



## Oregon School Activities Association

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January 27, 2020

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

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

SUBJECT: Inclusion Committee – January 23 Meeting Minutes

The OSAA Inclusion Committee met for the first time this school year in a closed work session on Thursday, January 23 at the OSAA office in Wilsonville. In person attendees included Trent Kroll (Hood River HS), Bill Masei (Dallas HS), Deb Mandeville (Wilsonville HS), Shana Lavier (Dallas HS), Kayla Bolnick (Para-Athlete, Wilsonville HS Alum), Adin Williams (Para-Athlete, Gladstone HS Alum) Kirsten French (NW Association for Blind Athletes, teleconferenced) along with OSAA Staff members Kris Welch, K.T. Emerson and Kelly Foster.

We welcomed our newest Committee members, Trent Kroll, Hood River HS Athletic Director; Shana Lavier, Dallas HS Special Education Teacher; Kirsten French, Program Coordinator, NW Association for Blind Athletes; Kayla Bolnick, para-athlete, Wilsonville HS alum; and Adin Williams, para-athlete, Gladstone HS alum. We began with a recap of the June 2019 meeting, along with recent action taken by the Executive Board regarding increased number of committee members, Swim Championship schedule change for para-athletes to compete on Saturday, finals day, flexible scoring for track & field dependent on the number of participating schools. The OSAA Executive Board approved splitting the 100M, 400M, and 1500M into two events; one for wheelchair and one for ambulatory as long as there is a minimum of 2 athletes for each event, otherwise the event will be combined.

The primary focus for this meeting was to look over the Para-Athlete Disability Certificate that every participant will need to submit prior to competing at the State Championships; and brainstorm potential resources and ideas to increase awareness among schools to increase the number of para-athletes participating by creating a survey for school to submit.

The group discussed potential resources and who they can make connections with to increase awareness of the opportunities for para-athletes and also to educate coaches on how to coach para-athletes. There is a former para-athlete swim coach in Oregon who is very knowledgeable in coaching the strategies and techniques of para-athletes and a committee member will reach out to talk with this coach. Another opportunity would be at the Special Education COSA Conference held in Eugene in October and having someone attend to speak to that group. Additionally, we will be contacting ESDs and school districts for occupational and physical therapists, plus special education teachers, that may be interested in joining the committee.

The Committee continues to support that para-athletes need to be academically eligible and participate with their team throughout the regular season.

The Committee will hold their next meeting on June 1, 2020 at 9am at the OSAA office in Wilsonville. The meeting will be open to the public.

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