



Oregon School Activities Association

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September 10, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Board

SUBJECT: OSAA Basketball Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Basketball Contingency Group met on September 9, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the first time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 2 sports with Basketball, Swimming, and Wrestling Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff went of the evolution of our policies and procedures for the 2020-21 Association year. This included the memos and documents on what schools could and could not do depending on their educational system in place; comprehensive distance learning (no indoor competitions, but can compete in outdoor activities and competitions), in-person or hybrid learning(indoor competitions could take place along with all outdoor activities and athletics). After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

The Basketball Contingency started with introductions: Cam Rust (State Rules Interpreter; official), Kelly Bokn, Head Boys Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Churchill HS; Craig Rothenberger, Head Boys Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Junction City HS; Josh Grotting, Head Girls Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Sutherlin HS; Gary Hull, Head Boys Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Western Christian HS; Robert Key, Head Boys Basketball Coach at Grant HS; Chris Roche, Head Boys Basketball Coach at Wilsonville HS; Mardy Benedict, Head Girls Basketball Coach Lebanon HS; Joy Lease, Head Girls Basketball Coach at Mazama HS; Heather Roberts, Head Boys Basketball Coach at Yamhill-Carlton HS; Allison Gardner, Head Girls Basketball Coach at Bend HS; Travis Brown, Head Boys Coach at South Salem HS; and Lance Homan, Superintendent and Head Girls Basketball Coach at Joseph HS.

After introductions, we quickly reviewed our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 204 membership schools who sponsor basketball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty. While we realize that basketball is still on the prohibitive list for the state of Oregon, we are committed to putting a contingency plan together to help schools determine what they can do when basketball becomes available for schools.

We went over all of the information that we know as of September 9: 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?

Most schools are not doing anything and are in a Moratorium-like state until their school year begins. The coaches are concerned and frustrated that the “club scene” seems to be running rampant with other states hosting tournaments for the Oregon and Washington schools through the middle of November. Other private gyms seem to be opening up their facilities to get kids in so they can coach them. Some schools have taken the opportunity to work with their athletes at city parks or other outdoor facilities to work on conditioning and some individual offensive skills. This becomes a challenge for kids as doing this 4 days a week gets tough as the kids want to play and scrimmage with each other. Schools are using a google form developed by Redmond School District to keep records of their kiddos for tracing purposes, this helps with the management of checking on each athletes as they enter the facility and allows the coaches to only have to monitor the google document. 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. Other schools have broken it down into weeks with priorities 3 days during that week are with their priority season and 2 days a week are with the non-priority sports so that those coaches still get some contact with their athletes. Some schools have broken out Season 1 into 3 seasons with 3 days a week sports specific and 2 days a week with general conditioning. Some schools have closed their doors to athletics until sometime in October. There are some school districts that will work with their athletes for 2 weeks then it moves to the next season

Ideas for looking at schedules for Season 2 and the 14 games Participation Limitation.

The first discussion point was on the 14-contest limit. Trying to figure out how to add at least 2 more if not 4 more contests, as the original basketball season covers 3 national holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years), that the proportion ratio being used to come up with 14 contests is skewed and should be out of 11 weeks of competition instead of the 12 weeks currently being used. By changing that number to 11 weeks of competition, the new contest number for 7-weeks of competition would be 15.2 rounding up to 16 contests, which would be more equitable to all other sports. As far as actually scheduling games, schools are all over the board with ideas, some are planning on having just a league schedule or splitting their league into 2 leagues and having a District tournament in the final week of the season prior to the culminating week. Other leagues are concerned about travel as they won't have buses and are going to try and stay local/regional and if needed play some league district tournaments prior to the culminating week. There are other classifications that are waiting to see what the culminating week looks like, prior to scheduling anything.

What are your initial priorities on Culminating week?

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 games 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. Some schools are worried about losing athletes to outside clubs or sports within the school if there is nothing truly to play for at the end. They do not want the school season to become intramurals, the pursuit and team bonding aspects are real and powerful to kids and coaches. The group is interested in hearing from others to see other potential ideas for what the culminating week looks like.

The future meeting dates:

- Wednesday, September 23, (6:30pm – 7:45pm)
- Wednesday, October 7, (6:30pm – 7:45pm)

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need. 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!