requesting from the membership:

1. Input on the additional criteria that should be considered for schools who meet three out of the four criteria for the Petition to Play Down, but not all four.

The next meeting for the Petition to Play Down Task Force is Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 9:00am.

The OSAA staff will provide a Task Force update to all superintendents, principals, and athletic directors following each meeting. The Task Force roster, charge, and any additional information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA (Kelly Foster kellyf@osaa.org, or Kris Welch krisw@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA staff will be shared with all Task Force members for review and discussion. The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process.