



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



September 25, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Baseball Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Baseball Contingency Group met on September 24, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the second time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 4 sports with Baseball, Golf, Softball, Tennis, and Track & Field Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff updated the groups on items since the last meeting. After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

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 197 membership schools who sponsor baseball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over the Baseball Plan Book to ensure everyone understands what schools can and cannot do and the expectations. The OSAA Office has had some conversations with community members who have witnessed competitions and practices where the OHA mandates on wearing a mask when six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. That means at the very least, every catcher and plate umpire should be wearing a mask during play.

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 some discussion, the Group started on the focused questions.

What conversations are people having about plans for transportation?

Some schools have stated that there will not be any transportation until there are new OHA Guidelines everything as of right now are self-transport. Other schools are hearing that they will need to stay local and possibly have the parents drive their kids to contests. The bigger concern is the availability of buses with the OHA Guidelines and the need for the students being transported. Some schools are having their coaches get Type-20 certified so that the coaches can drive the smaller activity buses. Some area, the communities are willing to do whatever is necessary (fundraising or driving themselves) as their kids lost all of last year and

don't want that to happen again this year. Some school districts have used and will continue to use taxi cabs to get to games especially if they stay local and not have to travel far.

Would the elimination of Rankings for this year help schools with scheduling?

Most schools have not done a whole lot with scheduling right now as they are waiting for what that culminating week looks like. They also feel like Season 4 is a long ways off and things are going to change, but as a contingency in case things don't change, the Group was supportive of a "human element", not because of the lack of contests to create the data, but to allow for schools to stay locally and play outside of their classification if they need too. They are also supportive of saying that the League Champions and maybe the #2's from each League are automatically in the playoffs and allowing a group, maybe the baseball league reps, or a Committee) could fill out the remainder of the bracket. This group still wants to have a state championship at this point and to create the best possible positive experience for the kids. Schools could schedule their games within the first 6 weeks of the season and then use week 7 for League tournaments to determine seedings.

What are your initial priorities on Culminating week?

Most people would like to see some type of State Championships, especially sense baseball missed out on this last year. They want to have something "exciting" to shoot for and there really should be limited obstacles involved, especially a money issue. We started throwing out a few examples, but everyone agreed we should probably have a Plan A, a Plan B, and maybe a Plan C, with Plan A being a typical state championship look whether that is modified to a regional approach, limiting the number of teams into a bracket (Final 8 or 16 team), or just matching up "leagues" and placing them into flights of 8 teams to play 3 extra games during that week. This would give teams/schools something to play for instead of just an extra week of competitions. 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, especially since club/American Legion will be starting up since the season has extended into the middle to end of June. Teams will probably be traveling the following week after the culminating week, so we should do everything we can to have a "true" state championship. 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. Some group members have started thinking about potential proposals for each classification. Kris will send out to the Group everyone's email addresses as members have been working on potential culminating week options. This group is committed to the baseball players in Oregon and are working diligently on options to make experiences for all players a positive one!

The future meeting dates:

- TBD in November (6:30pm – 7:45pm) maybe not meeting as we have time and see what comes out of the Delegate Assembly meeting and any changes if any from the Oregon Health Authority.

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!