



Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 www.osaa.org



June 21, 2017

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director;
Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Inclusion Committee – June 5 Meeting Minutes

The OSAA Inclusion Committee met for the second time this school year, and the for the first time in a public meeting, on Monday, June 5 at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville. Attendees included Ken Bell (Sherwood HS), Mark Horak (West Linn HS), Carly Schmidt (Adaptive Sports Northwest), Kacey McCallister (World Wheelchair Sports) along with OSAA Staff members Peter Weber, Brad Garrett, Kris Welch and Kelly Foster. Committee members unable to attend included Ian Jaquiss (OHSU) and Heidi Hermansen (Cascade HS).

The meeting began with introductions and transitioned to a recap of this school year's inclusion events at the OSAA State Championships. Staff went through a packet of information with committee members for both the Swimming and Track & Field State Championships. Included was information distributed to schools and district meet directors in advance of the championships, along with copies of the entries and results from each venue. Discussion took place about the staff working through the unique features of each event's software to be able to include information about para-athletes.

Three student-athletes competed in both the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles at Swimming representing Bend, Gladstone and Sandy. There were five student-athletes that competed in both the 100 meter and 200 meter races at Track & Field. Schools represented included David Douglas, Gladstone, Nyssa, Siuslaw and Wilsonville. Team points earned by these student-athletes were included for Combined Team Totals at each championship. At Track & Field, the points earned by Taylor Talbot of Nyssa helped her school's girls team move from 5th place to 4th place in the Combined Team Totals and receive a trophy.

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, students, grandparents, coaches and a physical therapist. Committee members engaged in back and forth discussion with those in attendance in an effort to explain where this group started and the plans for growth based on increased student participation. Common themes that came through from those providing input included:

- Increasing recognition of para-athletes at the state championships, including listing para-athletes in entries and results alongside other participants
- Competing on Saturday (Finals day) at Swimming as opposed to Friday (Prelims day)
- Expanding offerings to include at least one field event and a longer distance race for Track & Field
- Continuing to emphasize the opportunities for para-athletes to member schools and helping schools identify these students in their schools
- Providing educational resources to schools and coaches on how to involve students to grow the program
- Growing participation to allow eventual separation of wheelchair and able-bodied para-athletes

Following testimony, the committee went into a work session to discuss possible changes/recommendations to forward to the Executive Board for consideration. They came up with the following:

- Recommend expansion of the offerings at Track & Field to include the shot put and a 1500-meter race.

- Allow para-athletes to participate in two of the four events offered at Track & Field.
- Working to create and disseminate information (possibly in video format) to schools about throwing chairs and how to properly strap down regular wheelchairs for competition.
- Maintaining the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle races at Swimming State Championships.
- Administering the events at each state championship prior to the first set of trophies being distributed with exact times/dates to be determined.
- Continue requirement that para-athletes be academically eligible, participate on their school team during the season, and qualify through a district meet.
- Continue to score para-athlete events toward a Combined Team Championship at both Swimming and Track & Field.
- Continue to work with Adaptive Sports Northwest, World Wheelchair Sports and the NFHS to get materials disseminated about coaching para-athletes and how to gain access to equipment needed for them to compete.
- Continue to provide resources to schools and coaches to help get these participants out for the activities as well as train them the proper way.

These recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Board in July at their Summer Workshop for review.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Inclusion Committee for their review. Please send emails to kyles@osaa.org. Contact Peter Weber (peterw@osaa.org) or Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.