

Volleyball Contingency Group Meeting: January 6, 2021 6:00-7:30pm

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, 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. After the overview of updated information, we transitioned into sport specific contingency groups.

The Volleyball 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 volleyball season. The OSAA explained the continued monitoring that is occurring regarding the county risk levels and the schools who can compete indoors. There have been revolving around whether or not the high school volleyball season would be shortened, moved or cancelled for schools who are still in extreme risk counties at the start of Season 2. The OSAA Staff explained that the OSAA Executive Board will be kept up to date on the status of schools being able to compete and continue to discuss any next steps during upcoming meetings.

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.
 - There was a discussion about scheduling tournaments and a reminder that officials' availability needs to be part of the conversation. Saturdays may be busier for officials due to the collegiate season that may be taking place and club volleyball tournaments. Please communicate with your commissioner to ensure that coverage will not be an issue.
- **Time between matches needed:** Is there a recommendation that should be provided for time between matches for cleaning/disinfecting?
 - K.T. to provide in the Volleyball Plan Book and memo.

The Volleyball 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, however, they believe that at this time the motivation will simply be in being able to play together. They believe that students coming together to play and compete against other teams will be such a great improvement for kids and coaches that not having a big event at the end would be very exciting for their programs. They also indicated that by giving the culminating week back to the schools to decide, then the regional leagues that have been developed can create some kind of final event that could include all of the teams within that area. That process would help avoid travel concerns including virus exposure and costs.

Lastly, the Volleyball 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.

The next meeting is to be determined.