



Oregon School Activities Association

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2024 TENNIS PLAN BOOK

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SEASON DATES

First Practice Date	February 26
First Contest Date	March 11
Cutoff Date	May 18
6A, 4A/3A/2A/1A Finals	May 23-25
5A, Finals	May 24-25

2024 USTA TENNIS RULES

USTA Friend at Court Tennis rule books are available for free via the NFHS at:

<https://nfhs.org/media/6892935/2023-friend-at-court.pdf>. For more information about USTA Tennis Rules, visit <http://www.usta.com>.

Requests for rule interpretations or explanations should be directed to the OSAA. The USTA will assist in answering rules questions from the state associations whenever called upon.

OSAA ADOPTED TENNIS RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

The 2024 USTA Official Rules of Tennis will be used with the following clarifications:

1. USTA Rules will govern play. All rules, such as foot faults, will be enforced.
2. A contestant may enter in one event, i.e., either Singles or Doubles.
3. It is recommended that players from the same school be dressed similarly. If any wording, other than the school name, appears on a player’s uniform, it shall be no larger than 2-1/4 inches square. Players with inappropriate attire will not be permitted to participate and may be subject to delay of match penalties per USTA rules.

OSAA TENNIS POLICIES

Effective outside Association Year.

- A. **All Sports.** Summer activities under the direction of any person affiliated with the high school program, including practices, contests, weight training and conditioning, are permissible throughout the summer, excluding the defined Moratorium Week, and must consider the following points:
 - 1) OSAA regulations regarding the Heat Index Calculator are always in effect. Athletes must be encouraged to stay well hydrated at all times, especially in hot and humid conditions. This applies to outdoor activities and indoor activities without air conditioning. See the [NFHS](#) statements on heat and hydration.
 - 2) Implement a slow and gradual preseason-conditioning regimen that prepares the athlete for the rigors of the sport.
 - 3) Slowly build up the intensity of activity over several days.
 - 4) Have fitness tests (mile run, shuttle run times, maximum repetition exercises) scheduled the second week of practices. Use a progressive, periodized program and evaluate performance once athletes are acclimated to the stress about to be placed upon them.
 - 5) Take into account the level of conditioning of all individuals and what their previous conditioning has been. Athletes who have just finished a sports season should have at least a short period (one to two weeks) of relative rest.
 - 6) Slowly introduce new exercises or workout routines to allow for adaptation by muscle groups.

- 7) Provide adequate rest and recovery between repetitions in the weight room and especially during “gassers” and intense station or “mat” drills.
- 8) Athletes should refrain from consuming high caffeine energy drinks and supplements, or other stimulants, as they may contribute to dehydration. See the [NFHS](#) statement on energy drinks.
- 9) Athletes should refrain from extreme exercise during acute illness, if feeling ill, or while experiencing a fever.

Effective First Practice Date through End of HS Season.

1. [PRACTICE MODEL](#) (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)

(Revised July 2021)

Schools and students are required to adhere to the following practice models.

C. All other sports (Cheerleading, Swimming, Wrestling, Basketball, Dance/Drill, Golf, Tennis, Track & Field, Baseball, Softball)

- 1) All practices shall allow for water breaks and general acclimatization to hot and/or humid weather. Ample amounts of water should always be available, and a student’s access to water should not be restricted. In addition, all practices shall follow the fundamentals set forth in the NFHS’s Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention Position Statement. While the risk of heat illness is greatly dependent upon weather conditions, the fundamentals in the NFHS’s Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention Position Statement promote safety and diminish injury risk in any setting.
- 2) Students may participate in multiple practice sessions per day, but not on consecutive days.
 - a) Single Practice Session. No single practice session shall be longer than three hours, including warm-up and cool down. On days with a single practice session, students are limited to a maximum of one hour of weight training either before or after practice but not both.
 - b) Multiple Practice Sessions. On days with multiple practice sessions, students shall not engage in more than five hours of total practice, including warm-up and cool down. No single practice session shall be longer than three hours, including warm-up and cool down. There must be at least three hours of recovery time between the end of one practice session and the beginning of the next practice session on a day with multiple practice sessions. During this recovery time, students may not engage in other physical activities (e.g., weight training, etc.).
- 3) A student may not practice or participate in a contest for more than six consecutive days without a rest day. A rest day must be complete rest – no organized team physical activity is allowed. Travel is allowed on a rest day.
- 4) A student shall become eligible to participate in a jamboree or interscholastic contest/meet after completing a minimum of five days of actual practice unless the student participated in the immediately preceding season.

1. Q. Can the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days be conducted both prior to practice and after practice if players only participate in one of the weight training sessions?

A. Yes, multiple one-hour weight training sessions may be held but individual players are limited to participation in a single session.

2. Q. Is the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days required to be “immediately” prior to and after the practice?

A. No, the training session does not have to immediately precede or follow the scheduled practice.

3. Q. Is the one-hour weight training session allowed on single practice days also allowed on multiple practice days?

A. No, weight training conducted on multiple practice days counts toward the daily five-hour practice limit.

4. Q. On single practice days may coaches conduct classroom-training sessions that would involve no physical activity?

A. Yes, classroom instruction that requires no physical activity is allowed and does not count towards the daily five-hour practice limit.

5. Q. Is classroom instruction with no physical activity allowed during the required three-hour recovery period between multiple practices?

A. Yes, classroom instruction that requires no physical activity is allowed during the recovery period.

6. Q. A team plans to conduct multiple practices on a single day but wants to reduce the length of each practice to 90 minutes. Can the team reduce the required recovery time of three hours between practice sessions because they have used less than the maximum practice time allowed?

A. No, the three-hour recovery period between practices is required regardless of practice length.

7. **Q.** Are multiple practices on a single day required for all Fall teams?
A. No, teams are not required to have multiple practices on a single day. If multiple practices are conducted, the second practice of the first two multiple practices days is a teaching session only.
8. **Q.** What is the definition of a “teaching session”?
A. During a teaching session, the intensity, duration, and pace of all practice components shall be modified from a normal practice session. The focus of a teaching session should be directed at developing skills fundamental to the sport at a significantly reduced pace. In Football, light contact with bags is allowed but Live Action situations are prohibited. Practice components in all activities intended to develop skills while conditioning the athlete at the same time are not allowed. Coaches are encouraged to use this “teaching session” to address offensive and defensive strategies, skill development drills and other types of team building activities that do not involve conditioning.
9. **Q.** How do you calculate practice time for multiple sport athletes participating in more than one Fall sport?
A. Practice hours are cumulative. On a single practice day, the three-hour practice limit may be split between the two sports but the total practice time, including any breaks, must fit within the three-hour limit. On a multiple practice day, the daily five-hour practice limit may be split between the two sports, but all required recovery periods must be implemented. Any participation for a fraction of a half hour counts as a half hour towards the daily practice limit.
10. **Q.** If Fall multiple sport athletes practice one hour with the Football team and two hours with the Soccer team, are they required to have a recovery period between the two practices?
A. No, this is considered to be one three-hour practice and no recovery period is required. If the combined practice time, including any breaks, exceeds three hours then a three-hour recovery is required.
11. **Q.** May a team practice for 2 hours, take a 30-minute break, and resume for 1 hour?
A. No, this would constitute a violation. Teams may not exceed the maximum practice time of three hours, including all breaks within the schedule.
12. **Q.** In football, are 7-on-7 drills permissible during teaching sessions?
A. Yes, provided that they comply with the foregoing “teaching session” requirements.

2. **PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS** (*OSAA Handbook, Participation Limitations, Tennis*) (*Revised Winter 2020*)

- A. **Team.** A school team shall not compete in more than 16 playing dates at each level of competition, exclusive of the varsity district tournament and state championships. Any time a student participates representing their school, it shall count toward the school’s team limitation.

Teams with limited players (no more than two) may fill open slots in a match between two other schools’ teams. The match shall count as only one playing date for all teams concerned.

- B. **Individual.** A student shall not compete in more than 16 playing dates, exclusive of the varsity district tournament and state championships. Additionally, a student shall not compete in more than three sets per day in a dual match format. A varsity player may play one set or pro-set against a junior varsity player provided they complete their varsity match in straight sets.

C. **Double Duals and Tournaments.**

- 1) A maximum of eight playing dates may be multiple matches in the form of double duals or tournaments.
- 2) A one-day tournament shall count as one playing date for the team. A two-day tournament shall count as two playing dates for the team.
- 3) In a double dual or tournament format, an individual may compete in a maximum of six sets per day.
- 4) In double dual play which involves three team competing in a dual format against each other in one day, a student may participate in multiple levels of play. In addition, a student may compete in both doubles and singles competitions on the same day, but not against the same school. The student may only participate in two matches or a maximum of six sets during ad double dual competition.
- 5) In tournament play, a student may participate in only one level of competition.

3. **INTERRUPTED CONTESTS** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (*Revised Fall 2015*)

Following is the policy concerning interrupted athletic contests. **NOTE:** For state championship final site contests, the OSAA staff shall take jurisdiction and make any decisions rather than the schools involved.

- i. **Tennis.** Match shall be continued from point of interruption. **NOTE:** Previous set(s), game(s), score of game and previous occupancy of courts shall hold unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are a district rules that apply.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION

1. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS POSTING TIMELINES:

- A. **Athletic Directors, Coaches and Spectators:** Detailed information regarding the Tennis State Championships will be posted on the OSAA website (<https://www.osaa.org/activities/gtn>) by May 2. It is essential that participating teams and individuals access this information prior to the state championships. Included will be information regarding ticket prices, parking, maps, how to submit souvenir program information, souvenir merchandise, etc.
- B. **District Meet Directors:** Detailed information regarding the District Meet Director responsibilities, including the state championship entry form, will be posted on the OSAA website (<https://www.osaa.org/activities/gtn>) by April 25. Each District Meet Director must submit all state championship entries electronically.

2. STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LOCATIONS:

- A. **6A:** Tualatin Hills Tennis Center, 15705 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, OR 97006.
- B. **5A:** West Hills Racquet Club, 2200 SW Cedar Hills Blvd, Portland, OR 97225.
- C. **6A, 5A Finals:** Tualatin Hills Tennis Center, 15705 SW Walker Road, Beaverton, OR 97006.
- D. **4A/3A/2A/1A Finals:** Oregon State University, 211 Dixon Recreation Center, Corvallis, OR 97331.

3. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:

- A. **6A** – 28-person OSAA bracket
- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** Twenty-eight singles and doubles teams automatically qualify for the OSAA’s 28-person bracket. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
PIL – 4; Metro – 4; Pacific – 4; Mt. Hood – 4; Three Rivers – 4; Central Valley – 4; Southwest – 4
- 2) **Cutoff Date:** The automatic qualifiers must be determined by 10pm **Saturday, May 18.**
- a) Once the qualifiers are determined, the seeding committee will seed the top eight players/doubles for the 6A.
- b) Placement on the bracket will be according to USTA rules and the OSAA seeding committee process. The process includes the following exceptions:
- (1) Players or doubles teams from the same district shall not meet prior to the round of sixteen for 6A.
- (2) If the first and second place finishers in the district are from the same school, they shall not meet prior to the final. No players/doubles teams from the same school shall meet prior to the semifinals.
- B. **5A** – 16-person OSAA bracket
- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** Sixteen singles and doubles teams automatically qualify for the OSAA’s 16-person bracket. Each league determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
Northwest Oregon – 4; Mid-Willamette – 4; Midwestern – 4; Intermountain – 4
- 2) **Cutoff Date:** The automatic qualifiers must be determined by 10pm **Saturday, May 18.**
- a) Once the qualifiers are determined, the seeding committee will seed the top four players/doubles for the 5A
- b) Placement on the bracket will be according to USTA rules and the OSAA seeding committee process. The process includes the following exceptions:
- (1) Players or doubles teams from the same district shall not meet prior to the quarterfinals for the 5A.
- (2) If the first and second place finishers in the district are from the same school, they shall not meet prior to the final. No players/doubles teams from the same school shall meet prior to the semifinals.
- C. **4A/3A/2A/1A** – 20-person OSAA bracket
- 1) **Automatic Qualifiers:** **Twenty** singles and doubles teams automatically qualify for the OSAA’s 20-person bracket. Each special district determines how they will select their allotted playoff spots.
Special District 1 – 4; Special District 2 – 4; Special District 3 – 4; Special District 4 – 4; **Special District 5 - 4**

- 2) **Cutoff Date:** The automatic qualifiers must be determined by 10pm **Saturday, May 18.**
- a) Once the qualifiers are determined, the seeding committee will seed the top four players/doubles for the 4A/3A/2A/1A.
 - b) Placement on the bracket will be according to USTA rules and the OSAA seeding committee process. The process includes the following exceptions:
 - (1) Players or doubles teams from the same district shall not meet prior to the quarterfinals for the 4A/3A/2A/1A.
 - (2) If the first and second place finishers in the district are from the same school, they shall not meet prior to the final. No players/doubles teams from the same school shall meet prior to the semifinals.
4. **COACHING:** All coaches are asked to be available for championship duties such as announcing matches, getting matches started or acting as assistant referees if necessary. Head coach, assistant coach or a team captain may provide coaching during 90-second changeover at baseline of court – through the fence. Coaching may also occur during the two-minute rest period between sets (if even) but not during change of a tiebreak game. During a ten-minute rest period between split sets, any NFHS certified coach may coach if high school coach and player permit.
5. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – INDIVIDUAL SPORT SUBSTITUTIONS** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Revised Winter 2015)
- A. The following shall be the policy for substitutions in individual sport State Championship events. All individuals who are substitutes for individual qualifiers must have participated in a District or Special District Meet.
- E. **Tennis**
- 1) **Singles:** Any substitutions for singles qualifiers may be made until 4pm two business days prior to the first day of the state championships.
 - a) If a singles player is replaced after the start of the seeding meeting for the state championships, the replaced person is not eligible to replace someone else on a doubles team.
 - 2) **Doubles:** Any changes in doubles qualifiers may be made until 4pm two business days prior to the first day of the state championship.
 - a) A doubles player may be replaced only by another team member who is no higher on the team ladder than the player they are replacing.
6. **REPORTING SCHEDULES, ROSTERS AND RESULTS** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Revised Summer 2020)
- A. **Schedules.**
 - 1) **Team Sports.** It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team schedules to the OSAA through <https://www.osaa.org/> prior to the first contest date of that sport’s season. Varsity schedules are required for the following OSAA-sanctioned sports: football, boys’ soccer, girls’ soccer, volleyball, boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball, baseball, softball. Subsequent changes to each varsity team’s schedule shall be submitted as they occur throughout the season.
 - 2) **Wrestling.** It shall be the responsibility of each member school to input varsity team schedules into the assigned TrackWrestling team profile prior to the first contest date. Subsequent changes to the schedule shall be submitted as they occur throughout the season.
 - 3) **Tennis.** It shall be the responsibility of each member school to input varsity team schedules into the assigned Tennis Reporting System (<http://www.tennisreporting.com>) team profile prior to the first contest date. Subsequent changes to the schedule shall be submitted as they occur throughout the season.
 - B. **Rosters.**
 - 1) **Team Sports.** It shall be the responsibility of each member school to submit varsity team sport rosters to the OSAA through <http://www.osaa.org/> prior to the first contest date of that sport’s season. Varsity rosters are required for the following OSAA-sanctioned sports: football, boys’ soccer, girls’ soccer, volleyball, boys’ basketball, girls’ basketball, baseball, softball. Subsequent changes to each varsity team’s roster shall be updated as they occur throughout the season.
 - C. **Results.**

- 1) **Team Sports.** The host school is required to report the result of each varsity contest through <https://www.osaa.org/> by 10pm on the day the contest is played. In neutral site contests, the designated home team shall report the result. In the case where an OSAA member school is competing outside of Oregon, it is the responsibility of the member school to report the result. Reports of varsity scores are required for the following OSAA-sanctioned sports: football, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, baseball, softball.
- 2) **Tennis.** Member schools shall verify after all Varsity dual meets and Varsity tournaments (individual and dual meet formats) that complete results are entered into the school's assigned Tennis Reporting System (<http://www.tennisreporting.com>) team profile and have been accepted. The host school has the responsibility for inputting results for all participating teams within 24 hours after the conclusion of the event. In the case where an OSAA member school is competing outside of Oregon, it is the responsibility of the member school to input the results.

D. **Consequences of Failure to Report Complete Schedules or Rosters.** Failure to report a complete schedule or a varsity team sport roster shall be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

E. **Consequences of Failure to Report Results.** Failure to report results shall cause the following progressive sanction(s) process for each individual incident and in the time stated. Failure to report results by the 3rd Level shall be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

1) **Team Sports:**

- a) 1st Level – Reminder Email (1st day after scheduled contest)
- b) 2nd Level – Warning Email (2nd day after scheduled contest)
- c) 3rd Level – Probation Email (3rd day after scheduled contest)

2) **Wrestling and Tennis:**

- a) 1st Level – Reminder Email (5th day after scheduled contest)
- b) 2nd Level – Warning Email (6th day after scheduled contest)
- c) 3rd Level – Probation Email (7th day after scheduled contest)

7. **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – ADOPTED BALL** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Fall 2010)

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

A. **State Championship Contests at Home Sites.**

1) **Team sports (other than football).**

- a) Procedure. Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls. If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
- b) Penalty. If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls (*Wilson US Open Extra Duty*) shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests.

OSAA GENERAL POLICIES

1. **ATTACHED AND UNATTACHED COMPETITION / EXHIBITION** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Revised August 2012)

Following is the policy regarding attached and unattached competition:

- A. A high school team shall not compete against an unattached team (e.g., club team).
- B. Students representing a high school shall not compete against unattached individuals.
- C. Students shall not represent a high school and participate in a competition or exhibition as unattached on the same day at the same venue/facility.

2. **CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Revised May 2023)

Athletic directors and coaches shall achieve certification in the following areas prior to assuming duties as an athletic director or coach. The high school principal shall be held accountable for verifying that athletic directors and coaches have been certified. **EXCEPTION:** Any emergency exception to an OSAA requirement must be authorized in writing by the OSAA.

- A. **Interscholastic Coaching Course.** The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must ***either complete the OSAA Beyond the Scoreboard online course or*** achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. This is a one-time requirement.
- B. **Concussion Recognition and Management Training.** The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 336.485](#)) requires that athletic directors and coaches receive training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The NFHS's Concussion in Sports free course satisfies this requirement. This training is required annually.
- C. **NFHS Heat Illness Prevention.** The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS's Heat Illness Prevention free course. This training is required once every four years.
- D. **Anabolic Steroids and Performance-Enhancing Substances Training.** The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 342.726](#)) require that athletic directors and coaches receive training on identifying the components of anabolic steroid abuse and use and prevention strategies for the use of performance-enhancing substances. This training is required once every four years.
- E. **OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Discriminatory Acts Training.** The OSAA requires all athletic directors and coaches complete the OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Acts Training to be prepared to work collaboratively and act if discriminatory or harassing incident occurs during an interscholastic event. This training is a one-time requirement.
- F. **Spirit Safety Clinic (Cheerleading and Dance/Drill Coaches Only).** The OSAA requires that any cheerleading or dance/drill coach receive spirit safety training by achieving a passing score on the test included with the OSAA's online Spirit Safety Clinic. This training is required annually.
- G. **OSAA Football Certification.**
 - 1) ***All Football Coaches.*** The OSAA requires that any football coach complete the OSAA Football Certification prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually prior to the beginning of each Association year.
 - 2) ***Player Safety Coaches.*** Each member school sponsoring football is required to identify a Player Safety Coach. Each Player Safety Coach is required to attend an in-person clinic biennially prior to the start of the Association year that is conducted by a ***OSAA Football Master Trainer*** in preparation for implementing and overseeing the primary components of ***OSAA Football*** at their school.
 - 3) ***OSAA Football Certification required courses:*** <http://www.osaa.org/coaches/requirements>
 - a) Concussion Recognition and Management Training (annually).
 - b) NFHS Heat Illness Prevention (annually).
 - c) NFHS Football Tackling Course (annually).
 - d) Sudden Cardiac Arrest (annually).

1. Q. Does certification through the American Sport Education Program (ASEP) satisfy the requirement in **Rule 1.4**?
A. Yes, so long as the athletic director or coach was certified through ASEP prior to August 1, 2007. Thereafter, the ***OSAA Beyond the Scoreboard online course or*** NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching ***course*** will satisfy this requirement unless an exception is granted in writing by the OSAA.
2. Q. When must a coach be certified?
A. All coaches must be certified prior to assuming coaching duties unless an emergency exception is authorized in writing by the OSAA. This includes cheerleading coaches, dance/drill coaches and choreographers at schools that do not participate in competitions.
3. Q. Is certification required of volunteer coaches?
A. Yes.
4. Q. Must a "guest" coach be certified?
A. No, but if the coach has contact with students more than three times in a sport season, the coach shall no longer be considered a "guest" and must be certified. A non-certified "guest" coach may not serve as a coach at a contest.

5. **Q.** May a school bring in alumni or other non-high school personnel to scrimmage with teams or individuals as “guest coaches” if those personnel are limited to student contact on no more than three occasions during the sport season?
 - A. No. The “guest coach” exception is intended to allow a limited number of visits by a guest instructor; it is NOT intended to allow coaches to bring in coaches or players to participate in drills or scrimmages against teams or individuals. Any attempt to circumvent the Participation Limitations by calling practice participants “guest coaches” would be a violation of OSAA rules.
6. **Q.** In individual sports, may a parent or non-certified coach accompany a participant to a contest as the school representative if that person is an authorized representative of the principal?
 - A. Yes, but the authorized representative may not coach the participant unless specific permission has been granted in writing by the Executive Director.
7. **Q.** Does the OSAA require high school coaches to have current first aid certification?
 - A. No. However, coaches should check with their athletic directors as most high schools have this as a requirement.
8. **Q.** What is required of a Player Safety Coach (PSC) during the year they attend an in-person PSC clinic in order to be OSAA Football certified?
 - A. Coaches attending an in-person PSC clinic are required to complete the following online courses in order to be OSAA Football certified during the year they attend an in-person PSC clinic: Concussion Recognition and Training; Heat Illness Prevention; Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
9. **Q.** What is required of every football coach, including previously certified PSC coaches, not attending an in-person PSC clinic in order to be OSAA Football certified?
 - A. Every football coach, including previously certified PSC coaches, not attending an in-person PSC clinic is required to complete the following online courses in order to be OSAA Football certified: Concussion Recognition and Training; Heat Illness Prevention; NFHS Football Tackling Course; Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

3. **CHARITABLE CAUSES** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Fall 2012)

The OSAA is supportive of charitable initiatives and has developed guidelines in regarding an athletic competition being held in the name of a charitable cause. Schools may host a contest in recognition of a charitable cause under the following conditions:

- A. Uniform color must be legal under NFHS rules. Example: Breast cancer awareness pink uniforms would not be legal in sports that require white and dark uniforms because pale pink is neither. Pale pink would be a legal color uniform in sports that require LIGHT and dark uniforms.
- B. A permanently attached commemorative patch may be worn but must adhere to NFHS rules in each specific sport.
- C. Colored game balls may not be used during competition unless they are legal under NFHS rules. They may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest, except in softball and baseball.
- D. **Basketball Only:** Pink headbands or wristbands, not legal under NFHS basketball rules unless pink is a school color, are allowed. Note that all team members must be uniform in color of headbands or wristbands.
- E. Officials may use a colored whistle.

4. **CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) (Revised Summer 2020)

(Medical Release – Return to Participation Following a Concussion) **(Medical Release – Return to Learn Following a Concussion)**

- A. **Member School’s Responsibilities** (Max’s Law, [ORS 336.485](#), [OAR 581-022-0421](#)) (Jenna’s Law, [ORS 417.875](#)) (**Qualified Health Care Professional, ORS 336.490**)
 - 1) **Suspected or Diagnosed Concussion.** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or who has been diagnosed with a concussion, shall not be permitted to return to that athletic contest or practice, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day. In schools which have the services of an athletic trainer licensed by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers, that athletic trainer may determine that an athlete has not exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and has not suffered a concussion, and return the athlete to play. Athletic trainers may also work in consultation with a Qualified Health Care Professional (see below) in determining when an athlete is able to return to play following a concussion.
 - 2) **Return to Participation.** Until an athlete who has suffered a concussion is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and a medical release form signed by a Qualified Health Care Professional is obtained, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to athletic activity. As of July 1, 2020, [ORS 336.490](#) requires athletes be cleared by one of these Oregon Qualified Healthcare Professionals: Medical

Doctor (MD), Osteopathic Doctor (DO), Chiropractic Doctor (DC), Naturopathic Doctor (ND), Nurse Practitioner (NP), Physician Assistant (PA), Physical Therapist (PT), Occupational Therapist (OT) or Psychologist who is licensed or registered under the laws of Oregon. Before signing any RTP forms, except for MD and DO signers, course completion certificates from the Oregon Concussion Return-To-Play Education must be obtained by all DC, ND, PT and OT and, after July 1, 2021, by all NP, PA and Psychologists.

3) **Private Schools Only.** [\(Concussion-Private School Informed Consent\)](#)

On an annual basis prior to participation, private schools shall require each athlete and at least one parent or legal guardian of the athlete to sign the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form acknowledging the receipt of information regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Private schools shall maintain a copy of each athlete’s signed form on file for review at any time by OSAA staff.

B. **Official’s Responsibilities.**

An official shall remove an athlete from a contest when that athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion due to an observed or suspected blow to the head or body. The official shall document and notify the head coach or their designee making sure that the head coach or designee understands that the athlete is being removed for exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion as opposed to behavior, a non-concussive injury or other reasons. The official is not responsible for evaluation or management of the athlete after they are removed from play. The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the Qualified Health Care Professional who has cleared the athlete to return. The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the school and an appropriate Qualified Health Care Professional.

5. **[HAIR DEVICE / ADORNMENT](#)** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) **(Revised July 2022)**

The OSAA aims to be inclusive of all students from varying cultural backgrounds to access athletic and activity programs provided at member schools, while providing a fair and safe environment. This policy was developed inclusive of the language established in Oregon House Bill 2935 (June 2021) and in collaboration with the OSAA **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** Committee and other stakeholders. The OSAA recognizes that this policy will need to be reviewed on a regular basis and continued education to member schools will be required to ensure understanding of this policy. The OSAA recognizes the value of athletic and activity programs for all students and the potential for inclusion to reduce harassment, bullying and barriers faced by certain students. The OSAA also recognizes the concerns of students, parents, and coaches to ensure a fair, equitable, and safe competitive environment.

A. **Oregon Revised Statutes Language.**

- 1) [ORS 659A.001](#), amended to read:
 - a) “Protective hairstyle” means a hairstyle, hair color or manner of wearing hair that includes, but is not limited to, braids, regardless of whether the braids are created with extensions or styled with adornments, locs and twists.
 - b) “Race” includes physical characteristics that are historically associated with race, including but not limited to natural hair, hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles.
- 2) [ORS 332.075](#), amended to read: (1) Any school district board may: (e) Authorize the school district to be a member of and pay fees, if any, to any voluntary organization that administers interscholastic activities or facilitates the scheduling and programming of interscholastic activities only if the organization: (A) Implements equity focused policies that:
 - a) Address the use of derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults, profanity or ridicule that occurs at an interscholastic activity, including by spectators of the interscholastic activity;
 - b) Prohibit discrimination as defined in [ORS 659.850](#);
 - c) Permit a student to wear religious clothing in accordance with the student’s sincerely held religious belief and consistent with any safety and health requirements; and
 - d) Balance the health, safety and reasonable accommodation needs of participants on an activity-by-activity basis;
- 3) [ORS 659.850](#), amended to read: (B) “Discrimination” does not include enforcement of an otherwise valid dress code or policy, as long as the code or policy:

- a) Provides, on a case-by-case basis, for reasonable accommodation of an individual based on the health and safety needs of the individual; and
- b) Does not have a disproportionate adverse impact on members of a protected class to a greater extent than the policy impacts person generally.
- c) “Race” includes physical characteristics that are historically associated with race, including but not limited to natural hair, hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles as defined in [ORS 659A.001](#).

B. **Athletic and Activity Programs Adhering to NFHS Rules Prohibiting Hair Adornments.** Oregon Revised Statute requires OSAA to implement equity focused policies that balance the health, safety, and reasonable accommodation needs of participants on an activity-by-activity basis. After careful review, and in alignment with Oregon Revised Statute and other rule-governing bodies, the OSAA is adhering to NFHS rules prohibiting hair adornments in the following athletics and activities due to health and safety considerations.

- 1) **Football** – Maintain current NFHS rules due to health and safety considerations. Prohibited per NFHS Football Rule 1-5 Article 3.
- 2) **Wrestling** – Maintain current NFHS rules due to health and safety considerations. Prohibited per NFHS Wrestling Rules 3-1-4b and 4-2-1.

C. **Athletic and Activity Programs Already Allowing Hair Adornment per NFHS Rules.** OSAA-sanctioned athletics and activities where hair adornments are already allowed by NFHS or rule-governing bodies.

Baseball	Dance	Swimming
Basketball	Golf	Tennis
Cheerleading	Soccer	Track & Field
Cross Country	Softball	Volleyball

6. **AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) **(Revised February 2024)**

These guidelines, created in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the cancellation, suspension and/or restarting of practices and contests based on poor air quality.

- A. **Designate Personnel:** Given the random behavior of wind and air currents, air quality may change quickly. Schools shall designate someone who will monitor the air quality prior to and during outdoor activities. While typically due to wildfires, schools need to also consider non-wildfire situations if the air quality is unhealthy.
- B. **Areas with Air Reporting Stations:** The Air Quality Index (AQI) should be monitored throughout the day, and during an event, to have the best data possible to make informed decisions about conducting practices and competitions. ***Schools should always defer to the monitor that is the nearest physical distance to the practice or contest facility.*** School personnel shall review the AQI information for all regions throughout the state to determine if action is necessary (see chart below). Schools shall regularly review the AQI throughout events to assess deteriorating conditions. ***School personnel shall use the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. This map shows circles for DEQ/AirNow monitors and squares for Purple Air monitors. Purple Air monitors have been calibrated by EPA to provide data comparable to permanent monitors.***
- C. **Areas without Air Reporting Stations:** If air monitoring equipment is not available, member schools should utilize the 5-3-1 Visibility Index to determine air quality.
 - 1) 5-3-1 Visibility Index: Making visual observations using the 5-3-1 Visibility Index is a simple way to estimate air quality and know what precautions to take. While this method can be useful, you should always use caution and avoid going outside if visibility is limited, especially if you are sensitive to smoke.
 - (a) Determine the limit of your visual range by looking for distant targets or familiar landmarks such as mountains, mesas, hills, or buildings at known distances. The visual range is that point at which these targets are no longer visible. As a rule of thumb: If you can clearly see the outlines of individual trees on the horizon it is generally less than five miles away. It is highly recommended that schools use pre-determined landmarks that were established on a clear day to determine their visual range.
 - (b) Ideally, the viewing of any distant targets should be made with the sun behind you. Looking into the sun or at an angle increases the ability of sunlight to reflect off of the smoke, thus making the visibility estimate less reliable.
 - (c) Be aware that conditions may change rapidly and always use the more conservative of multiple metrics (AQI, 5-3-1 Visibility Index, etc.).

D. **Act:** This chart will help determine the action needed based on the air quality in your area.

Air Quality Index (AQI)	5-3-1 Visibility Index	Required Actions for Outdoor Activities
51 -100	5-15 Miles	Athletes who are unusually sensitive to air pollution should consider indoor activities only. Athletes with asthma should have rescue inhalers readily available and pretreat before exercise if directed by their healthcare provider. All athletes with respiratory illness, asthma, lung or heart disease should monitor symptoms and reduce/cease activity if symptoms arise. Increase rest periods as needed.
101 -150	3-5 Miles	Athletes who are unusually sensitive to air pollution should consider indoor activities only. Athletes with asthma should have rescue inhalers readily available and pretreat before exercise if directed by their healthcare provider. All athletes with respiratory illness, asthma, lung or heart disease should monitor symptoms and reduce/cease activity if symptoms arise. Athletes with asthma or other lung diseases, heart conditions or diabetes may need additional rest breaks during practices / contests. Consider rescheduling to a different time and / or an area with a lower AQI. Schools should consider the impact of elevated AQI lasting for multiple days and the impact of prolonged exposure for athletes and staff on multiple practice session days when making decisions. Consider moving practices indoors , if available. Be aware that, depending on a venue’s ventilation system, indoor air quality levels can approach outdoor levels.
151 -200	1-3 Miles	All outdoor activities (practice and competition) shall be canceled or moved to an area with a lower AQI. Move practices indoors, if available. Be aware that, depending on a venue’s ventilation system, indoor air quality levels can approach outdoor levels.
>200	1 Mile	All outdoor activities (practice and competition) shall be canceled or moved to an area with a lower AQI. Move practices indoors, if available. Be aware that, depending on a venue’s ventilation system, indoor air quality levels can approach outdoor levels.

E. **Additional Resources:** Schools may also refer to OHA’s fact sheet regarding School Outdoor Activities During Wildfire Events at <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/le8815h.pdf>.

F. **Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Rules:** Schools should familiarize themselves with Oregon OSHA permanent rules adopted in Summer 2022 regarding reducing heat and wildfire smoke outdoor workplace exposure for employees. OSHA resources can be accessed here for Heat – <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/heat-stress.aspx> and Wildfires <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/wildfires.aspx>

7. **HEAT INDEX** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) ([Heat Index Calculator](#)) ([Heat Index Record](#)) (Fall 2014)

Schools shall monitor the Heat Index for their geographic area prior to practices. Outlined below are the steps that each member school shall take to implement this policy. NOTE: Indoor activities where air conditioning is available are not bound by this policy.

- A. **Subscribe.** Athletic directors and coaches shall subscribe to OSAA Heat Index Notifications at <http://www.osaa.org/heat-index>. An OSAA Heat Index Alert is generated for areas where the forecasted high temperature and relative humidity indicate a forecasted heat index that may require practice modifications. Only those areas that have a forecasted heat index of 95 or higher receive alerts. Notifications are sent daily via e-mail and/or SMS to subscribers.
- B. **Designate.** Schools shall designate someone who will take the necessary steps to determine and record the heat index for your geographic area within one hour of the start of each team’s practice. This is only necessary on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert. Depending on practice schedules, it is possible that the designated person will have to record the heat index multiple times on the same day.
- C. **Calculate.** Within one hour of the start of each team’s practice on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert, the designated person shall utilize the OSAA Heat Index Calculator to determine the actual heat index.
- D. **Record.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, the designated person shall record it using the OSAA Heat Index Record or by printing out a copy to be kept at the school for inspection at the request of the OSAA. A separate record shall be kept for

each fall sport at each level. Practice modifications, as necessary, shall also be recorded. If the actual heat index is less than 95, no action is needed.

E. **Act.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, activity should be altered and/or eliminated using the following guidelines:

- 1) **95° to 99° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.
 - b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Contact sports and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - e) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - f) Water shall always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - g) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.
- 2) **100° to 104° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Postpone practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.
 - b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Alter uniform by removing items if possible - allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
 - e) Contact athletics and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - f) Reduce time of planned outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
 - g) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - h) Water shall always be available, and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - i) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.
- 1) **Above 104° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

8. **LIGHTNING SAFETY GUIDELINES** (*OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies*) *(Revised Fall 2018)*

NFHS Position Statements & Guidelines

- A. These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder.
- B. **Proactive Planning:**
 - 1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
 - 2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safe area.
 - a) A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place for the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
 - 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b) **Thirty-minute Rule.** Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

- d) When lightning detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in deciding to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning detection device.

*At night under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

- 4) Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
- 5) Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at the start of the season.

9. **ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS / AREA-WIDE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES** (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (May 2020)

There may be times in the interest of minimizing risk due to adverse weather conditions and/or a clear area-wide emergency that it becomes necessary to postpone, cancel, and/or reschedule regular season or postseason events. The intent of this policy is to outline procedures and policies to provide guidance to OSAA member schools when such conditions impact an event.

A. **Regular Season Events**

- 1) Administrators have the responsibility to define and communicate contingency plans in the event of adverse weather conditions and/or a clear area-wide emergency. A stepwise progression that places emphasis on minimizing risk for athletes, coaches, contest staff, spectators, and contest officials will be used to help guide decision makers on the appropriate course of action.
- 2) The following steps shall be taken:
 - a) **Suspend the Event**: NFHS rules allow officials to “delay” or “suspend” any contest where factors may endanger the participants. At no time may officials “terminate” a contest between schools unless administrators or representatives from each school mutually agree to end the contest. If the participating schools involved mutually agree to end the game the contest will be considered complete. Officials should use the following guidelines when choosing to suspend a contest:

Starting Time of the Event	8am to 12pm	12:01pm to 3:30pm	3:31pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Maximum Suspension	3 hours	2 hours	1.5 hours	1 hour

- b) **Modify the Event**: NFHS rules in most sports and activities allow for modifications to timing and structure, if necessary, with mutual agreement of participating schools, to address factors that may endanger the participants.
- c) **Reschedule the Event**: When situations arise involving a suspension of play and the participating schools cannot reach mutual agreement on ending the contest, the following steps shall be taken:
 - (1) Convene a meeting between representatives from participating teams;
 - (2) Review and record contest details up to the point of suspension;
 - (3) Review each of the following options;

Option	Implication	Contest Result
Schools agree to reschedule contest during the current game week (i.e., Friday game, continued on Saturday or Sunday).	See Executive Board Policy, “Interrupted Contests” procedures for specific sport/activity.	Upon conclusion result is final.
Schools agree to reschedule contest during a future game week (i.e., Friday game, continued on following Tuesday).	See Executive Board Policy, “Interrupted Contests” procedures for specific sport/activity.	Upon conclusion result is final.
Schools cannot reach agreement on when to reschedule contest.	Contest is suspended.	No Result.

- d) Cancel the Event: Cancelling the contest is not an option if the cancellation has a bearing on advancing a team(s) to the final site.

B. OSAA Final Site Events

- 1) A culminating event shall be defined as the event(s) conducted at the final site only. Early round contests and district qualifying tournaments should follow the stepwise progression listed in part A.
- 2) School personnel have the responsibility of making alternative travel plans to final sites based upon adverse weather forecasts and any other pertinent information. It shall be the responsibility of the participating school(s) to notify the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee if the school is having difficulty traveling to the final site and may not arrive in time for the scheduled event(s) due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency.

C. Championship Final Site Specifics

- 1) If a team/individual is unable to arrive at a final site for their scheduled competition due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency, that team/individual will be allowed to participate in their scheduled event provided they arrive at the site and are able to compete on the day of their scheduled event. In this situation the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee, shall adjust the schedule of the event for the purpose of allowing maximum participation for all qualified schools when these conditions are present. If the team/individual is unable to arrive to compete on the day of their event, and NFHS playing rules allow the modification, a forfeit is recorded and that team/individual shall move into the consolation bracket or be dropped from competition, whichever is applicable to the event.
- 2) When the number of teams/individuals unable to reach the final site for their scheduled event due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency exceeds 25% of those participating, the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee, shall consider postponement or cancellation of all or part of the event. An alternative schedule shall be determined by the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee. Should the need arise for the schedule of a final site to be altered the next available date, including Sunday, will be used.
- 3) For the purpose of this policy, the TOTAL number of teams/individuals scheduled to attend the final site for that classification shall be the number used from which to obtain the percentage of those needed, regardless of the total number of classifications scheduled to attend the event.
- 4) Note: For the purpose of this policy, when the percentage used results in a number that is not a whole number, the number shall be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, if a tournament is being held for 30 teams, 25% of the total would be 7.5 which would be rounded up to 8.

D. Procedures to Follow If Contests at The Final Site Are Rescheduled

- 1) The OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee has the final authority on final site contest rescheduling.
- 2) If contests are rescheduled on the same day as originally scheduled but at a different site, the semifinal and championship contests will be scheduled at the same time or later than originally scheduled.
- 3) Time between contests may be shortened. Example: If contests were originally scheduled at two-hour intervals, they may be rescheduled at one and one half-hour intervals.
- 4) Individuals/teams shall be granted a minimum of 20 minutes for rest between contests.
- 5) Whenever possible, contests played on the final day of the tournament shall be scheduled to allow individuals/teams to return to their home community that day.
- 6) If during the last scheduled day at the final site, contests are unable to be restarted requiring postponement overnight, only those individuals/teams still in contention for the championship will continue play. Individuals/teams not in contention for the championship shall be awarded a tie for the highest placing that could have been earned if postponement had not been necessary.

- E. Ticket revenue will not be refunded in the event the schedule and/or day(s) of the event are changed due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency.

10. MORATORIUM WEEK (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)

(Revised May 2014)

- A. Each year a seven-day OSAA Moratorium Week shall be in effect during which there shall be no contact between administrators/coaches/directors/advisors and students involved in any OSAA-sanctioned sport or activity, including cheer, dance/drill, speech, solo music, choir, band/orchestra. In addition, there shall be no high school athletic facility usage by athletic staff and students/teams, including dance/drill and cheer, during the OSAA Moratorium Week. Use of non-athletic facilities by athletic staff is allowed.

B. Week 4 of the NFHS Standardized Calendar shall be designated as Moratorium Week. Designated OSAA Moratorium Week dates:

2023	July 23 – July 29	2025	July 27 – August 2	2027	July 25 – July 31
2024	July 28 – August 3	2026	July 26 – August 1	2028	July 23 – July 29

1. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will coaches be allowed any contact with their athletes?
A. No.
2. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will schools be allowed to have open facilities?
A. Schools may only host an activity that includes high school students involved in athletics and activities if they have appealed for and been granted permission from the Executive Director prior to the Moratorium Week. Permission shall not be granted for team camps.
3. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, will coaches/activity leaders be allowed to have any contact with their students?
A. No. The only contact they may have with an individual or team during Moratorium Week is via email, phone, etc. but conversations may not refer to actions required for that week (i.e., student’s workouts, practice plans, meetings, etc.).
4. **Q.** During the Moratorium Week, may students attend camps, clinics, etc.?
A. Yes, so long as no high school administrators/coaches/directors/advisors are present, and participation is not organized or paid for by the school.
5. **Q.** Are there any exceptions to this policy?
A. Yes. There will be an appeals process in place for teams, coached by a high school coach, that have been playing together all summer and have qualified for a post-season event that is taking place during all or part of the Moratorium Week. Approval must be granted by the Executive Director prior to the Moratorium Week.
6. **Q.** What is the penalty for a Moratorium Week violation?
A. The violation penalty will be similar to that assessed for a “Rule of Two” violation. The standard penalty is a \$500 fine and game suspension for the offending coach.
7. **Q.** May coaches work with non-high school students during the Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but not at a high school venue.
8. **Q.** May coaches encourage their athletes to work out at another facility during the Moratorium Week?
A. No. The intent of the policy is that coaches and students take a week off.
9. **Q.** May a school schedule their athletic physical night, or a similar event, during the Moratorium Week?
A. No, the school may schedule nothing that is related to OSAA activities.
10. **Q.** May coaches/students make contact through phone, email, etc., during Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but with restrictions. For example, the coach may not ask the student, “What is your workout today?”
11. **Q.** May a high school coach work with another high school’s students during the Moratorium Week?
A. No. Contact is not allowed by high school coaches with any high school students during the Moratorium Week.
12. **Q.** May a coach work in any capacity (coaching or not coaching) at a camp during the Moratorium Week?
A. Yes, but only if there are no high school students at the camp and not at a high school venue.
13. **Q.** May an outside entity hold an event during Moratorium Week (e.g., youth soccer camp, little league baseball tournament) that utilizes high school athletic facilities?
A. Yes, provided that no high school students and no members of the high school athletic staff are involved in any capacity (scheduling, supervising, instructing, etc.) with the event.
14. **Q.** May athletic staff members work in school offices or classrooms during the Moratorium Week, even if they may have contact with students?
A. Yes, provided that the contact with students is limited to non-athletic pursuits such as schedule changes, registration, etc.
15. **Q.** At what point does the OSAA consider a person to be a school’s coach?
A. Once a person and a school have verbally agreed that the person will perform coaching duties for the school, they are considered to be that school’s coach by the OSAA. At that time, all OSAA policies are in effect for that coach until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school.
16. **Q.** May a returning coach work with students outside their designated sports season since the coach is working under a one-year contract and has not signed a contract for the coming year?

A. No. Once a person becomes a school's coach, the OSAA considers that person to be a coach for the school until such time that the coach resigns or is notified by the school that they are no longer a coach for that school. Coaches who resign and are then brought back in a coaching capacity by the same school in an attempt to circumvent OSAA policy are subject to penalties as outlined in Rule 5, "Violations of Regulations - Penalties."

11. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY (Complaint Form) (Revised July 2019)

- A. The Oregon School Activities Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age, or disability in the performance of its authorized functions, and encourages its member schools, school personnel, participants, and spectators to adopt and follow the same policy.
- B. A claim of discrimination against a member school shall be brought directly to the member school of concern.
- C. Any party that believes they have been subjected to an incident involving discrimination or discriminatory harassment at an OSAA sanctioned event, may submit a written complaint through the online complaint process provided on the OSAA website. When the coaches, players students, staff or spectators of any members school engage in discriminatory behaviors, or act in a manner disruptive to the school environment, or cause disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sanctioned by the Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association. See Rule 3, "Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control" for additional information.

12. SHARED FACILITIES (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies) (Shared Facility Request) (Fall 2015)

Member schools are permitted to share practice and/or competition facilities with other teams with prior approval from the OSAA. Schools requesting a shared facility are required to submit a "Shared Facility Request" for approval prior to the facility being utilized by different groups at the same time. This policy prohibits practice or competition to or between groups approved to share a facility. It is recommended that each team have their own coaching staff and that staggered practice times be utilized when possible.

13. WITHDRAWAL DURING A COMPETITION (OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies)

- A. Removal of a team from competition prior to completion of that competition shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. In such a case, the school shall forfeit the contest and an administrator and the coach responsible for the action shall appear before the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. See Executive Board Policies, "Withdrawal from State Championships" for additional information.

Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control (OSAA Handbook, Rules)

- 3.1.** The arrangement of all festivals, meets, contests or championships is the responsibility of the superintendent, assistant superintendent or high school principal, subject to the Regulations of the Association.
- 3.2.** When a festival, meet, contest or championship is in progress, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules governing such activities shall apply, except for specific deviations as approved by the Executive Board.
- 3.3. Sportsmanship Responsibility.** The high school administration, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's coaches, players, students, and spectators maintain a sportsmanlike attitude at all events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. Discriminatory harassment and bullying behavior will not be tolerated. Discrimination is defined as (OAR 581-021-0045(1)(a)) "any act that unreasonably differentiates treatment, intended or unintended, or any act that is fair in form but discriminatory in operation, either of which is based on age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, and sexual orientation." Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which include use of cell phones or the Internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Examples include but are not limited to hazing, intimidation, taunting, bullying, cyberbullying, or menacing another, or engaging in behavior deemed by the member school to endanger the safety or well-being of students, employees, self, or others. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent, so as to interfere with or limit the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. This includes the use of, or engagement in, abusive verbal expression or physical conduct, especially if that conduct interferes with the performance of students, staff, event officials or sponsors of interscholastic activities.

- 3.4. Spectator Conduct.** The following expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided. Those violating or threatening to violate the following Association rules or site management spectator conduct expectations, may be ejected from the premises, issued a trespass citation, excluded from sanctioned activities temporarily or permanently and/or referred to law enforcement officials.
- 3.4.1.** All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to disrespecting players by name, number, or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the playing surface; use of derogatory or racially explicit language; discriminatory harassment or conduct that creates a hostile environment that is disruptive to the educational environment.
 - 3.4.2.** Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action.
- 3.5. Complaint Process.** The OSAA will sanction schools whom it has found negligent in the duties of reasonably protecting those involved in interscholastic activities from derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults, profanity, ridicule or engaging in behavior deemed by the member school to endanger the safety or well-being of students, employees, self or others.
- 3.5.1.** OSAA will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 48 hours.
 - 3.5.2.** OSAA may prioritize the investigation of complaints based on information received.
 - 3.5.3.** Complaints deemed to be employee or student discipline matters only shall be returned to the complainant. Matters of employment and/or employee discipline which can best be resolved through the school district's complaint process include but are not limited to playing time, team level assignments (Varsity/JV), assignment of a student to a specific coach, equipment use, or dissatisfaction with a contract or payment term. Matters of student discipline which can best be resolved through the school district's complaint process include but are not limited to academic eligibility, drug/alcohol use, playing time or playing position, specific workout requirements, or dissatisfaction with a calendar, schedule, or event location.
 - 3.5.4.** Complaints must include the complainant's name and contact information (phone and email or mailing address). Anonymous complaints shall not be considered.
 - 3.5.5.** Every effort will be made to complete the investigation process within 30 days; however, should the investigation require more time, a 30-day status update shall be provided.
 - 3.5.6.** To assist in investigation of the complaint, complainants are asked to note the following:
 - (a)** Complaints are only accepted on the official online form and each section of the Complaint Form must be completed. [\(Complaint Form\)](#)
 - (b)** Complaints which are determined to be outside the scope of the OSAA will be returned to the complainant via the contact address provided. See [Rules, Rule 3.5.3.](#) for guidance.
 - (c)** Whenever possible, provide first-hand accounts, with names and contact information of witnesses.
- 3.6. Sportsmanship Violations/Penalties.** When the coaches, players, students, staff or spectators of any member school engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, discriminatory harassing behaviors, act in a manner disruptive to the school environment, or cause disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sponsored by this Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association and the school shall be subject to penalty. Penalties may vary depending on the actions taken by the school and/or school district during and after the event as it relates to trespassing spectators involved, removing players/coaches from the team for a period of time, requiring additional education/training, etc. Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board the member school may be subject to probation, mandatory appearance before the Executive Board, required plan of action, forfeitures, fines, lack of institutional control penalties, suspension of membership or expulsion from the Association as determined by the Executive Board. The Executive Director or the Executive Board may determine that no penalties are necessary when an incident has been handled appropriately and in a timely fashion by the school and/or district.

- 1. Q.** Is the host school exclusively responsible for crowd control?
 - A.** No. While the host school for any activity must assume a primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. The visiting school also must take such measures as are necessary to ensure proper behavior on the part of its own students and fans.
- 2. Q.** May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?

- A. Yes, home team schools may display “permanent” signs and/or banners that are positive / supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in-season rosters, league banners, league / state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.
3. Q. Are “run through” signs allowed?
A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.
4. Q. May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school’s venue?
A. No.
5. Q. May spectators have signs at events?
A. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. “Fathead” type items are considered signs and shall not be larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. Spectators are required to wear shirts.
6. Q. May a spectator have an artificial noisemaker?
A. No, spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers, and air horns.
7. Q. May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?
A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.
8. Q. May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, provided they are not electric. Only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
9. Q. What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?
A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. “Air Ball! Air Ball!” booing, “You! You! You!”, or “You Got Swatted!” are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team’s opponents. Spectators shall not turn their heads or hold up newspapers during team introductions, or jeer at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions.
10. Q. May students stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?
A. Yes, but when they sit down, they must be seated on the second row.
11. Q. May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just “making noise” and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.
12. Q. May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.
13. Q. May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
14. Q. May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

Rule 7 – Out-of-Season and Non-School Activities (OSAA Handbook, Rules)

- 7.1. Out-of-season festivals, meets, contests or championships shall not be permitted during the school year involving member schools of this Association unless special authorization is given by the Executive Board.
- 7.2. A member school or official representative of a member school shall not participate, either directly or indirectly, in the promotion, management, supervision, player selection, coaching or officiating of an all-star contest involving high school students during the Association year.
- 7.3. No member school or official representative of a member school shall condition participation in high school athletics or activities on participation in non-school athletic or activity events or workouts, including, but not limited to camps, leagues, and any form of organized out-of-season or summer competition. Further, no member school may give consideration to such participation when determining membership on, or participation in, high school athletics or activities.
1. Q. May a coach require participation on a non-school team including summer teams or use participation on a non-school team as a factor in selecting members of a school team or allowing full participation in team activities?

A. No to both questions. Participation on a non-school team is a personal choice of the student and their parents and may not be required or even considered when selecting school team members or allowing full participation in team activities.

2. Q. May a coach require participation in out-of-season or summer workouts as a factor in selecting members of a school team or allowing full participation in team activities?

A. No.