



Oregon School Activities Association

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



SEASON 2 CLARIFICATIONS – February 24, 2021

The OSAA Staff plans to send regular updates to schools with clarifications based on recent communication with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regarding common questions for indoor and outdoor recreation policies and protocols.

MASKS REQUIREMENT

- **Are there any exceptions to the requirement to wear masks for indoor and outdoor sports for participants, coaches, officials, etc.?**
 - There are no exceptions to the mask requirement.
- **Are football players required to wear masks under their helmets?**
 - Yes, masks are required under football helmets. Internal cage covers do not comply with the OHA's definition for face coverings:
 - "Face covering" means a cloth, polypropylene, paper or other face covering that covers the nose and mouth and that rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face.

SPECTATORS

- **Are spectators allowed at soccer, cross country, and volleyball contests?**
 - There is no prohibition from OHA on spectators for these contests, but schools must adhere to the venue capacity limits outlined in the [OHA's Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#). Capacity limits include everyone at the facility, including players, coaches, officials, staff, spectators, etc.
- **Are spectators allowed in lower and moderate counties for outdoor full-contact sports (i.e. football)?**
 - There is no prohibition from OHA on spectators for these contests, but schools must adhere to the venue capacity limits outlined in the [OHA's Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#). Capacity limits include everyone at the facility, including players, coaches, officials, staff, spectators, etc.
- **Are spectators allowed in high and extreme counties for outdoor full-contact sports (i.e. football)?**
 - No, OHA protocols for outdoor contact sports in high and extreme risk counties prohibit spectators.
- **Are spirit groups (cheer and dance) considered spectators at contests?**
 - No, but spirit groups would count toward the venue capacity limit and must follow all OHA guidance.
- **Are people that remain in their vehicles in the parking lot included in the venue capacity limits? What about people outside of their vehicles who line up along a fence to view a contest?**
 - OHA has indicated that people who remain in their vehicles in the parking lot to view a contest would not count toward the venue capacity limit. However, people congregating outside of their vehicles along a fence line at a venue would be considered spectators and count toward the venue capacity limit.

STADIUM PRESS BOXES

- **Are event personnel located in a stadium press box included in a venue's capacity limit?**
 - OHA has advised that an enclosed stadium press box would be considered a separate location and not count toward a venue's capacity limit. Event personnel numbers in the press box must be limited in order to maintain physical distancing. This can help provide space for personnel to film/stream the contests. These spaces are not to be used for spectators.

TRAVEL GUIDANCE FROM OHA

- **Are schools in extreme risk counties able to travel to other counties to participate in indoor sports?**
 - OHA has advised that traveling from extreme risk counties to lower risk counties for the purposes of playing indoor sports is prohibited. It violates the purpose of designating county risk levels. We've been told that OHA travel guidance is in the process of being updated.
- **What is the OHA's stance on traveling out of state for athletic competitions?**
 - OHA updated its [Statewide Recommendations for Travel](#) on February 23 classifying participation in K-12 school sports, adult, youth and club sports as essential travel in accordance with the [Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Fitness Establishments Guidance](#).

OUTDOOR FULL-CONTACT SPORTS OPT IN FORM, TESTING, AND PROCEDURES

- **What is the process for schools in high or extreme risk to opt in for outdoor full-contact sports?**
 - The school must complete the [Outdoor Contact Sports Opt In Form](#), post the completed form to the school and/or school district website, and [submit the form to ODE at this link](#). A list of schools that have completed the process to opt in is [posted on the ODE website](#). Schools having issues with their form appearing on the ODE website should email ODECOVID19@ode.state.or.us for assistance.
- **Can schools in high or extreme risk counties begin contact football if they haven't received the tests for on-site symptomatic testing?**
 - Yes, if the school has signed up for the testing program and is fulfilling all their responsibilities, the school can start with contact practices even though they don't have the tests on site (schools should receive the tests on or before March 1 according to ODE).
- **Does a family have to consent to testing in order to participate in outdoor full-contact sports in a high or extreme risk county?**
 - No, the requirement is on the school to offer symptomatic testing for any outdoor full-contact sport the school opts in to offer through the ODE form. It does not require the family to consent to testing. If the family did want the student to be tested, then the school would need a signed consent form. However, the student is required to isolate/quarantine when symptomatic or exposed to a COVID case and testing can shorten these quarantine times. Schools should reference the [COVID-19 Testing in Oregon Schools](#) document for additional information.
- **Does a minimum of limited in-person learning (LIPI) have to be occurring in the high school in order to opt in or can it be any school in the district?**
 - At least LIPI has to actually be occurring in the high school in order to opt in.
- **Does a host school have to collect waivers from the visiting team for an outdoor contact sport contest?**
 - No, the visiting team is responsible for having waivers for its own students and does not need to furnish the waivers to the host school.
- **What does a visiting school need to provide to a host school regarding contact tracing?**
 - The visiting school must provide a roster of participants at the contest, including at a minimum the first and last name of players, coaches, and other school personnel, to the host school. The visiting school should also certify that the required pre-screening questions have been completed for all of its aforementioned participants.