



Oregon School Activities Association

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August 20, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Board

SUBJECT: OSAA Soccer Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Soccer Contingency Group met on August 20, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the seventh time. Most members were present.

We began with quickly reviewing our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 179 membership schools who sponsor soccer during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over all of the information that we know as of August 20: The OSAA Executive Board met during a work session on August 5 and made some decisions; open up the Association year on August 31, and create a 4 season calendar for the Association year breaking the last 3 seasons into 9 equal weeks, 7 weeks of competition. Starting with Season 1(August 31 – December 27) being an open season, while still following the OSAA Policies and rules except for a few exceptions; followed by Season 2 (December 28 – February 28) our “traditional winter sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 3 (February 22 – April 28) our “traditional fall sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 4 (April 19 – June 20) our “traditional spring sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events. The Governor also released the K-12 School Sports, Limited Return to Play Guidance. This new guidance ties the abilities of schools to education restrictions as opposed to County Phases. If a school is strictly online with not in-person learning they can participate in outdoor activities including competitions, but indoors would be limited to conditioning and no competitions. If a school district decided to have some in-person learning, they can do all of the same restrictions as an online only school but can also participate in competitions that are indoors. In either case masks must be worn indoors at all times and also outdoors where 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Some of the things we can anticipate are schools wanting to start scheduling their seasons and coming up with ideas for what “culminating events” should look like.

After all of the information, the Group started discussing the focused questions.

What are your school’s plans for Season 1?

Some schools districts are wide open and doing everything they possibly can to get as many kids in front of their coaches as they possibly can, there are other schools who have divided Season 1 into 3 5-week seasons, so that there are no undue pressures on student-athletes to choose one sport over the other. Most schools

that are starting this are doing so with our traditional spring sports teams and individuals, then the second 5-week season would be our traditional fall sports teams and individuals, followed by the last 5-week season for traditional winter sports teams and individuals. During those 5-week seasons there are some of the schools making the decision to not compete against other schools and strictly do inter-squad scrimmages, while there are some starting to schedule competitions. Those that are scheduling competitions are trying to do an entire week with the same school to help with tracking and scheduling (i.e. La Grade would play Baker home and away in all sports during one week, then moving to another school for an additional week, if that works out). The coaches are excited about what they can do during Season 1 and just want to connect with their kiddos! With schools still fairly concerned with transportation restrictions some schools are placing the responsibility on the families to get their student-athletes to games, which also restricts the distance of trips.

Ideas for looking at schedules for Season 3 and the 10 match Participation Limitation.

Most of the schools are still up in the air trying to figure out how and what they can do during Season 1 and not focusing on Season 3 yet. Those that are focusing will try and place similar ideas about the weeklong schedule with the same team/school on all sports to help with tracking and scheduling. The thought would be to try, and schedule mainly league matches and fill in with any other available teams, but with some schools regionally located, they may need to play schools of different classifications to help with transportation and availability challenges.

What are your initial thoughts on Culminating week suggestions?

Most people would like to see some type of State Championships, whether that is modified to a regional approach, limiting the number of teams into a bracket, or just matching up "leagues" and placing them into flights of 8 teams to play either 2 or 3 extra matches during that week. This would give teams/schools something to play for instead of just an extra week of competitions. Realizing that transportation may be a factor and playing three matches in a week would be difficult. The group is interested in hearing from others to see other potential ideas for what the culminating week looks like.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, TBD (4:00pm – 5:15pm) sometime in September

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need, if we do, we will stay on Thursdays at 4:00pm. Will send out the focused questions ahead of time. Kris will email out that with the invite for the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you for everyone's willingness to be on this group and for your insight!