



Oregon School Activities Association
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TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director;
Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – January 24, 2017

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on January 24 at the OSAA Office for the first time this school year to begin its review of the rankings, and in particular the Fall 2016 season.

The Committee has set dates for two upcoming public meetings. Both meetings will have public testimony where written correspondence will also be reviewed. Following the final meeting, the Committee will forward its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for a vote at the Board's Summer Workshop, July 24-26, 2017.

OSAA Rankings Committee Future Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, April 11, 2017 @ OSAA Office, Wilsonville, 9am
- Thursday, June 22, 2017 @ OSAA Office, Wilsonville, 9am

New members of the Committee were introduced and welcomed:

- Rob Pridemore, Riverdale HS Athletic Director (3A)
- Aaron Longo, Mapleton HS Athletic Director (1A)

The Committee began by reviewing Fall 2016 brackets and rankings, along with written correspondence received since their last meeting. Following this review, the Committee examined rankings scenarios and correlation studies of former and current systems, along with several different percentage breakdowns, 2-column vs. 3-column approaches, etc.

Schedule Manipulation Policies

The Committee believes that adding dates to each season after which contests won't be counted in the rankings has helped to alleviate, but not eliminate, the issue of schedule manipulation. The Committee instructed OSAA Staff to continually emphasize the education of coaches and ADs, especially in baseball and softball, regarding these dates. Specifically, schools need to be informed that rescheduling a postponed/canceled contest vs. deleting means the contest was already on your schedule prior to the deadline and would still count in the rankings. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on how these schedule manipulation policies are working prior to its April 11 meeting. The OSAA staff will also distribute an FAQ sheet to schools about changing schedules.***

Emphasizing the Colley Rank More Than the RPI Rank: The Committee has looked at this concept in the past and spent more time discussing the Colley ranking this meeting. Several members of the Committee believe that adding more emphasis to the Colley Rank would improve the overall rankings. Currently the RPI and Colley Ranks are weighted 50/50 with Colley as the tiebreaker. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its April 11 meeting.***

Not Counting Contests Involving Independent Teams More Than One Classification Away For Rankings: The Committee discussed the impact that independent teams have on the rankings vs. the trouble those teams might

have scheduling games if the games weren't included in the rankings. Members of the Committee briefly discussed not counting games vs. independent teams but didn't support that concept as they talked through the pros and cons. The committee is hesitant to change this policy as it might create a hardship on independent programs to find contests. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its April 11 meeting.***

Not Counting Early Season Games: The Committee has received correspondence on this topic for the past several years. There was much more discussion at this meeting regarding this concept and how it might positively impact scheduling, coach evaluation of players/lineups, etc. Discussion centered on providing flexibility to schools in a given timeframe to play these non-counting "friendly" games in the early part of a season. The thought among Committee members was that schools would have to mutually agree, like an OSAA endowment game, to not have the contest not count. The group is interested in whether schools support the concept with the idea that the details would need be worked out if there is sufficient interest. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its April 11 meeting.***

Adding Additional Games to Schedule: The committee has tasked the OSAA staff to monitor schools schedules so over scheduling does not take place. There may be instances where adding games may be necessary (example baseball / softball due to rainouts) but there may be other instances where teams add games to their schedules with intention to drop after the predetermined dates for counting in rankings. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its April 11 meeting.***

Re-Seeding Teams for Final 8 in Volleyball, Basketball: The Executive Board asked the Committee to discuss a proposal by the 1A classification to re-seed their Final 8 teams in volleyball and basketball back to the final frozen rankings in order to address "unfortunate pairings" in the quarterfinal round and beyond. The group had a lot of discussion on this topic as they believe it's a bigger question than just 1A since similar formats in 5A, 4A, 3A, and 2A brackets seed the Round of 16 and advance teams to a Final 8. ***The Committee will forward to the State Championship Committee for a potential talking point.***

Forfeits – The Committee is reviewing the effect of forfeits within the system when a team who lost a contest on the field or court later has to forfeit that contest. The Committee is reviewing if these contests should still count since the outcome didn't change (and impact OWP for schools participating against those schools) or be removed from the system as is done currently. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its April 11 meeting.***

Rankings Freeze and Play-In Dates Summary: The Committee briefly discussed the Rankings Freeze and Play-In Dates for 2017-18. OSAA Staff will follow up with the main contacts of each classification with play-in games and bring back a draft for consideration by the Committee at their April 11 meeting.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Rankings Committee for their review. Please contact Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) or Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) with questions.