



## Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors  
FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: Winter Activities Reminders and Updates

Thank you for your efforts and the critical role you played throughout the Fall season to help make participation opportunities available for students throughout our state. We've heard countless stories of the tremendous benefits that students have experienced through participation over the past several months. As we wrap up a successful run of Fall State Championships and look forward to the start of Winter activity competitions on Wednesday, December 1, here are a few reminders/updates.

As a membership of schools, it's critical that schools work closely with one another and their communities to uphold state-mandated administrative rules by adhering to these requirements. This provides us with the best opportunity to keep people healthy while continuing to maximize participation opportunities during Winter activities.

### **Outdoor Mask Mandate**

The OHA lifted the mandate for outdoor mask wearing in crowded settings, effective November 23, and the OSAA made changes accordingly for last weekend's Football State Championship events. Per the amended OARs, outdoor face coverings are now a local decision.

### **Indoor Mask Mandate**

The OHA's indoor mask mandate remains in effect with [OAR 333-019-1025](#) and [OAR 333-019-1015](#) outlining the state-mandated masking requirements.

- Students are not required to wear a mask indoors when practicing or playing a competitive sport.
- Officials actively officiating a competitive sport that requires a high level of physical exertion by the official are not required to wear a mask (i.e., basketball and wrestling in the Winter).
- Students not actively participating (i.e., on the sideline during an indoor or outdoor competition, etc.) are required to wear a mask.
- Indoor spectators (5 years or older), coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask in an indoor setting, except when actively eating or drinking.
- Remember that a school, county, or facility may institute more restrictive requirements and a visiting school, and its supporters, must adhere to the more restrictive measures in place from their hosting opponent.

### **Academic Eligibility Hardship Request Process**

As in the Fall, the OSAA will continue to utilize an email process for academic eligibility hardship requests rather than the online request form. A school administrator may email a list of academically ineligible students to [peterw@osaa.org](mailto:peterw@osaa.org). The request should include each student's name, grade, and how they are ineligible (not on track to graduate and/or didn't pass enough classes in the previous term), along with confirmation that the school has an academic action plan in place for each student. Students that are granted academic eligibility must remain enrolled and passing all current classes to be eligible for competition. We will do our best to review and respond to each request in a timely fashion.

### **Vaccination/Exemption Requirement for Contractors/Service Providers and Volunteers**

A reminder that as of October 18, 2021, per [OAR 333-019-1030](#), contractors/service providers and volunteers for school based programs are required to be fully vaccinated or have provided documentation of a medical or religious exemption to the school. Contractors/service providers and volunteers with direct or indirect contact with students must meet this state-mandated requirement prior to working/volunteering at school events.

### **OHA/ODE Test to Stay**

OHA and ODE have developed a new [Test to Stay](#) protocol that will allow unvaccinated students and staff to participate in in-person learning as safely as possible while lessening the burden of quarantine on students, families, and staff. The test to stay protocol is a critical tool to keep Oregon's students learning in person; however, the best tool remains vaccination. CDC and OHA recommend all children 5 years and older be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccinated students and staff are not subject to quarantine following exposures to COVID-19.

- Test to stay is available only for unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals who were exposed in indoor and outdoor school settings where universal masking is fully in place. Indoors and outdoors exposures are reviewed for proximity and duration of exposure.
- Test to stay may not be used following extracurricular exposures because masking in these settings is optional and the risk of transmission within the cohort is greater. Similarly, test to stay may not be used following community or in-home exposures.
- Test to stay allows unvaccinated individuals to be tested twice during the 7 days following exposure. First, as soon as the exposure has been identified, with a second test occurring between days 5-7 following the exposure.
- Test to stay is a form of modified quarantine, which allows individuals to attend school during their 7-day quarantine period. However, individuals participating in test to stay are expected to maintain quarantine outside of classroom settings.
  - Students and staff participating in test to stay may participate in school-related extracurricular activities during their 7-day quarantine period but must wear face coverings at all times during these activities.
- Close contact students and staff have the option of following LPHA recommendation for length of quarantine if their family does not want to participate in test to stay.
- Q: If a student is exposed during an extracurricular event and wasn't wearing a mask, are they eligible to participate?  
A: No; the exposure must occur in a K-12 setting in which universal masking is in place.

### **OHA Indoor Space Masking Requirements for Person Responsible for an Indoor Space**

A person responsible for an indoor space must: (a) Ensure that employees, contractors, and volunteers comply with this rule within the indoor space. (b) Make reasonable efforts to ensure customers, guests, visitors, and other individuals comply with this rule within the indoor space. (c) Post signs at every entrance to the indoor space that masks, face coverings or face shields are required as described in this rule.

### **OSAA Communication Expectations Prior to and During an Event**

- OSAA Rule 1.5 requires a principal to designate an authorized representative to accompany teams or individuals participating in an activity. The school shall be responsible for acts of its school teams or individuals while on trips, or while participating in any such activity. If an authorized representative is used, they shall also be included in any pre-event communication between schools regarding masking requirements and any additional restrictions put in place by the host school.
- Host school posts signs at every entrance to the event that masks are required as described in the OHA rule.
- Host school to provide masks at entrances, if needed.
- Public address announcements read throughout the event outlining OHA masking requirements.

### **OSAA Best Practice Procedures for Non-Compliance**

NOTE: Each of these procedures must be followed, along with communication between administrators from the participating schools verifying the processes followed, prior to ending a contest.

- Public address announcements read reminding individuals of the need to follow the masking requirements.
- Administration of the school affiliated with the person(s) not complying to request that the person(s) follow the masking requirements.
- If still non-compliant, person(s) asked to leave the facility.
- If person(s) refuse(s) to leave the facility, the contest may be interrupted to address the situation.
- Final opportunity for person(s) to leave the facility or the contest may be delayed or ended.
- Consider requiring all spectators to vacate the facility prior to the contest being delayed or ended.
- End the contest. A forfeit may be assessed to the school affiliated with the person(s) not complying, with potential additional sanctions as determined by the Executive Board.

We are all excited to see competitions begin this week for winter activities. Thank you for your hard work and diligence with your students and communities. Please let us know if you have questions.