



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



April 13, 2017

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

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

SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – April 4, 2017

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on April 4 at the OSAA Office for the second time this school year to begin its review of the rankings, the Winter 2016-17 season.

The Committee has one more date set for a public meeting this year on Thursday, June 22. The meeting 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.

The Committee began by reviewing Winter 2016-17 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.

The Committee and staff continually hear about needing to play in class opponents now that the Colley rating is involved within the system. As a group, along with Dan Smith from Oregon Prep Sports, they felt it was important to address that concern as people try to gain those games. It's extremely hard to say if a game played within your classification is going to hurt or help a school's ranking. It all depends on how that school performs vs. their opponents and throughout the web of all games played in classification vs. classification matchups. The key point about the Colley ranking is that if you play a school within your classification it will more accurately rank a school against their peers vs. a game played out of classification. In summation, an in-classification game doesn't automatically help, it could hurt a ranking but what is known is that it will more accurately compare a school to its peers when the entire season has concluded.

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 June 22 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. When looking at different systems, there are pro's and con's to each but the Committee feels that there is a good balance between the systems and it's important to keep consistency for scheduling purposes. ***The Committee is not recommending any changes at this time.***

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 June 22 meeting.***

Not Counting Early Season Games: The Committee has received correspondence from coaches over time about wanting to have a game(s) not count in the rankings in the early part of the season so teams can evaluate lineups and other factors in those early season contests. The thought of the Committee members was that if this was implemented it would be completely optional, it would be only for a certain amount of time in the early season and it would have to be agreed on by both schools, like an endowment game is now. The group is interested if an idea like this or other ideas (extended jamborees, scrimmages) would be of interest to the membership. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its June 22 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 June 22 meeting.***

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 June 22 meeting.***

Distance Travelled for Games Weighted Differently: The Committee received correspondence from schools who have a greater distance to find games. The question presented was if a team has to travel further, should those games have a different weighting in the system than a local game. The inference is that further travel impacts the result on the field of play. Additionally, if we weighted games in a different manner would that entice schools in metropolitan areas to travel to those outlying schools. ***The Committee is interested in receiving feedback on this concept prior to its June 22 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 June 22 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.