



Oregon School Activities Association
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OSAA Cheerleading Contingency Group

Meeting #1: May 15, 2020 – Notes

Introductions happened and Peter Weber reviewed the basic charge for the group. Kelly reviewed the work session information and ways to communicate.

Moratorium like period extends through May 25. We have an Exec Board work session on May 20 for further discussion regarding what happens once the association year ends.

Reviewed some Executive Orders that have created some limitations. The State is supposed to issue more summer time and summer school guidance on May 15. With the newer guidance coming out, we hope to get information out prior to the end of the Association year on May 25.

Governor Brown approved 31 or 36 counties to enter Phase 1. Things we know, the school year will most likely not start normally- This group is together to think outside the box to find some success for our kids. Develop options that are clear in each of the phases will help as well. What we develop and recommend, will also be impacted by the larger entities- ODE, OHA, SMAC, etc.

We know coaches will want to jump to what state will look like, or competitions will look like, but we need to focus on each step. Today especially, we will not have many answers, but maybe some suggestions on what those next steps will look like. More questions than answers right now, which we know can be frustrating.

1 – Acclimatization

From tryouts to sideline- how long does that take for them to acclimate? Not tumbling or stunting, probably a couple of weeks. Conditioning time would help to prepare for a 3 hour long football game. If we are getting rid of tumbling and stunting then 2-3 weeks to get them ready. They can learn cheers at home as well. Advanced skills for competing take a lot more time. You would have to build up to that.

One big worry is that if coaches feel “behind” in practices and preparation and they will push their kids too hard. Youth program teaching was discussed, but the difference between the levels was discussed.

Smaller schools may not have as developed of entry level students, and sometimes programs start at ground zero.

Three months is the amount of time spent through the summer preparing for stunting and preparing for the practices that start in the fall. Takes a lot more time to teach stunting and tumbling skills to teenagers vs. younger students.

When there is a break- it depends on what skill the athlete was working on before coming back? Coming back from that break would be difficult, but it depends on what the team was working on before they left. Delphian doesn't start until November, and they are ready for state without an issue.

2 – Small Groups / Pods

If we had small groups able to start- say 5- That would include a coach, could that work? (Short term issue) Wondering about how that would work with the numbers of coaches- Also the certification of those coaches as well. Does each of



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the cohorts have to be a different coach or could the kids rotate through the same coach/coaches? Concerns from the administrative side of monitoring the safety of coaches with kids. Be cautious of getting back too soon.

Cheer mats- 6 feet apart- Sideline would be easy, you can spread all the way out. Tumbling, jumps, etc can be done. The hard part would be stunting because they would have to be so close together. Stunting is the pull for a lot kids- it is one of the athletic parts of their sport. It would have to be a big sell for kids to want to do cheer if stunting was not a part of it. Already hearing that they are losing kids if stunting can't happen.

3 – Camps and Clinics

Camps and clinics, should OSAA take a position. Andy Jones shared that OC is closed through the summer, and they will not send kids to camps either. All teams told they cannot travel out of state or overnight. Justin shared that all facilities are closed until school starts again. Youth clinics are done for fundraising. Right now with other counties opening can high school kids go to those classes? Sounds like it is a little bit of a mix with schools remaining closed. Andy expressed the need for consistency and equitability is important?

4 – Change Season

Flip season- Spring Sports in Fall? Would cheer teams cheer for spring sports? All the coaches seemed excited about the idea, but wondering if they would have to cheer all year then since football would be in the Spring? Coaches typically get paid for two seasons and not three. As long as they are cheering for the majority of one season, then they are able to compete in state.

Future Meetings:

- May 29, 11am
- June 5, 11am
- June 12, 11am

Other notes:

- David Douglas- Having conversations about contingency plans for online school.
- Mental health is so important- kids are reaching out needing to connect.