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March 16, 2021

OSAA Golf Contingency Group Meeting

The OSAA Golf Contingency Group met on Tuesday, March 16. Initially, all Season 3 contingency groups met together with OSAA Staff to initialize conversations and to understand their purpose and how we got to where we are in this process.

During the breakdown the group addressed several topics but started with an overall conversation of where each school/program is. Many schools are trying to get kids back in school by April 19 by Governor's orders. The volatility of county risk levels has caused schools to be extremely flexible with scheduling and sometimes unable to compete during Season 2. Many athletic directors have been stretched to make accommodations with all the variables within the ecosystem.

Extension of Season

Earlier in the year there was the idea presented about extending Season 3 if Season 4 sports continued to be prohibited. Because of the unknowns on if that season will take place or not, the golf group wanted to focus on the current timelines and have the season conclude at its currently scheduled dates. Schools rely heavily on the cooperation of their local golf courses and not having solidified dates on the calendar would be problematic. If Season 4 was eliminated, the coaches would be interested in moving back to a "Season 1" approach after the culminating week which would provide additional opportunities through the duration of the Association Year.

Face Coverings

Per Oregon Health Authority (OHA) mandates, all students must wear a mask during practice or competition. The Committee understands that masks have not be commonly used in golf since the pandemic began but understand the statewide mandate.

Culminating Weeks

The Golf Contingency Group continues to want to explore what a state championship could look like for 2021. The OSAA Executive Board will be reviewing options and make decisions on Season 3 events by March 31. With that being said, the group understands that if an event did take place, it would look extremely different than past years because many leagues/conferences are playing locally/regionally. With not having a league format in place, and by recommendation from the OSAA Executive Board earlier this year, a qualification structure become difficult to facilitate.

The group understands that if a culminating week event was to take place the field would be extremely minimized, use of a scoring average or USGA handicap may be used to qualify, and will be a one day / 18-hole event. The OSAA Executive Board will have decisions by March 31.

The next meeting for the Committee has yet to be determined. If you would like to provide feedback to the group, please contact Kyle Stanfield at <u>kyles@osaa.org</u>.