



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1

Wilsonville, OR 97070

503.682.6722

<http://www.osaa.org>



June 23, 2022

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Local Associations

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Officials Fee Review Committee – June 9 Meeting Update

The Officials Fee Review Committee conducted its third public meeting via Zoom on June 9, 2022. The constitutionally mandated purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to the OSAA Delegate Assembly for adoption in October 2022. These recommendations will consider items involving fees paid to individual officials, commissioners, and local associations. This includes game fees, mileage, per diem, check writing fees, commissioner fees, or any other type of service fee.

The Committee received public testimony from several people including officials' association representatives for wrestling, volleyball, football, and softball. The Committee also reviewed two pieces of correspondence and then adjourned to a work session to continue development of its recommendations.

The Committee discussed several topics, all of which are still open for discussion:

- **Game Fees.** These were discussed, including potential percentage increases, but nothing was finalized. The consensus with the committee is that there needs to be a significant increase to help with the recruitment and retention of officials, and to continue to provide positive competition experiences for students. The OSAA staff is working on an editable spreadsheet to help member schools determine the impact of potential increases based on the 3A/2A/1A classifications moving to the same Varsity rate as 6A/5A/4A classifications, and for a new tiered sports approach. The Committee has added an additional closed work session for Thursday, June 30 to review information gathered by OSAA Staff and further discuss game fees. If schools or officials have suggestions regarding this topic, please send them to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) and he will share with all Committee members.

The following items are currently under consideration and are supported by the Committee, but they are requesting feedback from the member schools and officials on each topic:

- **Schedule Term.** Creating a four-year fee schedule.
- **Single Varsity Rate.** Working to create a single Varsity rate per sport, regardless of classification, by the 2026-27 school year. This would entail continuing to increase the 3A/2A/1A Varsity rate at 2-year increments to equalize with the 6A/5A/4A Varsity rate.
- **Sub-Varsity Rate.** Maintaining the sub-varsity rate at 75% of the Varsity rate at each respective classification level.
- **Commissioner & Check Writing/Administrative Fees.** Tying commissioner and check writing/administrative fees to that sport's 6A/5A/4A Varsity game fee, so they increase every time the game fee increases. The only exception to this would be in baseball and softball as that commissioner's fee is set at 1.5x the rate of the game fee. There was discussion on adjusting to an assigning fee per official per game but that was not supported at this time. Discussion did take place regarding potentially changing the designation from a check writing fee to an administrative fee.

- **Game Fee Cancellation Policy.** The committee discussed the baseball and softball weather related policy and supports changing the third statement in the policy. The new verbiage would read: ***If the game is rained out within three hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, the official shall be paid ½ game fees and all travel/per diem actually incurred.***
- **Single Official Rate.** Current policy outlines that a contest covered by a single official is assigned at a rate of 1.33 the “per official fee”. After discussion and review of common practices in various sports, committee members support adjusting the single official rate to 1.5x the “per official fee”.
- **Differentials Between Sports.** Each sport, while unique, has common aspects regarding preparation/training for the season, requirements, and time commitment. The Committee supports creation of a two-tier system by sport. One tier would include football and basketball. A second tier would include soccer, volleyball, wrestling, baseball, and softball and be set at 95% of the first tier’s rate. This aligns with the group’s goal of bridging the gap between the game fee rate for various sports through a significant increase for the sports covered in the second tier.
- **Mileage Fee.** This was discussed at length and the Committee is supporting full IRS rate for mileage. Committee members also support increasing the minimum mileage fee for each official from \$5 to \$10.
- **Wrestling Dual Meet Skin Check Fee.** The committee discussed the four proposals that the Wrestling Committee presented and at this time supports the increase in the skin check fee from \$10 to \$20 for each dual meet.
- **Cheerleading Officials Rates.** The group didn’t discuss these rates but plans to at an upcoming meeting.

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, similar to this one, to all officials associations, superintendents, principals, and athletic directors following each meeting. The Committee roster, charge, and any additional committee information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees>.

Written suggestions and proposals, as well as other officials’ fees related subjects should be emailed to the OSAA, Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

The next public meeting of the Fee Review Committee will be at 9 a.m. on Thursday, September 8, 2022 via Zoom. The general format for the meeting will be for the Committee to receive public testimony followed by a closed work session.

The Committee appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.

If you wish to participate in the public testimony, please email your request to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) and he can send you the details of the Zoom meeting links.