



Oregon School Activities Association

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November 5, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Basketball Contingency Group Meeting Summary – Wednesday, November 4

The OSAA Basketball Contingency Group met on November 4, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the third time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 2 sports with Basketball, Swimming, and Wrestling 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.

We quickly reviewed our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 204 membership schools who sponsor basketball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty. The Governor's office has announced new matrices for getting students back in school, which has been their focus point for some time. Our hopes is that now this major development has been accomplished at least in the preliminary status, now that group could turn their focus on other items to help with k-12 sports in at least 2 areas; reclassifying basketball as a non-prohibitive sport and possibly working to adjust the restrictions on k-12 indoor sports being tied to the type of learning to allow schools who are in a Comprehensive Distance Learning the opportunity to compete against other schools while still in distance learning. The challenges facing the schools is that there are a majority of schools who have made the decision to stay in Comprehensive Distance Learning through the end of the first semester, which ends around the end of January (3 weeks into the 7 weeks of competitions). Unless the indoor competition restrictions change many of the schools will not be able to participate during Season 2 for at least the first 5 weeks of the season, limiting the amount of contests a school can perform in during an already shortened basketball season.

Before we started discussing the focus questions, there were some comments being made with some considerations of different options. It was brought up that we should flip girls basketball and volleyball because volleyball is not a prohibitive sport so schools can play volleyball during Season 2, which would allow Girls Basketball the opportunity to delay with the hopes the basketball could be reclassified by the time Season 3 comes around. This brought up some good conversations from the basketball world with possible solutions, but that would affect the volleyball world as indoor sports are limited from competition for all but about 40 schools who are in hybrid or in-person learning. Another concern with that is the availability of officials as many officials are multiple sport officials and could place additional strains on an already challenging time for officials. Another topic discussed was with the recent announcement of Portland State and University of Portland Basketball being allowed to participate in basketball, we need to start organizing

communication with the Governor's office putting the pressure on them to reclassify basketball like they did for the Division 1 schools. It was reiterated that we are already in direct communication with that group and our goals/intentions of getting high school students back to playing the contact sports. There is conversations that take place weekly with that group and there are some areas in Oregon where the Legislative leaders are trying to also influence the reclassifying of basketball, with not much movement yet. The reason why the Governor is allowing the Division 1 schools the opportunity to play basketball is because they presented a COVID health and safety plans requesting the opportunity to resume practice and competition, they extended the Pac-12 exemption for college athletics to all Division I schools in Oregon because it is only fair to give Portland State University and the University of Portland the same opportunity that Oregon's Pac-12 schools have had. They stress that this exemption does not automatically grant these programs the ability to practice and play. They must first work with the doctors and health experts at the Oregon Health Authority and demonstrate that they have met the same standards of health and safety as Oregon's other Division I programs, with one particular piece that every athlete is to be tested daily for COVID -19, which most high schools could not afford to do this.

After some discussion, the Group started on the focused questions.

If the OSAA Executive Board did decide to delay Season 2, what impacts would that have on Basketball specifically? Let's say they delayed until January 11th or 18th for a start date and maintained the current end date? How would that affect your program?

It would be difficult to put a particular date on the number of weeks of competition, ultimately both coaches and athletes want to be together and play and provide those positive experiences and interactions that are lacking right now. Practices from December 28th until the actual start of competitions would count towards the 9 mandatory practices prior to competing, but at some point, practices can only go so far. Schools are willing to make it work in a not so ideal situation as the season has already been shortened from 12 weeks of competition to 7 weeks (from 24 games to 14 games). It will be a hard pill to swallow if there are any weeks cut from the already shortened season. This group would suggest if the season needs to be shortened, that instead of shortening the season, Basketball should move to another Season. Moving Basketball as opposed to cutting Basketball.

What would be the challenges for your schools if Basketball got moved to another timeframe (or another season) on the current OSAA calendar??

The group has some great conversations as there are several challenges involved; sharing of athletes, sharing of coaches who coach both sports, sharing/availability of officials, sharing of facilities are just a few examples. This group is supportive and believes that the adults will "step up" and make the possibilities happen for the betterment of the kids! Kids need to have these experiences, and with the stakes not being as high as they have been in the past, meaning probably no state championships or even league championships, the focus for the kids will be on development of their fundamental skills and providing positive experiences for their student-athletes. Coaches will work together to create schedules for practices and be more flexible on attendance due to participating in another sport during the same season. As for the lack/availability of officials, school will be respectful about flexibility of moving contests and help even more with recruiting, even if that means getting their coaches of other sports to officiate contests. This may end up being a more positive situation for the newer officials as there will probably not be very many spectators to yell at them and turn them away from officiating. This group wants basketball, their ultimate priority is to get the kids playing!

The future meeting dates:

- TBD, (6:30pm – 7:45pm) definitely meeting again, just not sure when

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!