

Tennis Contingency Group Meeting: January 7, 2021 6:00-7:00pm

We began as a whole group of Season 3 sports with Tennis, Track, Baseball, Golf and Softball Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff went over the current status as of January 7, 2021 for the 2020-21 Association year. This included a summary of our December 7th Executive Board meeting where the OSAA calendar was shifted as well as the current restrictions set by OHA and the Governor. There has been some initial conversation that if the prohibited Season 4 sports (basketball and wrestling) aren't able to proceed per the Governor's order, that an extension to Season 3 sports could be considered. Obviously the goal is that the guidance changes and Season 4 sports are able to proceed but this concept has been discussed. After the overview of updated information, we transitioned into sport specific contingency groups.

The Tennis Contingency Group started with a few reminders of the whole group discussion including the continued assessment of the metrics which would affect how many teams can participate in the indoor, if that was needed during the tennis season. The OSAA explained the continued monitoring that is occurring regarding the county risk levels and the schools who can compete indoors.

The group did discuss any recommendations that they would like to address with the OSAA Executive Board prior to the start of the season. The following topics were discussed:

- Tournament Play: The question was asked whether the OSAA should impose a restriction on tournament play? Or if schools should be allowed to make the decision locally on ways in which they can run tournaments and remain within the restrictions imposed by The Governor and OHA?
 - The committee agreed that the OSAA should not be more restrictive than the Governor and OHA and should allow schools to make those decisions locally.

The Tennis Contingency group also discussed the Culminating Week Events and whether or not that week should be given back to schools for them to decide who they will play during that week. The coaches and athletic directors discussed the need for motivation for their student athletes and programs, and the need to keep the possibility of a state championship for tennis in our continued discussions. They believe that students coming together to play and compete against other individuals and teams will be such a great improvement for kids and coaches that regional play may be a good option if there are travel concerns or limitations to what can happen during the Culminating Week Events. There were concerns discussed from various school districts regarding travel and the desire to maintain local/regional options being the current discussion within those districts.

Lastly, the Tennis contingency group discussed the waiver of the practice limitation rule (Rule of 2 and the 6A/5A Pilot Rules). The coaches and athletic directors expressed the need for flexibility with coaching and allowing students to connect with coaches this year. Waiving the rule for the remainder of the year would allow this freedom and the ability for coaches and ADs to be more flexible with students being able to access opportunities. At this time, when tennis coaches are in the off season, they work with their ADs on whether or not they can provide practice opportunities or workouts for interested athletes. The goal is always to ensure that athletes do not feel pressure to attend out of season practices when they are participating in another sport during another season. The tennis contingency group expressed the want to maintain those boundaries and encourage students to participate in multiple sports.

The next meeting is to be determined.