



Oregon School Activities Association

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November 10, 2020

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: Inclusion Committee – November 10 Meeting Minutes

The OSAA Inclusion Committee met for the first time this school year in a closed work session on Tuesday, November 10, via zoom meeting. The attendees included Trent Kroll (Hood River HS), Heidi Hermansen (Central Linn), Bill Masei (Dallas HS), Shana Lavier (Dallas HS), Carly Schmidt (Adaptive Sports NW), Jessica McGuire (Willamette ESD), Kayla Bolnick (Para-Athlete, Wilsonville HS Alum), Adin Williams (Para-Athlete, Gladstone HS Alum), Katelyn Johnson (Adaptive Sports NW), a guest, David Hanna (Adaptive Sports NW) along with OSAA Staff members Kris Welch, Brad Garrett and Kelly Foster.

We welcomed our newest Committee member, Katelyn Johnson, Adaptive Sports NW Program Coordinator. We began with the evolution of OSAA policies, procedures and protocols since the pandemic hit in March and how the OSAA came up with the 2020-21 Association year. This included how the Executive Board, which met every 2 weeks since April and helped adopt the 4 season approach: Season 1 (August 31 – December 27); Season 2 our traditional winter sports (December 28 – March 7); Season 3 our traditional fall sports (February 22 – May 2); and Season 4 our traditional spring sports (April 19 – June 27). Season 1 was basically an extension of the summer policy allowing schools who could participate to do so while it did not have a direct effect to those schools who could not do sports/activities. Seasons 2 – 4 were divided equally with 2 weeks of practice, followed by 7 weeks of competition then followed by a week of culminating events. We also discussed the K-12 School Sports statewide reopening including 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 primary focus for this meeting was to disseminate information on what the OSAA has done over the past several months and to gather feedback from this group that we could take back to the Contingency Groups and Executive Board to help with the decisions, protocols, and policies for the 2020-21 Association School; and brainstorm potential resources and ideas to increase awareness and problem solve the challenges facing schools during Season 2 – 4.

The group discussed where some of the schools are at in participating during Season 1. Some schools are working with their athletes with conditioning and practices, but very limited overall. Some schools have taken Season 1 and broken it into 3 separate seasons to allow their athletes time with their teams and coaches, while other have been limited to just conditioning and workouts, nothing sport specific. All of the schools represented on this Committee are in Comprehensive Distance Learning at this time, with some hoping to start some type of hybrid before the end of December, while others will be in Comprehensive Distance Learning until the completion of the first semester at the end of January. Some of the programs are doing both virtual workouts and outdoor fitness, but with the weather change some are strictly participating in virtual practices. Adaptive Sports NW has started a few new sports, archery being one, with limited groups, and have begun online free rental programs like wheelchairs and special equipment to help the

para-athletes. They have made the decision to not start any programs until the OSAA opens up for participation and competitions.

Discussion then turned to accommodations that may need to be made for para-athletes when discussing the culminating event weeks. While some para-athletes may have underlying health conditions, the main concern is considering those athletes' caregivers, who are more likely to be more vulnerable and a higher risk. Ultimately universal precautions would be better for everyone. Families will need to self-select if their student-athletes should participate or not. With the potential of the culminating week events not looking the same as our state championships, some of the things that need to be considered for the para-athletes are: physical accessibility of the venues being used as host sites; transportation and handling of their equipment, who will be responsible for sanitizing it prior to competition; who will be able to work with these athletes as some para-athletes need more hands on help/coaching where the 6 feet of physical distancing can't be maintained, will their family members be allowed to be present at the events.

During this pandemic several individuals are suffering from depression and mental health due to the isolation and lack of interaction, comradery, competition that their anxiety is rising and there needs to be more resources available to all athletes to them cope during this pandemic.

The Committee continues to support that para-athletes ability to participate with their team throughout the regular season.

The Committee will hold their next meeting sometime at a later date after the completion of Season 4.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Inclusion Committee for their review. Contact Peter Weber (peterw@osaa.org) or Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.