



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Soccer Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Soccer Contingency Group met on January 6, 2021 via a Zoom meeting for the 10th time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 2 sports with Football, Volleyball, and Soccer Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff went over the current status as of January 6 for the 2020-21 Association year. It included the Executive Board's December 7th decision to shift the seasons and truncate each season to 5 weeks of competitions. This also included a summary of the OHA's latest directive of tying Indoor and Outdoor Recreational Activities to a County's Risk level instead of a school's instructional method. It also tied all groups together under the same guidance with the only exception being Professional and Division 1 sports. We continue to request the reclassification of the sports and potential loosening on the restrictions but have not heard back yet. 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 to help our 179 membership schools who sponsor soccer during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

Any regular season recommendations for the Board to consider?

The first question being with the lowering of contests for the 5-week regular season, would jamborees be an option for schools who wish to participate in them. Jamborees are allowed and would not count against the participation limitation, but schools who want to host these events need to take into consideration the large gathering size when determining how many schools to invite. Another question/concern is how Spring Break is being addressed, this is a concern to the coaches, as spring break is in the middle of the season so instead of 5 weeks of competition, it is really only 4 weeks. This was a good observation, and hope the schools communicate this with their families to see about the possibilities of scheduling matches during Spring Break, families will hopefully be receptive to this pandemic and the coaches be flexible in working with their communities. Another question is the incorporation of the Washington schools, sense they too have soccer scheduled, will Oregon schools be allowed to schedule these matches. What about the 14-day quarantine? The travel restrictions are recommendations, not requirements so scheduling this schools will be a school's decision. Another question is who will be responsible for the mask policy being followed by participants and coaches. That responsibility is on everyone to help out. We are in this together, officials, coaches, and game

administrators (COVID officer) to help monitor and make sure everyone is safely participating by wearing masks at all times.

Culminating Activity – not all schools will opt in – likely some will create their own bubble because of travel restrictions/concerns impacting number of participating schools. Does this matter? Should it be an extra week of competitions or a culminating activity?

Soccer has been being played for the past 5 months and it is felt that there needs to be something more than just playing additional games, the teams want to be playing “for something of meaning.” This also brings up the question, with the lowering of weeks of competition from 7 to 5, will the sub-varsity teams be allowed to participate and get a few more competitions and “touches during competition?” This group is supportive of allowing that extra week of competition for the sub-varsity teams and truly would like the culminating week. In previous meetings this group discussed a maximum of 3 additional matches for the Varsity teams. Could there be 3 different options for schools during the culminating week (opt-out, opt in to just schedule 2 additional matches, or Opt-in to playing for something). Schools could fill out a survey within the first week of competition so that a Committee could get together either regionally or state-wide, take that information from the survey and place competitive groups of 8 or 4 into their own brackets/flights with a double elimination format so that all schools involved get at least 2 matches throughout the week. This would have to be cross classification with potentially a 3A school competing against a 6A school just to match up competitive groups as some regions don’t have as many teams within their classification.

Practice Limitation “Rule of 2, or Pilot Program? What are your thoughts for the Board on practice limitations? Should the Board leave the seasons open so coaches can coach year around, or should the Board reinstate the practice limitations during Seasons 2-4?

After some discussions on what schools are doing right now during Season 1, the group came up with consensus on leaving Seasons 2 – 4 open for coaches to be able to coach their athletes outside of their season like they are able to do now. They would like local control so that it provides opportunities for kids to get out of their house and play and be coached by their coaches. The group made some suggestions that priority can be placed on the in-season sport and that coaches need to be humane in their decision making so that multi-sport athletes do not feel pressured to play one sport over another and not to vet programs against each other within the same school. This group’s recommendation would be to continue the same policies during Season 1 for the remainder of the 2020-21 Association year.

The future meeting dates:

- TBD (6:00pm – 7:15pm)

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!