



Oregon School Activities Association

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June 1, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Inclusion Committee – May 30 Meeting Minutes

The OSAA Inclusion Committee met for the second time this school year in a public meeting on Thursday, May 30 at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville. In person attendees included Ted Yates (Gladstone HS), Heidi Hermansen (Central Linn HS), Carly Schmidt (City of Eugene), Kacey McCallister (World Wheelchair Sports), new member Deb Mandeville (Wilsonville HS Swim Coach), new member Jessica McGuire (PT Willamette ESD) along with OSAA Staff members Peter Weber, Brad Garrett, Kris Welch and Kelly Foster.

The meeting began with introductions and a recap of the Swimming and Track & Field State Championships. The staff went through a packet of information with Committee members for both the Swimming and Track & Field Championships.

Three student-athletes (down three from 2018) competed at the Swimming State Championships representing Hillsboro, Gladstone, and Wilsonville. Due to the low numbers, we combined the Girls 100 M Backstroke, with the Boys 100M Freestyle so that the one swimmer competing in the 100 M Backstroke would not swim alone. There were eight student-athletes (up one 2018) that competed in the 100M, 400M, 1500M, and / or the shotput at the Track & Field State Championships. Schools represented included Faith Bible, Dallas, Gladstone, Oregon City, Wilsonville, Hood River Valley, and Lake Oswego. The points earned were counted towards the combined team scores for the schools and Gladstone earned a combined team second place trophy in 4A Boys.

The Committee then opened the floor to input from those members of the general public in attendance at the meeting. Informal testimony ensued from parents, student-athletes, attorneys, advocates and coaches. Committee members engaged in back and forth discussion to talk about the positive aspects of the Committee's work but also the work that is in front of the group to make improvements for all. Common themes that came through from those providing input included:

- Scoring in Track and Field
- Growing participation to where separation of wheelchair and ambulatory athletes can occur
- Creating a form to help with qualification/classification of para-athletes
- Providing educational resources to schools and coaches on how to involve students to grow the program
- Allowing para-athlete swimmers the opportunity to compete on Saturday (Finals Day)
- Exploring additional opportunities/activities for para-athletes (i.e. tennis, cross country, etc.)

Following testimony, the Committee went into a work session to discuss possible changes/recommendations to forward to the Executive Board for consideration. The following will be discussed with the Executive Board at their July meeting:

- Recommend maintaining the four events currently offered at the Track & Field State Championships (100 meter, 400 Meter, 1500 Meter and Shot Put), but to change the scoring to account for the number of schools

competing in each particular event as opposed to the number of total teams competing in the meet. While we had great representation at the Track Meet, in each particular event, there were not all schools competing, so the proposed change is to modify the scoring based on the number of schools in that event (i.e. if 4 schools are competing in the shot put, the scoring would be 6-4-3-2-1 instead of 10-8-6-4-2-1, if five schools are competing the scoring would be 8-6-4-2-1.

- Recommend splitting the 100M, 400M, and 1500M into two events; one for wheelchair, and one for ambulatory as long as there is a minimum of 2 athletes for each event (i.e. 3 ambulatory and 2 wheelchair would be separated into two event, but if there are 3 wheelchair and 1 ambulatory, that race would still be combined.) The scoring for each event will also be separated out as well based on the number of schools competing in the race.
- Carly will look into the wheelchair basketball form for qualification to see if the OSAA can modify/simplify that form for schools to see if their athletes qualify as a para-athlete.
- Continue to work with Adaptive Sports NW, World Wheelchair Sports, Oregon Athletic Directors, Oregon Athletic Coaches and the NFHS to get materials disseminated about recruiting and coaching para-athletes to your program along with how to gain access to equipment needed for them to compete.
- Recommend moving the para-athlete events to be swam on Saturday (Championship day) so that they feel more a part of the championships.
- Recommend looking at other events/opportunities for para-athletes to become involved. Tennis and cross country are two of the events that were discussed and will be explored.
- The Committee is suggesting that the OSAA survey schools and districts this Fall for potential student-athletes. A goal of the survey is to reach Special Education (SPED) Directors, Physical Therapists (PT's), and even Physical Education teachers.
- The group is interested in expanding the Committee to include students, a SPED teacher, a representative of Adaptive Sports NW and a replacement for Ted Yates, who is retiring as Athletic Director at Gladstone.
- OSAA will explore the possibility of a breakout session related to para-athletes at the 2nd Annual Coaches Symposium on August 17, at Wilsonville High School. Peter Weber will also speak with the Oregon Sports Awards about the potential to add a para-athlete division in the future.

Before the Committee adjourned they discussed the continued efforts to bring positive awareness to schools about the resources available to them. The Committee feels that efforts on all fronts will be needed to grow these championships. The Committee feels strongly that all parties, not just the OSAA and this group, need to continue to find ways to get the information to students and their parents about the opportunity.

The Committee will schedule their next meeting for the Fall which will be a closed work session to prepare for the 2020 events.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Inclusion Committee for their review. Contact Peter Weber (peterw@osaa.org) or Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.