



Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 <http://www.osaa.org>



June 11, 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 June 11, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the fourth time. Most members were present; the attendees included: SRI Patrick Duffy; Dave Hancock, AD South Eugene HS (6A); Mike Blok, AD Beaverton HS (6A); Sam Brown Head Girls Coach subbing in for Darren Goodman, AD La Grande HS (4A); Monty Hawkins, Head Boys Coach – Sherwood HS (6A); Stephanie Vandebusch, Head Girls Coach – Phoenix HS (4A) and OSAA staff members, Kelly Foster, Brad Garrett, Kyle Stanfield, Peter Weber and Kris Welch.

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 June 11: 29 of the 36 counties are now in Phase 2, with 6 of the remaining counties moving soon and Multnomah starting Phase 1 on Friday; we went over the OSAA Phase 2 Guidelines; we reviewed the Contingency page on the OSAA website showing all of the important documents and where the minutes of each meeting is being housed; some schools now have taken over responsibility to follow the Governor's mandates. It is even more important now that this group come up with some recommendations to help clarify what the membership can do over the summer. Our ability to find creative solutions to have coaches and kids back together safely is ESSENTIAL!

We then started into the focused questions segment of the meeting.

- How has the release of OSAA "Phase 2" guidance been received? What types of activities are you structuring for your athletes?

For some schools they appreciated the document and are following step by step with the OSAA guidelines to stay in compliance and were planning on opening on June 22, but now it is July one because of PACE Insurance coverage. One of our school districts is having a coaches training session then leaving it in the coaches' hands to follow the guidelines. Another school district is still in the process of writing their document and struggling logistically on how to get their higher risk adults/coaches on campus. Schools are starting to get anxious as outside agencies are starting up and the schools are worried about losing their athletes. The officials are waiting for guidance on when games will start to be played and are looking at protocols and considerations for the safety of the officials and athletes during the contests.

- What about competition? If we have similar safety guidelines in place what game types are feasible moving forward? Worst case scenarios?

The schools would have to change the dimensions of the field if we lessen the number of participants for instance 6 v. 6. Not ideal to get all of the athletes involved, it is hard enough playing all kids when it is 11 v. 11. It is also concerning as other agencies will be playing and the high school athletes can't that we could lose even more kids to these agencies. They would want to ensure schools continue to play but can't eliminate heading protocols to change the fundamental sport of soccer. One of the biggest challenges will be the two different standards, which don't align; the first standard in school where not contact, keeping physical distancing, but then when school is over athletics get to compete and physical contact can take place. Another concern would be spectators and their ability to attend. If they can't the concern would not be at the varsity level where there will be administration in attendance, but often the sub-varsity teams play at city parks. Who would be responsible if spectators try and attend those matches. The OSAA is still working with the other governing agencies to get more guidance.

- What is your philosophy regarding shifting sport seasons as a method to potentially ensure participation opportunities? Moving later into the calendar or shifting to a different time of year?

The number one goal is to provide opportunities for our student-athletes to experience some type of sports. It would not be good for kids if the fall comes and we could have done something and instead no one participates. By switching the seasons (fall to spring and spring to fall), that would give the fall "contact" sports more time to create options for kids. The fear would be that we make the switch and then are unable to play anything this fall and now the spring sport athletes will have lost 2 seasons, which would be a huge equity issue for the schools. By switching seasons, we could lose our athletes to outside agencies who will participate this fall, but if it keeps kids involved in schools then we should do it. There should be some conversations with the "spring" sports coaches to get their opinion on this switch. Maybe the OSAA can create a survey to ask school ADs and coaches if they would be willing to switch seasons. If we were to switch, when would this take place to give schools time to adjust and schedule contests, we may need to slide the season a couple of weeks and no start on August 17. Ultimately, schools will do whatever they need to do to get kids in front of their coaches and participating in sports this fall, no matter what activity it is. As far as officials' availability, most high schools play soccer during the week, so the matches should be able to get covered if the soccer season moves to the spring. As for the activities, it would need to be a wholesale switch, not just one sport for one sport as many of the smaller classifications share athletes and coaches, so if we switch only a few sports that would not be a positive move as it would vet programs within the school.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, June 25 (4:00pm – 5:15pm) potentially cancelling this meeting
- Thursday, July 9 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)

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!