
2017-2018

Oregon School Activities Association

Athletic Officials Handbook



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How to find information in this handbook

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RULES

Rule 1 – Local Association Governance

Section 1. Each local officials association, commissioner, and official shall abide by the regulations established by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) constitution, rules, board policies and interpretations, this Athletic Officials Handbook (AOH), and all Oregon Athletic Officials Association (OAOA) rules and regulations. Unless authorized by the OSAA Executive Director, all changes and additions to those regulations shall be binding upon all local associations, commissioners, and officials.

Section 2. Association constitutions and/or bylaws are to be formulated and adopted by each individual local association to guide local association administrators. They shall not supersede or conflict with any provision of the regulations mentioned in AOH Rule 1.1.

Section 3. *Local associations shall establish an executive board which shall be responsible for the administration of the association business and for supervision of member officials.*

Section 4. *It is the responsibility of the local association to establish membership criteria.* Such additional qualifications for membership may be no less stringent than the certification requirements in AOH Rule 4.

Section 5. *Subject to OSAA oversight, matters such as membership standing, local association policy, association finances, membership dues; conduct of the officials, executive board officers, and commissioner; and member discipline shall be the responsibility of the local association.*

Rule 2 – Charter Requirements

Section 1. A letter of application requesting certification as a chartered local officials association shall be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Director. The letter shall include the following information:

- a) The proposed name of the local association.
- b) A statement why a local association should be established in the area.
- c) A copy of the constitution and/or bylaws of the local association.
- d) A list of the local association's executive board officers.
- e) A list of possible members.
- f) A list of proposed schools to be serviced.
- g) A meeting schedule which shall include at least six study/training meetings or 10 hours of training.**
- h) The current name, address, email address, and telephone number of the commissioner.

Section 2. When these requirements are met, the local association may be accepted on a one-year probationary basis. The probationary period may be extended by the OSAA Executive Director. Final approval for the local association will be granted by the OSAA Executive Board.

Section 3. Local associations shall be assigned member schools by the OSAA.

Rule 3 – Annual Local Association Requirements

Section 1. A local officials association, in order to maintain its charter, shall annually:

- i) Verify the roster of schools serviced by the local association.
- j) Submit to the OSAA a conflict of interest policy in accordance with AOH Rule 3.8.
- k) Submit to the OSAA an excused absence policy.
- l) Submit to the OSAA the complete upcoming season's schedule of local association meetings which shall include at least six study/training meetings or 10 hours of training per sport season.

Section 2. At the close of each sport season, each local association commissioner shall submit to the OSAA a list of members who have not met the attendance requirements for officials certification as in AOH Rule 4.1.d.

Section 3. The commissioner of each local association shall forward to the OSAA office the names of all duly elected local association executive board officers.

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Section 4. The local association commissioner, when specifically requested by the OSAA, shall be required to submit a report on any matter of local association business or the status of any of its members.

Section 5. Each local association shall complete the prescribed process to receive reimbursement for officiating duties performed during the OSAA State Championships.

Section 6. Permission to discontinue service to an assigned school must be granted by the OSAA Executive Director.

Section 7. *Officials assigned to OSAA sanctioned contests shall be members of a local association and are independent contractors.*

Section 8. Local associations shall adopt a written conflict of interest policy. Policies shall include, at a minimum, the following provisions:

Unless the athletic directors of the schools involved in the contest and the assigning commissioner agree, no official shall be assigned to a varsity contest if:

- a) The contest involves a school currently attended by the official's child or step-child.
- b) The contest involves a school at which the official or a member of his/her immediate family* is a current employee or coach.
- c) An immediate family* member of the official is a team member of one of the involved teams.
- d) The contest involves a school from which the official has graduated within the last four years.
- e) There are other factors or relationships between the official and a participating school that, in the judgment of the commissioner or the official, might give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

*Definition of "immediate family" as used in this policy:

Spouse, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren (including adopted and step), brothers and sisters, mother and father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, daughter and son-in-law.

Section 9. *Failure to meet the requirements, duties, and responsibilities of local associations may result in denial of allocated playoff assignments for OSAA State Championship events, modification of serviced member schools, or revocation of the local association's charter by the OSAA Executive Director.*

Rule 4 – Annual Certification and Requirements of Officials

Section 1. In order to be a certified official:

- a) The official must be at least 18 years of age. Exceptions for youth officials under the age of 18 may be approved by the OSAA Executive Director after petition by the local officials association commissioner ***provided the guidelines in AOH Appendix B are followed.***
- b) The official must be a member in good standing of a local association.
- c) The official must complete the annual OSAA online officials registration process.
- d) The official must attend six study/training meetings or complete 10 hours of approved training.

Note: Certified attendance at an OAOA sponsored clinic and/or the OSAA sponsored state rules interpretation meeting shall count as one study meeting toward this attendance requirement.

- e) The official must pass a criminal conviction history screening per OSAA Rule 2 and OSAA Board Policy 51. ***To be certified, officials cannot have been convicted of:***
 - i. ***A felony involving the use, possession or sale of a controlled substance within the last 10 years. The 10-year period of ineligibility to officiate shall commence from the date of suspension from officiating duties or from the date of conviction – whichever occurred first; or***
 - ii. ***A crime involving the use or threatened use of violence against a person within the last 10 years. The 10-year period of ineligibility to officiate shall commence from the date of suspension from officiating duties or from the date of conviction – whichever occurred first; or***
 - iii. ***A crime involving a minor child at any time.***

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- f) ***The official must receive annual training from an appropriate health care professional to learn the signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with a concussed player and how to seek proper medical attention for a player suspected of having a concussion.***
- g) An official's certification expires upon conclusion of the final championship contests in their respective sport unless the official is dropped for non-attendance or for another reason their certification is suspended or revoked by the local association or the OSAA Executive Board.

Section 2. The following levels of certification are obtained if the official:

- a) Registered – completed the annual OSAA online officials registration process and passed a criminal conviction history screening (AOH Rule 4.1.e). ***Registered officials who have not obtained a higher level of certification are prohibited from officiating any OSAA sanctioned contest.***
- b) Sub-Varsity – met the requirements of a registered official, taken the relevant NFHS sport examination, and completed any other required components (including AOH Rule 4.1.f). ***Sub-varsity certified officials are not allowed to officiate OSAA sanctioned contests above the sub-varsity level.***
- c) Varsity – met the requirements of a sub-varsity official, scored at least 75% on the NFHS sport examination, and completed any other required components. ***Varsity certified officials are allowed to officiate varsity and sub-varsity OSAA sanctioned contests.***
- d) Playoff – met the requirements of a varsity official, scored at least 90% on the NFHS sport examination, has OCEP Principles certification (AOH Rule 4.3), obtained and has current OCEP Playoff certification (AOH Rule 10.2), and completed any other required components. ***Playoff certified officials are allowed to officiate any level of OSAA sanctioned contest and OSAA State Championship events.***

Section 3. ***As part of the Officials Certification and Education Program (OCEP), officials must obtain OCEP Principles certification within the first three years of officiating. OCEP Principles certification is gained by attending a course or clinic approved by the OAOA Executive Board on the basic principles of officiating or by completing the online NFHS Interscholastic Officiating Course. This requirement does not apply to officials certified by the OSAA in 2005-06 or prior; or any transfer official previously licensed or certified by a state high school governing body. Each local association should conduct an annual OCEP Principles course.***

Section 4. The local association or the OSAA may suspend or revoke the certification of any official in the event the local association or the OSAA becomes aware that the official does not meet the requirements for certification. ***If certification is suspended or revoked the official may appeal the decision to the OSAA Executive Director, or their designee, for consideration of reinstatement.***

Section 5. When required by the OSAA, officials shall submit a written report of their conduct in any OSAA sanctioned contest in which they participated as an official.

Section 6. ***Physical examinations for officials are not required but are recommended. A program of personal fitness and conditioning at least four weeks prior to the season is recommended and highly desirable for all officials.***

Rule 5 – Ethics and Conduct

Section 1. Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence, and responsibility. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all OSAA officials.

- a) Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm, and controlled manner.
- b) Officials shall work with each other and the Oregon School Activities Association in a constructive and cooperative manner.
- c) Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interaction with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.
- d) Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
- e) Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.

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- f) Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches, and the public hold for the profession.
- g) Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.
- h) Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of competition.
- i) ***Officials shall maintain an ethical approach while participating in forums, chat rooms, and all forms of social media.***

Section 2. An individual official or commissioner shall not engage in the following conduct, per OSAA Rule 2:

- a) Use tobacco products (***including e-cigarettes***), illegal drugs, cannabis, and/or alcoholic beverages, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, cannabis, and/or alcoholic beverages at an interscholastic event.
- b) Unsportsmanlike conduct at an interscholastic event. “Unsportsmanlike conduct” includes, but is not limited to, unwarranted physical contact, profane language, and/or taunting. Unwarranted physical contact initiated by an official toward a coach/player shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c) Make a bet or take a bribe in connection with an interscholastic event.
- d) ***Have been convicted of any item listed in AOH Rule 4.1.e.***
- e) Engage in any action which, within the discretion of the local association or the OSAA Executive Board, gives rise to a concern for the safety of children due to the official’s conduct, indicates that the official cannot objectively perform the official’s duties, or otherwise is inconsistent with the OSAA’s responsibilities to its member schools, the student participants, or the parents of the participants.
- f) The OSAA Executive Director may require the official or commissioner to appear before the OSAA Executive Board and show cause why the official or commissioner should not be subject to sanctions under OSAA Rule 5.6 for such conduct.

Section 3. ***Per OSAA Board Policy 66, it shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if officials or commissioners make comments to the media that criticize or disparage school representatives. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the local association to which the official or commissioner belongs.***

Section 4. It shall be considered unethical conduct when any individual official:

- a) Accepts any assignment to an OSAA sanctioned contest without the approval and consent of their local association.
- b) Does not comply with the regulations as required by AOH Rule 1.

Section 5. It shall be considered unethical conduct when any commissioner:

- a) Agrees to make assignments for a school normally serviced by another local association without first securing written permission from the other local association. Written permission does not have to be secured in an emergency situation.
- b) Does not comply with the regulations as required by AOH Rule 1.

Rule 6 – Procedure for Reporting Ethical or Conduct Violations

Section 1. A complaint against an official or commissioner for violating the ethics and conduct guidelines as outlined in AOH Rule 5 shall be submitted to the OSAA Executive Director and to the local officials association.

Section 2. If a complaint is filed with a local association, the local association shall immediately notify the OSAA Executive Director.

Section 3. Upon finding that an official or commissioner has violated the ethics and conduct guidelines as outlined in AOH Rule 5, ***the local association and/or the OSAA Executive Board*** may impose on the official or commissioner any of the penalties set forth in OSAA Rule 5.6.

Rule 7 – Official Uniform and Patch

Section 1. *The required uniform for officials at OSAA sanctioned contests is defined in the sport specific NFHS rules book or officials manual. The uniform may be modified by sport specific OSAA interpretations, OAOA publications, or OSAA State Rules Interpreter.*

Section 2. All officials shall wear the current year's OSAA patch while officiating any OSAA sanctioned contest. The patch shall be worn:

- a) Football, Volleyball, and Soccer – on the left pocket area of the shirt.
- b) Basketball – above the left pocket area of the shirt.
- c) Wrestling – on the left sleeve of the shirt, just below the shoulder.
- d) Baseball and Softball – above the left pocket area of the shirt/jacket.

Section 3. *The OSAA State Championship Official patch shall be worn by each official selected to officiate at OSAA State Championship final sites in place of and in the same location as the year's normal OSAA patch.*

Section 4. A local officials association's name, insignia, or logo may be worn on the uniform with OSAA approval. *Officials may optionally wear an American flag patch on the sleeve of their uniform.*

Rule 8 – Commissioners

Section 1. The commissioner *shall be duly elected by the members of the local officials association* with majority approval of the schools serviced by the local association. The term shall be three years, *with no term limit*. The commissioner shall receive remuneration for their services as established by the OSAA. Local associations may supplement this remuneration at their discretion.

Section 2. *The commissioner, or designee, shall make all contest assignments in accordance with AOH Rule 9 and any local association policy.*

Section 3. The Commissioner may be removed from office at any time by a two-thirds vote of the local association or two-thirds vote of the schools serviced by the local association.

Section 4. *Commissioners may only officiate if they are an OSAA certified official and only in the following cases:*

- a) *The commissioner has been approved to officiate by a vote of the members of the local association, or*
- b) *The commissioner has petitioned and been granted permission by the OSAA Executive Director to officiate in the event of either a low number of registered and certified officials within the local association or the number of assignments exceeds the number of officials, or*
- c) *In an emergency situation.*

Rule 9 – Assignments to OSAA Sanctioned Contests

Section 1. *Per OSAA Board Policy 51, OSAA certified officials are required for all OSAA sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees*. Contests with participants of differing levels are considered a contest at the higher of the two levels (i.e. a varsity team playing a junior varsity team is considered a varsity level contest). Schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local officials association to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required.*

**Exception: OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only. OSAA certified officials are required in football at all sub-varsity levels.*

Section 2. *Schools, leagues, and tournaments are limited to using a maximum of the quantity of officials assigned to State Championship contests unless written permission to exceed that quantity is received from the OSAA Executive Director prior to the event(s).*

Section 3. *Only sub-varsity, varsity, or playoff level certified officials may be assigned to OSAA sanctioned contests through local associations.*

Section 4. The superintendent, assistant superintendent, or high school principal has the authority to approve the selection of officials for all festivals, meets, contests, and championships serviced by the local association during the regular season.

Section 5. Member schools shall be assigned to local associations by the OSAA. Any member school wishing to change local association affiliation in any sport shall petition the OSAA Executive Director for permission. The member school shall provide a rationale for changing to a different local association.

Rule 10 – State Championship Officials

Section 1. To officiate any OSAA State Championship event which includes contests in the first round of playoffs through the final contest, officials shall meet each of the following requirements:

- a) Be selected by their local officials association per AOH Rule 10.3.
- b) Be OSAA certified per AOH Rule 4.1.
- c) Obtained playoff level certification per AOH Rule 4.2.d.
- d) Obtained OCEP Principles certification per AOH Rule 4.3.
- e) **Obtained and be currently certified in their sport specific OCEP Playoff certification per AOH Rule 10.2**
- f) Have a minimum officiating experience at the varsity level (unless granted an exception by the OSAA Executive Director):
 - i. At least three years of varsity officiating experience for all sport officials, and
 - ii. At least five years of varsity soccer officiating experience to be eligible for assignment as the center referee for 6A and 5A OSAA Soccer State Championship events.
- g) Be a member of a local association which:
 - i. Services 6A or 5A classification schools during the regular season to be eligible to officiate any OSAA State Championship event involving 6A or lower classification schools, or
 - ii. Services 4A or lower classification schools during the regular season to be eligible to officiate any OSAA State Championship event involving 4A and lower classification schools.
- h) Be an official who has officiated:
 - i. **At least one regular season contest, for all sports, and**
 - ii. At least three regular season contests in each gender in basketball to be eligible for OSAA Basketball State Championship events, or
 - iii. At least two regular season matches in each gender in soccer to be eligible for OSAA Soccer State Championship events.

Section 2. As part of the Officials Certification and Education Program (OCEP), officials selected to officiate any OSAA State Championship event must have obtained and be currently certified in their sport specific OCEP Playoff certification.

- a) **To obtain OCEP Playoff certification, officials shall have completed an OCEP Playoff Certification Clinic, or other camp, clinic, or certifying procedure substantially equivalent and approved by the OAOA Executive Board in the applicable sport. Soccer officials obtain OCEP Playoff certification by completing the USSF Grade 8 Referee Course.**
- b) **To maintain and have current OCEP Playoff certification:**
 - i. **Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball officials must recertify every five years as in AOH Rule 10.2.a.**
 - ii. **Wrestling officials must recertify every three years as in AOH Rule 10.2.a.**
 - iii. **Soccer officials must recertify every five years by attending one of the following training opportunities: Oregon Referee Committee Regional Referee Clinic (also known as the ORC Intermediate Training Clinic), ORC Big Training Weekend, or a training session or clinic which is substantially equivalent to the previous two options as determined by the OSAA Soccer State Rules Interpreter.**

Section 3. State championship and playoff official selections shall be made by the commissioner or local association with input from the schools serviced by that association. Local associations may impose more restrictive criteria at

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their discretion regarding selection procedures. Wrestling officials are selected according to the process outlined in AOH Appendix A.

Section 4. Officials may be assigned to OSAA State Championship final sites in consecutive years as follows:

- a) Football, Soccer, Baseball, and Softball – no limitation.
- b) Volleyball and Basketball – limit of two consecutive years at any final site, regardless of classification.
- c) Wrestling – see AOH Appendix A.

Section 5. Officials from local associations shall be assigned to cover the first round of all OSAA State Championship events.*

- a) Non-local associations shall be assigned to subsequent contests except for Baseball and Softball in which local associations will be assigned up until the final.
- b) Any local association servicing more than 7.5% of schools sponsoring the activity shall be considered a non-local association.

Section 6. OSAA State Championship assignments are assigned depending on sport:

- a) Baseball – for all contests prior to the finals, the ***designated home school*** is responsible to obtain officials from their assigned local association.* The OSAA assigns associations for final contests based on established rotations.
- b) Basketball – for all rounds, including the final site, the OSAA assigns associations according to established rotations. The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final sites.
- c) Football – the OSAA assigns associations to all contests prior to the semi-finals and finals. For semi-finals and finals, the OSAA assigns associations based on established rotations.
- d) Soccer – for all rounds prior to the final site, the OSAA assigns associations according to established rotations. The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final sites.
- e) Softball – for all contests prior to the finals, the ***designated home school*** is responsible to obtain officials from their assigned local association.* OSAA assigns associations for final contests based on established rotations.
- f) Volleyball – for all rounds, including the final site, the OSAA assigns associations according to established rotations. The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final sites.
- g) Wrestling – see the selection process in AOH Appendix A.

****Exception: In the event a contest is played at a neutral site outside of the coverage area of the designated home team's local association, the host venue's closest local association shall provide officials.***

Section 7. Local associations may decline state playoff and tournament assignments if the commissioner notifies the OSAA. Notification shall be given prior to the established deadlines for submitting names of tournament officials to the OSAA.

Section 8. The OSAA will distribute declined assignments at their discretion.

Section 9. Local associations may trade an assignment(s) with another local association upon approval of the OSAA Executive Director.

Rule 11 – Fees

Section 1. ***The fee schedule is available in the OSAA Handbook: www.osaa.org/governance/handbooks/osaa.***

Section 2. Per OSAA Rule 9.7, the OSAA Fee Review Committee (FRC) shall consider only items involving fees paid to individual officials, commissioners, or local officials associations. This includes game fees, per diem, check writing fees, commissioner fees, or any other type of service fee provided collectively called Fees, and the Association Mileage Reimbursement Rate(s).

Section 3. The FRC shall forward recommendations regarding regular season Fees to the OSAA Delegate Assembly, and shall forward recommendations regarding State Championship Fees and the Association Mileage Reimbursement Rate(s) to the OSAA Executive Board.

Section 4. The FRC shall be a standing committee consisting of three representatives of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) Executive Board, three representatives of the OAOA Executive Board, one representative of the OSAA Executive Board, and the OSAA Executive Director as a non-voting member.

Section 5. The OADA and OAOA will each be responsible to define the process by which their representatives will be selected and the term lengths they will serve.

Section 6. The FRC shall meet as requested by the OSAA Executive Board. The FRC shall determine a schedule of no fewer than three meetings, which shall allow the opportunity for public input.

Section 7. Schools and local associations may negotiate reduced fees in relation to the financial needs, availability of officials, and other factors that reflect local and district conditions.

Section 8. Any fee or supplemental charge not outlined in the approved officials fee schedule must be approved by the OSAA Executive Director.

Section 9. *When the OSAA determines that lodging is necessary for OSAA State Championship events, complimentary rooms will be provided based on two officials per room. If an official wishes not to share a room, there will be no reimbursement for lodging expenses. In these cases, the official is responsible for their own reservations and are not eligible for the OSAA discounted rates. Any meal reimbursement will be based on the time of the assignment and must be confirmed by the OSAA staff prior to the game. Reimbursement is limited to \$8.00 for breakfast, \$10.00 for lunch, and \$15.00 for dinner. Receipts are not required for reimbursement.*

Rule 12 – Reciprocation Formula

Section 1. Local officials associations that must use another association to provide coverage for contests involving a school that is normally serviced by the association shall reciprocate coverage in the same sports season. Associations that cannot reciprocate according to the schedule below shall forfeit the appropriate number of schools prior to calculation of OSAA State Championship event allocations:*

Sport	Covered Contests (1 year – any level)	Covered Contests (2 years – any level)	Coverage Equivalent
Baseball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Basketball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Football	8 contests	12 contests	1 school serviced
Soccer	14 matches	21 matches	1 school serviced
Softball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Volleyball	16 matches	24 matches	1 school serviced
Wrestling	8 matches	12 matches	1 school serviced

Section 2. The smallest unit used will be .5 schools serviced.

Section 3. Coverage provided can be at any classification and level.

*Note: Under this schedule, a 3A freshman volleyball contest is equivalent to a 4A varsity volleyball contest.

Rule 13 – Dual Membership

Section 1. Officials may have membership in multiple local officials associations *in the same* sport upon mutual agreement between the commissioners and executive board of the local associations involved. **The official is responsible for any local association membership dues in all affiliated associations.**

Section 2. *To obtain or change a dual membership, the official must complete and submit to the local associations and to the OSAA the following items prior to the official being assigned to any contest.*

- a) *The official must designate a primary local association.*
- b) *The official must create a plan for how they will meet the attendance requirements for officials certification as in AOH Rule 4.1.d.*

Section 3. All OSAA State Championship assignments shall be made by the local association to which the official **identified as their primary association.**

Rule 14 – Affiliate Membership

Section 1. A non-resident who wishes to certify in Oregon must first certify in that sport in the state in which they reside. If certification in their state involves a supervised examination, their certification fee will be waived, except for NFHS Officials Association membership, but they must follow all other certification procedures. If, however, their state does not require a supervised examination for certification, they will be required to pay the certification fee in Oregon and follow regular certification procedures.

Section 2. For officials moving into Oregon who currently are certified in another state, no certification fee will be required, except for NFHS Officials Association membership. Their certification will be honored in Oregon until the time of the next supervised examination for that sport if the state from which they moved required a supervised examination for certification.

Rule 15 – State Rules Interpreters

Section 1. *The OSAA is the sole and exclusive source of binding NFHS rules interpretations for OSAA sanctioned contests and shall appoint a State Rules Interpreter for each sport.*

Section 2. *The State Rules Interpreter shall be responsible for interpreting and clarifying NFHS rules, interpretations, and mechanics within their sport for use throughout the state. The State Rules Interpreter also provides clarifications and answers to questions regarding sport rules and mechanics and ensures NFHS guidelines are followed by officials.*

Section 3. *In cooperation with the OSAA and the OAOA, the State Rules Interpreter helps to determine and disseminate state specific rule adoptions. At the annual sport specific rules clinic, the State Rules Interpreter presents NFHS rules changes, editorial changes, and points of emphasis.*

Wrestling State Championship Selection Process

1. Week 1 Regional Tournaments
 - A. Officials selected #1 and #2 submitted to Tournament Selection Committee chair.
 - B. Tournament Selection Committee Chair will notify commissioners of those officials selected #1 and those are not eligible in week #2 of Regional Tournaments.
 - C. #2 officials are put on list to be considered for selection by Tournament Selection Committee.
2. Week 2 Regional Tournaments
 - A. Meet either in person or by conference call on Sunday morning following Regional Tournaments.
 - B. Tournament Selection Committee will compile a list of all #1 officials from Regional Tournaments by classification (20 officials)
 - C. Tournament Selection Committee will compile a list of all #2 officials from Regional Tournaments (Up to 20 officials)
 - D. Tournament Selection Committee will consider the following criteria for selection of 10 officials for the state tournament.
 - i. Officials from an association that does not have representation.
 - ii. Officials who have never worked a state tournament.
 - iii. If two officials are considered equal, the official who has been most recently will be eliminated.
 - E. Tournament Selection Committee will vote on each official meeting the above criteria.
 - F. Tournament Selection Committee will allocate 10 officials by classification based on State tournament needs.
 - G. Tournament Selection Committee Chair will submit names of 30 Officials to OSAA staff (by classification and along with alternate)

Youth Officials

Local officials associations may use officials under the age of 18 with permission from the OSAA Executive Director. The OSAA will depend on the commissioner's professional judgment regarding the skill and maturity level of the underage official.

- 1. Youth officials, with prior approval, must meet the following certification criteria:**
 - A. The youth official must satisfy the same certification requirements as all other officials.**
 - B. Youth officials will not be screened for criminal conviction history.**
 - C. Youth officials shall not be assigned to any OSAA sanctioned contest, at any level, in which the official attends the school of one of the participating teams.**
- 2. Assignments of youth officials must also conform to the following guidelines per sport:**
 - A. Soccer:**
 - i. A varsity level contest serviced by the diagonal system of control (center referee and two assistant referees) may have up to one youth assistant referee.**
 - ii. A sub-varsity contest serviced by the diagonal system of control may have multiple youth officials assigned. An underage youth center referee may be assigned at the sub-varsity level if at least one experienced, non-youth assistant referee is also assigned to the match.**
 - iii. A youth official can be assigned to a contest serviced by the dual system of control as long as the head referee is an experienced, non-youth official.**
 - iv. A youth official cannot be used in an emergency situation to work a solo assignment at any level.**
 - B. All other sports:**
 - i. Youth officials are limited to sub-varsity assignments only and shall not officiate at the varsity level.**

OSAA Executive Board Policies

The following OSAA Executive Board Policies are excerpts from the 2017-18 OSAA Handbook which pertain to officials and sport specific OSAA rules.

- 14. Concussion Management
- 17. Ejection Policies – Coach Ejected; Contest Forfeited
- 18. Ejection Policies – Ejected Player or Coach
- 19. Ejection Policies – Fines
- 20. Ejection Policies – Multiple Ejections of Individual
- 22. Ejection Policies – Physical Contact with Official
- 31. Exceptions to NFHS Playing Rules
- 35. Football – Cleats
- 36. Football – 45-Point Rule
- 37. Football – League Playoff Prohibition
- 42. Inclement Weather
- 44. Interrupted Contests
- 45. Lightning Safety Guidelines
- 50. Officials – Background Checks
- 51. Officials – Certified Requirement
- 52. Officials – Host School Responsibilities
- 53. Officials – Minimum Conflict of Interest Standards (Varsity Only)
- 65. Spectator Conduct at OSAA Sanctioned Events
- 66. Sportsmanship – Criticism of School Representatives or Officials / Judges
- 68. State Championships – Adopted Ball
- 78. State Championships – Team Size
- 83. Taunting Policy
- 84. Unmanned Aerial Systems
- 85. Withdrawal During a Competition

14. Concussion Management

- A. **Member School's Responsibilities** (Max's Law, ORS 336.485, OAR 581-022-0421) (Jenna's Law, ORS 417.875)
- 1) **Suspected or Diagnosed Concussion.** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or who has been diagnosed with a concussion, shall not be permitted to return to that athletic contest or practice, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day. In schools which have the services of an athletic trainer registered by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers, that athletic trainer may determine that an athlete has not exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and has not suffered a concussion, and return the athlete to play. Athletic trainers may also work in consultation with an appropriate Health Care Professional (see below) in determining when an athlete is able to return to play following a concussion.
 - 2) **Return to Participation.** Until an athlete who has suffered a concussion is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and a medical release form signed by an appropriate Health Care Professional (Physician (MD), Physician's Assistant (PA), Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) licensed by the Oregon State Board of Medicine, nurse practitioner licensed by the Oregon State Board of Nursing, or Psychologist licensed by the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners) is obtained, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to athletic activity.
 - 3) **Private Schools Only.** On an annual basis prior to participation, private schools shall require each student and at least one parent or legal guardian of the student to sign the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form acknowledging the receipt of information regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Private schools shall maintain a copy of each student's signed form on file for review at any time by OSAA staff.

B. **Official's Responsibilities**

An official shall remove a player from a contest when that player exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion due to an observed or suspected blow to the head or body. The official shall document and notify the head coach or his/her designee making sure that the head coach or designee understands that the player is being removed for exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion as opposed to behavior, a non-concussive injury or other reasons. The official is not responsible for evaluation or management of the player after he/she is removed from play. The official does not need written permission for a player to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the appropriate health care professional who has cleared the player to return. The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic player falls upon the school and appropriate health care professionals.

17. Ejection Policies – Coach Ejected; Contest Forfeited

If a coach is ejected from a contest and that contest is forfeited, such incident must be reported to the OSAA office by the schools involved and also by the contest officials. If a coach is ejected and the game is not forfeited, it is the school's responsibility to be certain that any such person who assumes the coaching responsibilities in such a situation meets the requirements of the OSAA and that school district.

18. Ejection Policies – Ejected Player of Coach

- A. If a player or coach is ejected by an official, the commissioner of officials shall notify the OSAA and the athletic director of the school of the ejected player/coach by completing the online ejection report by the next workday. Ejected coaches must leave the contest immediately and shall remain out of "sight and sound" of the team for the duration of that contest and any other school contests that day. It shall be the responsibility of the school to disallow the ejected player or coach from participating during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, regardless of whether written notification has been received by the school from the commissioner of officials. Should an ejected player participate or an ejected coach remain within "sight and sound" of the team during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be

considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.

- B. Additional Requirements Regarding an Ejected Coach.** In addition to the requirements previously listed in this policy, an ejected coach shall be required to complete the online NFHS course, “Teaching and Modeling Behavior”, within seven calendar days of the school being provided a license to take the course by the OSAA. Should a coach fail to complete the course requirement within the time limit stipulated in this policy, the ejection suspension shall be reinstated and the coach shall be ineligible to coach until the requirement has been fulfilled. Should an ejected coach remain within “sight and sound” of the team during the reinstated period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.
- C. Appeal Process.** If the principal or the Athletic Director of the ejected coach/player and the commissioner of officials agree that the suspension should be set aside, the principal may appeal to the Executive Director within 48 hours of the ejection to set aside the next game suspension portion of the penalty. Unless the commissioner agrees that the suspension should be set aside, the appeal must be denied by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director denies an appeal, that denial may be appealed to the Executive Board, which shall hear the appeal at its earliest convenience and issue a final ruling. Implementation of the next game suspension may be postponed during the time that an appeal is pending.

1. Q. When a player is ejected, may the player remain on the bench?
A. Yes. The player is required to sit out the remainder of the contest, but may remain on the bench.
2. Q. When a coach is ejected, must the coach leave the playing area?
A. Yes. The coach must leave the playing area and shall be allowed no further direct or indirect contact with the team until the contest is completed. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team.
3. Q. May a player sit on the bench during a period of suspension?
A. Yes, but the player must not be in uniform.
4. Q. May a coach have any contact with a team at a contest following an ejection or at the contest at which the suspension is served?
A. No. The coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team during the contest following ejection. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team. Further, the coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team at the contest at which the suspension is served nor is the coach permitted to attend the contest at which the suspension is served.
5. Q. May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) participate in a contest at another level during the period of suspension?
A. No.
6. Q. May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) serve the suspension in a contest at another level?
A. No.
7. Q. When a coach or player is ejected, when and over what period of time are the ejection period and suspension period?
A. **NOTE:** If the ejection occurs in the last contest at a particular level, the suspension carries over to the next contest at any level in that sport in that season.

Sport	Ejection Period	Suspension Period
Baseball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Basketball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Football	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Soccer	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Softball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Volleyball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next playing date at that level
Wrestling	Follow NFHS Rules Book	Sit out through next contest at that level

8. Q. When does the period of suspension begin?
A. The suspension is served after the ejection has been served. The ejection and suspension may not be served simultaneously.
9. Q. May a coach or participant ejected from a contest serve the one-game suspension at a jamboree?
A. No, the coach or participant may not count a jamboree as a “contest” for the purpose of serving the period of suspension. The coach or participant must sit out the jamboree and the next contest at that level of competition.

Appendix C

10. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is a school day?
A. A suspended coach may have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during regular school hours. However, once the regular school day is over, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team members/other coaches of the team, and have no contact with them until the game is over.
11. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is NOT a school day?
A. The suspended coach may have no contact with team members/other coaches of the team until the game is over.
12. Q. May a suspended coach have any contact with other coaches of the team (for example, via mobile phone or wireless radio) during a game in which a suspension is being served?
A. No. The suspended coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the contest during which a suspension is served.
13. Q. If a player or coach is ejected during the last contest of the season, does the unserved suspension carry forward to a subsequent season?
A. No.
14. Q. In basketball, does the ejection of a player or coach as a result of receiving two technical fouls result in the player or coach being suspended through the next contest at that level?
A. Yes, a player or coach who is ejected as a result of receiving two technical fouls is ejected for the remainder of the day and must sit out through the next contest at that level.
15. Q. Does the contest from which a participant is suspended due to an ejection count against the individual contest limitation for the participant?
A. Yes.
16. Q. When a player or coach is ejected while acting as a spectator at a contest in the same sport in which the coach or player participates, but at which he or she is not serving as a player or a coach, does a period of suspension still apply?
A. Yes. The ejected player or coach is suspended from all participation for the same period of time as if he or she had been a participant in the contest at which the ejection occurred.
17. Q. When a player or coach is ejected in one sport, may the player or coach participate or coach in another sport during the period of suspension?
A. No.
18. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, does the OSAA ejection policy apply?
A. Yes. It is the responsibility of the school to notify the OSAA of the ejection.
19. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, what appeals process is followed?
A. If the school of the ejected player or coach wishes to appeal to set aside the next game suspension portion of the penalty for the ejection, it is the responsibility of the school to contact the commissioner of the out-of-state officials association to obtain written information to submit to the OSAA in support of the appeal.
20. Q. May a forfeited contest that is not actually played count toward the period of suspension for a player or coach?
A. Yes, but only for a player or coach from the team that is receiving the forfeit. It would not count toward the period of suspension for a player or coach from the team forfeiting the contest.

19. Ejection Policies – Fines

- A. Schools shall be assessed fines for ejections within specific sports programs. Each sport (e.g., Football, Boys Basketball, Softball) shall be tracked as separate and distinct for the purpose of calculating fines. When the first participant or coach in a sport is ejected, the school that the participant or coach is representing shall be assessed a \$50 fine by the Executive Board. A second ejection in the same sport during the same season shall result in the assessment of a \$100 fine, and each ejection thereafter in that sport during that season shall result in a fine to be increased by \$50 increments for each ejection without limitation.
 - 1) **EXCEPTION:** The fine for an ejection in the last contest of the season shall be increased by \$100 over the greater of the standard fine described above or the most recent fine for that program.
 - 2) **EXCEPTION:** Soccer Player: A soccer player who is disqualified because he or she “deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going into the goal” or “receives two cautions (yellow cards)” shall not be subject to the fine specified in this and other OSAA ejection policies, but shall be subject to the specified suspension.
- B. A school receiving five or more ejections during one school year shall be required to attend a sportsmanship training class and submit a written Plan of Correction to the OSAA, including timelines for implementation of the Plan.

20. Ejection Policies – Multiple Ejections of Individual

A second ejection during the same sport season will result in a two-game suspension. A third ejection during the same sport season will result in disqualification from further participation in that sport during that sport season.

21. Ejection Policies – Physical Contact with Official

Physical contact between a coach/player and an official shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct. The offending coach/player shall be immediately ejected from the contest, shall be suspended as provided in the Regulations and may be required to satisfy other requirements as prescribed by the Executive Board. Both the athletic director of the school of the offending coach/player and the commissioner of officials shall notify the OSAA in writing of the incident by the next workday. In addition, the school shall be fined and may receive other penalties as determined by the Executive Board, and an administrator and the coach/player shall be required to appear before the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting.

31. Exceptions to NFHS Playing Rules

The Executive Director may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

35. Football – Cleats

In addition to the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty (15 yards) specified by the National Federation Rules Book, a student who is wearing illegal cleats in excess of 1/2" in length shall be ejected from the contest, whether or not the student has participated.

36. Football – 45-Point Rule

- A. **Running Clock.** If the point differential occurs at halftime or any time thereafter, a running clock shall be used. The running clock shall be started with the ready-for-play signal from the official. Once the running clock is started, it shall be stopped only for the following reasons:
- a) For measurement of a possible first down.
 - b) For a player who appears to be injured.
 - c) For unusual heat or humidity which may create a health risk to players.
 - d) For a coach/referee conference concerning the misapplication of a rule.
 - e) When a TV/radio time out is granted.
 - f) For a one-minute intermission between the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal, or a safety.
 - g) A team time out is granted.
 - h) When a team attempts to conserve or consume time.
 - i) Any unusual circumstances (dog on field, etc.).
- B. The running clock shall apply to all levels (varsity, JV, sophomore and frosh) and shall remain from year to year until the classification notifies the OSAA of a change. The running clock shall be in effect for Football State Championship games, first round through final site.

37. Football – League Playoff Prohibition

Leagues shall not use on-the-field procedures such as the "Kansas Plan" to break ties in league football standings at the end of the regular season. Each league shall develop its own standard operating procedure for resolving league ties off the field.

42. Inclement Weather

- A. If there is inclement weather, the superintendents, or their representatives, of the schools involved shall confer, and if it is determined that conditions are not safe, the contest shall be postponed to be played at a later date. The contest is to be played only if it has a bearing on the representative(s) in that sport to the state championships.
- B. If a state championship contest is involved, the OSAA staff shall take jurisdiction and make any decision rather than the schools involved.

44. Interrupted Contests

Following is the policy concerning interrupted athletic contests. **NOTE:** For state championship final games, the OSAA staff shall take jurisdiction and make any decisions rather than the schools involved.

A. Baseball.

- 1) For darkness and/or weather:
 - a) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - b) If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.
 - c) If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - d) If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - e) If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be continued if it has no bearing on state championship representation.
- 2) For other reasons, among which include light failure, sprinkler system, etc., the contest shall continue from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- 3) Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:
 - a) The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to insure that there are two copies.
 - b) The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.
 - c) The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.
 - d) The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.

- B. **Basketball.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- C. **Cross Country.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply. If the contest does continue, and the interruption occurred during a race, that race shall be re-run.

- D. **Football.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams agree to terminate the game with the existing score, or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- E. **Golf.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption. In accordance with the game rules, it should, if feasible, be discontinued after completion of play on a hole. If not feasible, each player shall lift his/her ball after marking the spot on which it lies. Play will resume from that spot unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- F. **Soccer.** Contest is declared official if at least one complete half of game has been played. If less than one-half of game has been played, it is declared “no contest” and is completely replayed unless two teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- G. **Softball.**
- 1) For darkness and/or weather:
 - a) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - b) If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.
 - c) If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - d) If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent’s score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - e) If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be continued if it has no bearing on state championship representation.
 - 2) For other reasons, among which include light failure, sprinkler system, etc., the contest shall continue from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
 - 3) Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:
 - a) The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to insure that there are two copies.
 - b) The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.
 - c) The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.
 - d) The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.
- H. **Swimming.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- I. **Tennis.** Match shall be continued from point of interruption. **NOTE:** Previous set(s), game(s), score of game and previous occupancy of courts shall hold unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- J. **Track and Field.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply. **NOTE:** If contest was interrupted during a running event, the event shall be repeated.

- K. **Volleyball.** Any match interrupted because of power failure or unforeseen circumstances shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless athletic district rules apply otherwise. If resumed, the score and lineup shall be the same as they were at the time of interruption.
- L. **Wrestling.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.

45. Lightning Safety Guidelines

- A. These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder.
- B. **Proactive Planning:**
 - 1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
 - 2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
 - 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for 30 minutes and take shelter immediately.
 - b) **Thirty-minute Rule.** Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
 - c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - 4) Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
 - 5) Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.
- C. For more detailed information, refer to the “Lightning and Thunder Safety” section contained in the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook.

50. Officials – Background Checks

- A. All officials who wish to be certified by the OSAA shall submit to a criminal conviction history screening that will determine whether they have engaged in any Prohibited Conduct. Any denial of certification as a result of this screening may be waived or modified by the OSAA Executive Board in individual cases if it determines in its sole discretion that there exist circumstances justifying such a waiver or modification.
- B. Cost of this background check shall be included in the cost of certification for the official.

51. Officials – Certified Requirement

- A. **General requirement.** Member schools shall secure certified officials from officials’ associations that have been recognized and certified by the OSAA for all interscholastic activities requiring those officials. **EXCEPTION:** Any request for an exception to this policy must receive the approval of the Executive Director. Exceptions shall be considered only when adherence to this policy presents a financial hardship to the school or when the local officials’ association is unable to service the member school. Any out-of-state official used under this exception in a contest in Oregon shall represent an association whose commissioner was an attendee at the OSAA Rules Interpreters’ Clinic for that year.

OSAA certified officials are required for all sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees. **EXCEPTION:** OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only. OSAA certified officials are required in football at all sub-varsity levels.

Schools, leagues and tournaments are limited to using a maximum of the quantity of officials assigned to State Championship contests unless written permission to exceed that quantity is received from the OSAA Executive Director prior to the event(s).

Schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local associations to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required.

B. Quantity requirements. See Officials Fee Schedule for additional information.

- 1) **Baseball.** Two officials are required at the varsity level. One umpire may be used in an emergency situation only. Sub-Varsity: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.”
- 2) **Basketball.** Two officials are required at the varsity and junior varsity levels. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only. JV2 and Freshman: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.”
- 3) **Football.** Five officials are required at the varsity level at the 6A, 5A and 4A classifications. Five officials are recommended but at least four are required at the varsity level at the 3A, 2A and 1A classifications. Five officials are recommended but at least four are required at the junior varsity, sophomore and freshman levels at all classifications.
- 4) **Soccer.** Three officials are recommended but two officials are required at the varsity level. Two officials are required at the junior varsity level. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only.
- 5) **Softball.** Two officials are required at the varsity level. One umpire may be used in an emergency situation only. Sub-Varsity: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.”
- 6) **Volleyball.** Two officials are required at the varsity and junior varsity levels. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only. JV2 and Freshman: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.”
- 7) **Wrestling.** An official is required at the varsity and junior varsity levels.

52. Officials – Host School Responsibilities

A game manager shall be designated by the host school for all contests in sports that use certified officials. A member of the coaching staff of the home team is not eligible to serve as game manager during a varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. A coach of a sub-varsity team may act as the game manager at a sub-varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. The game manager shall wear easily recognizable identification, shall be physically present and / or readily accessible by phone and shall be responsible for:

- 1) Designating reserved parking for officials as close as possible to the contest site where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- 2) Designating dressing facilities for officials where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- 3) Monitoring and responding to inappropriate crowd conduct during and after the contest; and
- 4) Providing an escort to the designated dressing facilities or vehicle for officials following each contest unless that offer is declined.

53. Officials – Minimum Conflict of Interest Standards (Varsity Only)

- A. Local associations shall adopt a written Conflict of Interest policy to include, but not limited to, the following provisions:
 - 1) Unless the athletic directors of the schools involved in the contest and the assigning commissioner agree, no official shall be assigned to a varsity contest if:
 - a) The contest involves a school currently attended by the official’s child or stepchild.
 - b) The contest involves a school at which the official or a member of his/her immediate family* is a current employee or coach.
 - c) An immediate family* member of the official is a team member of one of the involved teams.
 - d) The contest involves a school from which the official has graduated within the last four years.

- e) There are other factors or relationships between the official and a participating school that, in the judgment of the commissioner or the official, might give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- 2) Associations are free to adopt additional more restrictive standards if appropriate.
- B. *Definition of "immediate family" as used in this policy: Spouse, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren (including adopted and step), brothers and sisters, mother and father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, daughter and son-in-law.

65. Spectator Conduct at OSAA Sanctioned Events

In addition to the general expectations included in the OSAA Constitution, Rule 3, that school officials "...shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's students and supporters maintain a sportsmanlike attitude toward all events..." the following specific expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided:

- A. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of inappropriate conduct or actions that are not permitted are: turning backs, holding up newspapers or jeering at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions; disrespecting players by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the floor.
 - B. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners (larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches), confetti, balloons or glass containers. "Fathead" type items are considered signs and shall not be larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches. Spectators are required to wear shirts.
 - C. Spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers and air horns.
 - D. Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language. Spectators shall not be permitted to engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action.
 - E. Spectators who fail to comply with Association or site management spectator conduct expectations may be expelled from the contest.
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- 1. Q. May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?
A. Yes, home team schools may display "permanent" signs and/or banners that are positive/supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in-season rosters, league banners, league/state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.
 - 2. Q. May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school's venue?
A. No.
 - 3. Q. Are "run through" signs allowed?
A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.
 - 4. Q. May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?
A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.
 - 5. Q. May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, but only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
 - 6. Q. What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?
A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. "Air Ball! Air Ball!" booing, "You! You! You!", or "You Got Swatted!" are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team's opponents.
 - 7. Q. May students stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?
A. Yes, but when they sit down, they must be seated on the second row.
 - 8. Q. May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just "making noise" and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.
 - 9. Q. May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.

Appendix C

10. Q. May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
11. Q. May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

66. Sportsmanship – Criticism of School Representatives or Officials / Judges

- A. It shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if school representatives (coaches, administrators, player or other school personnel) make comments to the media that criticize or disparage the officiating / judging of any contest. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the school that employs the school representative.
- B. It shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if officials, judges or commissioners make comments to the media that criticize or disparage school representatives. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the Local Association to which the official, judge or commissioner belongs.

68. State Championships – Adopted Ball

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

A. State Championship Contests at Home Sites.**1) Team sports (other than football)**

- a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls. If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball, and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
- b) **Penalty.** If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

2) Football

- a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that both teams use the officially adopted ball. If either team uses balls that are not the officially adopted balls, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the school or schools in violation to the OSAA.
- b) **Penalty.** A school, which is found to have used a non-adopted ball in an OSAA state championship contest, shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests

78. State Championships – Team Size

- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
- B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiting up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
- 1) **Baseball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent rounds. Maximum in uniform: 6A - 20; all other classifications – 18.

- 2) **Basketball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 14; all other classifications – 12.
- 3) **Football.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A-60, 5A-50; 4A-40; 3A-33, 2A-33; 1A-24.
- 4) **Soccer.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 22; all other classifications – 20.
- 5) **Softball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 20; all other classifications – 18.
- 6) **Volleyball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each match. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent matches. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 14; all other classifications – 12.

83. Taunting Policy

OSAA upholds sportsmanship in all interscholastic activities and expects its member schools to deal swiftly and firmly in addressing taunting. Taunting is any behavior, which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean. In all interscholastic activities, school personnel, game officials and coaches are to enforce and follow the regulations described in the current National Federation Rules Books.

84. Unmanned Aerial Systems

The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all OSAA sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot onboard.

1. Q. When does the prohibition on unmanned aerial systems begin and end?
A. Unmanned aerial systems are prohibited from one hour prior to the contest through one hour after the contest is completed at any OSAA sanctioned event.
2. Q. What is the procedure if an unmanned aerial system appears near the playing area of an OSAA sanctioned event?
A. If the game officials observe an unmanned aerial device flying directly over the playing area, feel that a device may have the potential to harm any individual, or if the device actually lands on the playing area, the game officials have the authority to suspend play and may direct the teams to their respective sideline or locker room until such time that game management deems the situation safe. Under no circumstances should any member of the team or the game officials approach an unmanned aerial system.
3. Q. Can an individual use one of the devices to film their own school's practice session?
A. Yes, but individuals should refer to their local school district policies related to unmanned aerial systems and, if allowed, should exercise a high degree of care in the operation of such devices to avoid common law tort liability for injuries to players, coaches, spectators or other third parties that might result from a device crashing into a crowd. Operators should have completed "flight training" courses offered by unmanned aerial system sellers, should be required to practice extensively to ensure proficiency in using the technology, and should avoid flying any device directly over or close to crowds at any time.

85. Withdrawal During a Competition

- A. Removal of a team from competition prior to completion of that competition shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. In such a case, the school shall forfeit the contest and an administrator and the coach responsible for the action shall appear before the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. See Executive Board Policies, "Withdrawal from State Championships" for additional information.