



## Oregon School Activities Association

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September 18, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Soccer Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Soccer Contingency Group met on September 17, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the 8<sup>th</sup> time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 3 sports with Football, Volleyball, and Soccer (Cross Country met on September 16 as Brad has 2 activities in the fall) Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff went over the evolution of our policies and procedures for the 2020-21 Association year. This included the memos and documents on what schools could and could not do depending on their educational system in place; comprehensive distance learning (no indoor competitions, but can compete in outdoor activities and competitions), in-person or hybrid learning (indoor competitions could take place along with all outdoor activities and athletics). After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

The Soccer Contingency quickly reviewed our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board and Delegate Assembly members for the October 12 meeting, and to help our 179 membership schools who sponsor soccer during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over all of the information that we know as of September 17: The OSAA Executive Board met during a work session on August 5 and made some decisions; open up the Association year on August 31, and create a 4 season calendar for the Association year breaking the last 3 seasons into 9 equal weeks, 7 weeks of competition. Starting with Season 1 (August 31 – December 27) being an open season, while still following the OSAA Policies and rules except for a few exceptions; followed by Season 2 (December 28 – February 28) our “traditional winter sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 3 (February 22 – April 28) our “traditional fall sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 4 (April 19 – June 20) our “traditional spring sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events. The Governor also released the K-12 School Sports, Limited Return to Play Guidance. This new guidance ties the abilities of schools to education restrictions as opposed to county phases. If a school is in comprehensive distance learning without in-person learning they can participate in outdoor activities including competitions, but indoors would be limited to conditioning and no competitions. If a school district decided to have some in-person learning, they can do all of the same restrictions as an online only school but can also participate in competitions that are indoors. In either case masks must be worn indoors at all times and also outdoors where 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

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 all of the information, the Group started discussing the focused questions.

### **Season 1 Plan Book for Soccer**

*The Group went over the first 3 pages of this document most of the information came from this group and the information shared with us over the previous seven meetings. The group is encouraged to go onto the OSAA website ([www.osaa.org](http://www.osaa.org)) select either boys or girls soccer activity and click on the [link](#) and give suggestions to Kris Welch for edits.*

### **Thoughts for what schools are planning for transportation.**

*The first discussion point was on transportation and there are some schools who depend on charter buses and as of right now, some charters are refusing to provide this service to school districts. Some school districts are able to have transportation, but the bus can only be half the normal capacity due to physical distancing, which causes issues for multiple teams (JV & Varsity) to travel together, which causes increased expenses if there are enough buses available for after school activities. As of now, some school districts are allowing their teams to meet for workouts, not too many are permitting competition, but if that status changes, during Season 1 at least the students will be on their own to get to the competitions and no sharing of rides will be allowed by athletes. Other school districts are limiting their travel to no more than an hour away, while other districts could allow further distances, but only with their Varsity teams. There is still lots of time before Season 3 takes place and many things may change before then and hopefully for the better.*

### **Is there a need to use/post the Rankings for the 2020-21 School year?**

*There was some fantastic discussion on this matter, this group talked about the challenges of using the Rankings; lower number of matches and limited cross league play could impact their effectiveness due to the pandemic this year. Another concern brought up was if situations where a school needs to cancel matches throughout the season and the impact that has on Rankings. The group talked about possibly adding a “human” factor in helping to determine matchups for the culminating week using a myriad of information. Input could come from a coaches’ poll, a committee, etc. as a possibility. The support for not solely using the Rankings to place teams this year was an exciting idea for this year. Ultimate flexibility keeps options available so schools can start organizing schedules to help ensure every school who sponsors soccer gets 10 matches and at least 2 additional matches during the culminating week.*

### **Culminating week, what does that look like?**

*We discussed four different options that could be used instead of our traditional bracketed state playoff system. By creating an alternative system for the culminating week it could create opportunities of all kinds as we get closer and closer to Season 3. The four potential options are:*

- 1) State Championship of some kind*
- 2) Regional Championship*
- 3) Showcase tournaments by Classification*
- 4) Combination of either by Classification and/or Regional Championships*

*The topic of finances and reimbursements were brought up with the culminating weeks, just to get people thinking about how the week will be done and who could be the limited financial resources this year. This topic was tabled for further discussion and by other individuals.*

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, October 1 (6:30pm – 7:45pm)

We may not need this meeting, but at least place it on the Groups calendar.

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 that out with the invite for the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you for everyone's willingness to be on this group and for your insight!