



Oregon School Activities Association
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May 4, 2017

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update on the Proceedings of the Classification and Districting Committee

The Classification and Districting Committee for the 2018-2022 four-year time block held its eighth public meeting at the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) Conference in Sunriver on April 24, 2017 to receive testimony and review written communication thus far received.

The Committee initially met in a closed work session to review written correspondence received since the last meeting. Once the public meeting began, Classification and Districting Committee Chair Curt Shelley addressed those assembled and the group received testimony from 24 athletic directors representing all six classifications. The classifications had met for nearly two hours each the night before to discuss in detail where they stand at this point in the process and came prepared to present their input to the Committee. Here's what was presented:

1A – The main discussion point for 1A schools continues to center around the cutoff point between 1A and 2A, which has fluctuated between 89 and 95 during this process. There were 39 1A schools represented in the previous night's meeting and the 95 cutoff was favored by a 23-16 vote. Those in favor believe it's a better reflection of where the cutoff had been in previous time blocks, especially given the change to adjusting for SES made four years ago. There is also a belief that longtime, traditional 1A schools would be able to come back into the classification with the cutoff at 95. As a group, the 1A athletic directors believe that the cutoff should go no lower than 89. Those in favor of 89 as the cutoff recognize the issues that many 1A schools have in just fielding teams and the differences a greater disparity can create in size of schools.

2A – Athletic directors at the 2A level voted 19-7 in favor of maintaining a 6-classification system. Concerns were expressed about the negative impact on programs and schools that a move to a 5-classification system would have on their classification. Testimony focused on the difficulty of rolling back to a 5-classification system and their belief it would be unfair from a competitive balance viewpoint to bring in a number of larger schools. It was also mentioned that some schools would face longer travel in a 5-classification system. Proponents of a 6-classification approach referenced that it would cut down on travel for some schools in certain areas of the state and that concerns over special districts in various sports are better addressed in a 5-classification system.

3A – A 6-classification approach was favored by 3A athletic directors by a vote of 21-19. Specific issues this group mentioned were travel, budget, and competitive balance factors. There was significant discussion in their meeting the night before surrounding the criteria in place for schools petitioning to play down and this group's belief that the criteria needs to be adjusted/relaxed to address those schools that demonstrate a need to be moved. Additionally there was discussion that the criteria may need to look different depending on whether a 5-classification or 6-classification approach is used. Overall, they want to compete against similar looking schools with which they have things in common. There are concerns about public vs. private issues at this classification that are ongoing. It was also mentioned that many schools at this level travel quite a bit already and that isn't a huge issue when compared to competitive balance for their programs.

4A – This classification is perhaps most impacted by a possible move to a 5-classification system as it essentially splits their schools nearly in half. The 4A athletic directors voted 32-6 to keep a 6-classification system similar to how it looks currently for their schools. Like the 3A group, the 4A ADs believe that concerns from the smaller and, in some cases, less successful schools at their classification could be addressed with modifications to the criteria to play down rather than a wholesale change to a 5-classification approach. They believe that moving as few schools as possible in a 6-classification approach also lessens the overall impact on other classifications.

5A – Representatives speaking for the 5A athletic directors reported that this group voted 22-3 in favor of maintaining a 6-classification system. They contend that the 6-classification system isn't broken and, at most, needs a slight tweaking of

cutoff points moving forward. This group believes that competitive balance is covered in the committee's charge and they don't see competitive balance occurring in a 5-classification approach. While they would like to see more schools at their classification, it isn't an issue for them to have around 30 total schools. Those in favor of a 6-classification system believe it cuts down on travel for outlying schools without resorting a hybrid model, which they don't want.

6A – The 6A ADs didn't take a formal vote but are virtually unanimous in their support for a 5-classification system. Those testifying mentioned a lack of stability with leagues changing every four years and the toll that has taken on their schools. They believe that a 5-classification approach with more schools in the classification provides more flexibility with league placements to address competitive balance concerns among their schools. Many 6A schools believe the current 6-classification system is broken and that long-term stability is better addressed in a 5-classification approach. Travel concerns were discussed, including the economic and academic impact of traveling for schools with higher SES factors and that some schools have fewer students participating due to lengthy travel.

The Committee then adjourned to a closed work session to review and discuss the testimony and written correspondence.

As seen by the testimony of statewide athletic directors, there is a considerable divide among member schools as to which approach the Association should take moving forward. Proponents of a 5-classification approach, mainly 6A schools, point to the increased depth within classifications and the flexibility that allows when creating leagues that are competitive. Schools at lower classifications in favor of a 5-classification approach often point to decreased travel. Both support the long-term stability they believe a 5-classification approach provides for the Association as a whole. Those in favor of a 6-classification approach support maintaining the status quo in a system that is working well for them currently. Though 6-classification supporters recognize a need to tweak the current system given changing enrollments for some schools, they strongly believe that competitive balance for the most number of schools is best achieved with 6-classifications.

After lengthy discussion and review last Monday, the Committee believes the time has come to narrow their approach to one classification system as there is plenty of work still to be done with cutoff points, league alignments and school placements prior to the group finalizing their recommendations to the Executive Board and Delegate Assembly. They are aware that no matter which approach they choose, there will be schools that support that system and others that will be opposed.

While there is support from some Committee members for five classifications, **the majority of the voting members of the committee are in favor of moving forward with a 6-classification approach.** Based on testimony and written correspondence over the past several months, it's evident that a majority of schools believe that a 6-classification approach works best for the students, schools, and communities in our state. Discussions centered around the fact that the membership appears to be split, at best, on the different approaches and the overall belief that the membership doesn't appear ready to make the wholesale changes across the board that would result from a change to five classifications. Committee members look forward to continuing to work through the process to adjust cutoff points, league alignments and school placements to best meet their charge and address concerns from member schools. The Committee requests that **all correspondence reference a six-classification approach** from this point forward.

Since the Committee spent nearly their entire work session discussing which approach to take, they weren't able to spend time on the specifics of any one draft. Therefore, they are once again putting out Draft #15 – 6 Classification and seeking feedback on the cutoff points, league alignments and school placements. **Please note that this is a draft proposal and is not a final recommendation.** (see draft #15 attached)

Schools are reminded that per the OSAA Handbook (Article 6.2.4), June 1 is the deadline for schools submitting Petitions to Play Down (<http://www.osaa.org/docs/forms/PetitiontoPlayDown.pdf>). or Petitions to Play Up (<http://www.osaa.org/docs/forms/PetitiontoPlayUp.pdf>).

The Committee has discussed geographic exceptions for schools. At this time, the committee's goal is to create a system in which geographic exceptions are not used but they are willing to discuss those possibilities in specific instances as the process moves forward.

The next public meeting of the Classification and Districting Committee will be at 9am on Monday, May 22, 2017, at the Al Kader Shriners Headquarters (next to the OSAA Offices) in Wilsonville. The general format for the meeting will be for the committee to receive public testimony followed by a closed work session.

The Committee will meet throughout this school year and will make its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board at the October 16, 2017, Special Classification and Districting Meeting.

Written suggestions and proposals on these issues, as well as other classification related subjects should be mailed or emailed to the OSAA (bradg@osaa.org) Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

Specific classification proposals submitted to the Committee may be posted to the Classification and Districting Committee page on the OSAA website at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees#classification-and-districting-committee>. Proposals should address all classifications.

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

A full list of meeting dates, Committee Roster, Charge to the Committee and previous Updates are available at the OSAA website: <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees#classification-and-districting-committee>

Future Classification and Districting Committee Meeting Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monday, May 22, 2017	9am	Al Kader Shriners Headquarters, Wilsonville
Tuesday, June 20, 2017 (Work Session)	TBD	OSAA Office, Wilsonville
Monday, September 25, 2017	9am	OSAA Office, Wilsonville
Monday, October 16, 2017	TBD	Holiday Inn Wilsonville

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft #15 – 6 Classification Model

**2018-2022 Classification and Districting
Draft #15: 6-Classification Model
(includes Adjusted 2015-16 ADM)**

6A (53) 1301+	5A (31) 1300-701	4A (36) 700-366
6A-1 - PIL (9)	5A-1 - Northwest Oregon Conference (8)	4A-1 - Cowapa League (7)
Benson Techmen 750	Hillsboro Spartans 1195	Astoria Fishermen 511
Cleveland Warriors 1478	Milwaukie / Arts Academy Mustangs 1152	Corbett Cardinals 379
Franklin Quakers 1346	Parkrose Broncos 774	Gladstone Gladiators 631
Grant Generals 1376	Putnam Kingsmen 1034	La Salle Prep Falcons 679
Jefferson Democrats 417	Sandy Pioneers 1215	Seaside Seagulls 375
Lincoln Cardinals 1605	Scappoose Indians 721	Tillamook Cheesemakers 533
Madison Senators 909	St. Helens Lions 842	Valley Catholic Valiants 384
Roosevelt Roughriders 742	Wilsonville Wildcats 1077	
Wilson Trojans 1225		
6A-2 - Metro League (7)	5A-2 - Southern Oregon League (8)	4A-2 - Tri-Valley Conference (6)
Aloha Warriors 1794	Ashland Grizzlies 940	Estacada Rangers 474
Beaverton Beavers 1654	Churchill Lancers 1022	Madras White Buffaloes 641
Jesuit Crusaders 1294	Crater Comets 1158	Molalla Indians 662
Mountainside Mavericks NEW	Eagle Point Eagles 911	North Marion Huskies 530
Southridge Skyhawks 1614	North Eugene Highlanders 771	Sisters Outlaws 404
Sunset Apollos 2123	Springfield Millers 1078	Woodburn Bulldogs** 1256
Westview Wildcats 2508	Thurston Colts 1174	
	Willamette Wolverines 1198	
6A-3 - Inter County Conference (6)	5A-3 - Midwestern League (9)	4A-3 - Oregon West Conference (7)
Barlow Bruins 1528	Central Panthers 859	Cascade Cougars 683
Bend Lava Bears 1468	Corvallis Spartans 1117	Junction City Tigers 492
Gresham Gophers 1369	Crescent Valley Raiders 937	Marist Catholic Spartans 563
Hermiston Bulldogs 1240	Dallas Dragons 918	Newport Cubs 550
Mountain View Cougars 1225	Lebanon Warriors 1052	Philomath Warriors 444
Summit Storm 1391	North Salem Vikings** 1404	Stayton Eagles 608
	Silverton Foxes 1149	Sweet Home Huskies 639
	South Albany Rebels 1158	
	West Albany Bulldogs 1264	
6A-4 - Mt. Hood Conference (6)	5A-4 - Intermountain Conference (6)	4A-4 - Far West League (6)
Centennial Eagles 1477	Crook County Cowboys 703	Brookings-Harbor Bruins 449
Central Catholic Rams 891	Hood River Valley Eagles 1171	Cottage Grove Lions 648
Clackamas Cavaliers 2297	Pendleton Buckaroos 779	Hidden Valley Mustangs 535
David Douglas Scots 2499	Redmond Panthers 808	Marshfield Pirates 682
Oregon City Pioneers 1940	Ridgeview Ravens 854	North Bend Bulldogs 676
Reynolds Raiders 2142	The Dalles Riverhawks 706	North Valley Knights 462
6A-5 - Three Rivers League (6)		4A-5 - Skyline Conference (6)
Century Jaguars 1437		Cascade Christian Challengers 249
Forest Grove Vikings 1654		Henley Hornets 581
Glencoe Crimson Tide 1471		Klamath Union Pelicans 640
Liberty Falcons 1372		Mazama Vikings 572
Newberg Tigers 1414		Phoenix Pirates 621
Sherwood Bowmen 1569		St. Mary's Crusaders 320
6A-6 - Greater Valley League (6)		4A-6 - Greater Oregon League (4)
McKay Scots 1768		Baker Bulldogs 434
McMinnville Grizzlies 1793		La Grande Tigers 539
McNary Celtics 1681		McLoughlin Pioneers 400
South Salem Saxons 1578		Ontario Tigers 541
Sprague Olympians 1490		
West Salem Titans 1559		
6A-7 - Southwest Metro League (7)		
Canby Cougars 1316		
Lake Oswego Lakers 1307		
Lakeridge Pacers 1126		
St. Mary's Academy Blues 1435		
Tigard Tigers 1771		
Tualatin Timberwolves 1770		
West Linn Lions 1707		
6A-8 - Southern Oregon Conference (6)		
Grants Pass Cavemen 1526		
North Medford Black Tornado 1477		
Roseburg Indians 1394		
Sheldon Irish 1359		
South Eugene Axemen 1345		
South Medford Panthers 1545		

KEY	
Historical Placement / Play Up	
Denotes projected enrollment increase	
Denotes potential interest in playing down	
Denotes projected enrollment decrease	
Denotes approved play down request	**

**2018-2022 Classification and Districting
Draft #15: 6-Classification Model
(includes Adjusted 2015-16 ADM)**

3A 365-206 (38)	2A 205-96 (44)	1A 95- (85)	1A (cont.) 95- (12)
3A-1 - Lewis & Clark League (10)	2A-1 - Northwest League (9)	1A-1 - The Valley 10 League (9)	1A-5 - Mountain Valley League (12)
Banks Braves 358	City Christian Lions 148	Country Christian Cougars 52	Butte Falls Loggers 47
Catlin Gabel Eagles 308	Columbia Christian Knights 115	Damascus Christian Eagles 60	Cascades Academy Steelhead NEW
Clatskanie Tigers 216	Gaston Greyhounds 177	Life Christian Lions 113	Central Christian Tigers 58
De La Salle North Catholic Knights 308	Portland Christian Royals 175	North Clackamas Christian Saints 64	Chiloquin Panthers 76
Oregon Episcopal Aardvarks 313	Faith Bible Falcons 113	Open Door Christian Huskies 48	Gilchrist Grizzlies 56
Portland Adventist Cougars 284	Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates 201	Portland Waldorf Wolfpack 67	Hosanna Christian Lions 68
Rainier Columbians 285	Nestucca Bobcats 130	Southwest Christian Wildcats 57	North Lake Cowboys 65
Riverdale Mavericks 241	Knappa Loggers 121	St. Stephens Academy 41	Paisley Broncos 36
Warrenton Warriors 228	Vernonia Loggers 156	Valor Christian Knights 24	Prospect Cougars 61
Yamhill-Carlton Tigers 311			Rogue Valley Adventist Red Tail Hawks 33
	2A-2 - Central Valley League (8)	1A-2 - Casco League (11)	Triad Timber Wolves 50
3A-2 - West Valley League (10)	Chemawa Braves 236	C.S. Lewis Watchmen 49	Trinity Lutheran Saints 54
Amity Warriors 260	Colton Vikings 201	Crosshill Christian Eagles 75	
Blanchet Catholic Cavaliers 225	Culver Bulldogs 181	Falls City Mountaineers 52	1A-6 - Big Sky League (10)
Dayton Pirates 279	Delphian School Dragons 162	Jewell Bluejays 39	Arlington Honkers 44
Horizon Christian Hawks (TUAL) 151	Gervais Cougars 281	Kings Valley Charter Eagles 44	Condon Blue Devils 35
Salem Academy Crusaders 235	Kennedy Trojans 152	Livingstone Adventist Academy Lions 63	Dufur Rangers 80
Scio Loggers 257	Santiam Wolverines 137	Oregon School ft Deaf Panthers 49	Horizon Christian Hawks (HR) 68
Sheridan Spartans 211	Western Mennonite Pioneers 150	Perrydale Pirates 87	Ione Cardinals 68
Taft Tigers 359		St. Paul Buckaroos 90	Mitchell Loggers 27
Westside Christian Eagles 220	2A-3 - Tri-River Conference (7)	Veritas School Vanguard 52	Sherman Huskies 67
Willamina Bulldogs 232	Central Linn Cobras 169	Willamette Valley Christian Warriors 52	South Wasco County Redsides 67
	East Linn Christian Eagles 142		Spray Eagles 17
3A-3 - Mountain Valley Conference (6)	Jefferson Lions 259	1A-3 - Mountain West League (10)	Wheeler Falcons 24
Creswell Bulldogs 342	Monroe Dragons 125	Alesa Wolverines 46	
Elmira Falcons 345	Regis Rams 142	Crow Cougars 93	1A-7 - Old Oregon League (9)
Harrisburg Eagles 272	Toledo Boomers 148	Eddyville Charter Eagles 48	Cove Leopards 73
La Pine Hawks 324	Waldport Irish 146	Lowell Devils 87	Echo Cougars 82
Pleasant Hill Billies 294		Mapleton Sailors 42	Elgin Huskies 87
Santiam Christian Eagles 230	2A-4 - Mountain View Conference (6)	McKenzie Eagles 51	Griswold Grizzlies 58
	Bandon Tigers 199	Mohawk Indians 58	Joseph Eagles 59
3A-4 - Umpqua River Conference (6)	Gold Beach Panthers 143	Oak Hill School Falcons 44	Nixyaawii Eagles 41
Coquille Red Devils 216	Myrtle Point Bobcats 164	Siletz Valley Warriors 61	Pine Eagle Spartans 46
Douglas Trojans 352	Oakland Oakers 173	Triangle Lake Lakers 65	Powder Valley Badgers 69
Rogue River Chieftains 208	Oakridge Warriors 120		Wallowa Cougars 58
Siuslaw Vikings 347	Reedsport Braves 165	1A-4 - Skyline League (12)	
South Umpqua Lancers 336		Camas Valley Hornets 63	1A-8 - High Desert League (12)
Sutherlin Bulldogs 357	2A-5 - Sunset Conference (6)	Days Creek Wolves 72	Adrian Antelopes 67
	Bonanza Antlers 122	Elkton Elks 79	Burnt River Bulls 25
3A-5 - Eastern Oregon League (6)	Canyonville Christian Pilots 134	Glendale Pirates 69	Crane Mustangs 49
Burns Hilanders 222	Glide Wildcats 181	Meirose Christian 12	Dayville Tigers 20
Irrigon Knights 209	Illinois Valley Cougars** 261	New Hope Christian Warriors 78	Four Rivers Charter Falcons NEW
Nyssa Bulldogs 277	Lakeview Honkers 224	North Douglas Warriors 78	Harper Hornets 34
Riverside Pirates 211	Lost River Raiders 126	Pacific Pirates 58	Huntington Locomotives 18
Umatilla Vikings 318		Powers Cruisers 34	Jordan Valley Mustangs 22
Vale Vikings 225	2A-6 - Wapiti League (8)	Riddle Irish 95	Long Creek Mountaineers 14
	Enterprise Outlaws 115	Umpqua Valley Christian Monarchs 45	Monument Tigers 19
	Grant Union Prospectors 148	Yoncalla Eagles 73	Prairie City Panthers 36
	Heppner Mustangs 97		Ukiah Cougars 28
	Imbler Panthers 97		
	Pilot Rock Rockets 98		
	Stanfield Tigers 119		
	Union Bobcats 107		
	Weston-McEwen Tiger Scots 175		