



Oregon School Activities Association
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January 2, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

The Football Ad Hoc Committee conducted its fifth public meeting on December 17, 2018 at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville. All Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Board for review and potential adoption at a future date.

OSAA staff provided a summary of four pieces of correspondence received after the last meeting. The Committee received no public testimony. The group then convened into a work session to discuss strategies to address the observations/issues identified during the 2018 season.

The group discussed a variety of topics during the work session. OSAA Staff provided a detailed summary of win/loss records for all teams that elected to play down a classification level and levels of play survey conducted by the staff.

- The group continues to support using criteria to identify teams eligible to play down a classification for a two-year period.

Teams that were identified by the above criteria and elected to move down will participate during the 2019 season at the lower classification level regardless of whether they continue to meet the criteria.

The group is in consensus that no school movement should occur after the first year of the two-year time block.

Teams who were provided the option to move down but made the decision to remain in their assigned classification level do not have the option to move down for the 2019 season regardless of whether they continue to meet the criteria.

- The group discussed but reached no decision on development of new criteria that addresses each of the following questions:
 - What criteria will be used to determine if a school who has played down for a two-year time block should be moved back to their originating classification?
 - What criteria will be used to determine if a school who has been successful within their classification be moved up a classification level?
- The group received a report from Clark Sanders (OSAA Football SRI) on implementation of the new sub-varsity kicking modifications. There is consensus that schools like having the option, especially early in the

season, to modify the kicking game. Clark suggested the group consider simplifying the choices that schools have moving forward and agreed to bring suggestions back to the group for review and discussion at the next meeting.

- The group reviewed feedback from schools participating in the first year of the 6-player pilot. Comments were very positive and overall the schools and game officials involved did a great job of implementing the new game. There was overwhelming support to keep the field dimensions at 40 x 100 for the second year of the pilot.

Both Crow HS and Sherman HS have indicated the desire to participate in the pilot for the 2019 season. Considering that all teams participating in the pilot are essentially “independent” teams the group is supportive of adding both schools for the 2019 season.

- The High School Consensus Youth Football Position Statement was discussed. The Committee continues to support outreach to local youth football leaders around the state to discuss the implications of the statement and how the OSAA and its member schools might be able to assist organizations in restructuring efforts. Discussion took place at the meeting regarding some school districts choosing to not allow youth organizations to use their facility if failing to make structural changes that align with the position statement.

OSAA Staff will be distributing the position statement and offering to attend local organization meetings if they would like to discuss further.

- Modifications to the current Heads Up Football requirements were discussed. The group continues to support having a trained Player Safety Coach (PSC) at each member school but believes that annual training is not needed. There is consensus to recommend that to remain certified the PSC must complete the in-person training every other year instead of annually and that he/she would be exempt from the online course requirement if they attend the in-person clinic. All other coaches would continue to be required to complete the online certification requirements annually.

Staff reminded the group that the concussion and heat illness course are not optional for coaches and based on state law and OSAA policy. Player Safety Coaches attending an in-person clinic would still be required to complete these courses after the fact to be considered certified.

The group intends to finalize this discussion and make recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for consideration.

The following topics will be addressed at the next scheduled meeting:

- Defining criteria to move schools up a classification level
- Strategies to address declining participation numbers
- Strategies to address declining number of game officials
- Role of the OSAA and member schools as related to youth football
- Defining allowable NFHS rule variations at the sub-varsity level

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, like this one, to all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, and football coaches 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 should be emailed to the OSAA at bradg@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 Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee is January 28, 2019. 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 Brad Garrett (bradg@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.



High School Consensus Youth Football Position Statement

Preamble:

The above organizations recognize and appreciate the efforts of youth football coaches and administrators throughout the state of Oregon. Providing a Football experience prior to high school is optimal for the development of the total player. How that experience is delivered and the philosophy behind the introduction of age appropriate skill development is at the core of any quality program. Based on this all organizations agree on the following core principles that should be part of any youth football program.

Principles:

- Youth football should start in mid-August and conclude by first weekend of November of each year. No youth program should have a longer season than a high school program.
- No youth football pre-season practice should exceed more than two hours in length with a maximum of four practices per week – teams should never practice twice in the same day. In-season practice sessions should be reduced to a maximum of 3 per week.
- All youth practices should focus on developmentally appropriate activities that emphasize motor and foundational skills. All players should learn and be allowed to play every position on the field prior to grade 7.
- Youth football should participate in a maximum of three days of full contact each week, excluding games. A maximum of 90 minutes of Full Contact combined is allowed during these three days. Of those 90 minutes per week only 15 minutes can be Live Action. Full contact is defined as follows:
 - Thud – Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact, no predetermined “winner.” Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill. This applies to simulations and drills involving any number of players.
 - Live Action – Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground. This applies to simulations and drills involving any number of players.
- Youth football should be viewed at as a Developmental league and not a Championship league. Given this, all teams should be limited to a maximum of 8 games, including any type of culminating event(s).
- No youth player should participate in the 11-player game until grade 7. USA Football’s Rookie Tackle should be played in grades 5 and 6. Flag Football should be played in grades K-4.
- All youth coaches should be Heads Up certified annually and have successfully completed a background check prior to assuming any coaching responsibilities.
- Youth programs using school district facilities should be able to provide adequate insurance coverage to reduce the potential for increased liability.
- Fees required for participation should be minimized as much as possible. Costs for required equipment and officials should be outlined for all participants. Supplemental equipment costs should be eliminated.
- All programs shall follow Oregon youth concussion laws, have adopted emergency action plans, and have appropriate medical personnel available when possible.