



Oregon School Activities Association

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October 16, 2024

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kelly Foster, Assistant Executive Director
Kyle Stanfield, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Update to the Proceedings of the Championship Thresholds Task Force

The Championship Thresholds Task Force held its third meeting via Zoom on October 15, 2024. The Task Force will be utilizing a virtual format for all meetings that allows both Task Force members and those seeking to provide input the option of participating via webinar.

The Championship Thresholds Task Force was created at the request of the Executive Board after receiving feedback from the previous State Championship Committee. The State Championship Committee felt that their condensed timeframe made it difficult to delve into the intricacies of the qualifying percentages of each sport and activity.

The staff presented the Task Force with feedback from the October 7 Delegate Assembly meeting. The feedback from the delegates was that qualifying does need to be looked at and, in some cases, pared down or increased if participation is too high/low. The staff then provided a linear list of qualification percentages across all activities. Overall, the average qualification percentage is around 36%.

The Task Force had an in-depth conversation about qualifications and their philosophy on what a state championship means to them. At this current time, the Task Force feels too many teams or students are qualifying for many state championship events. In some cases, well over 50% of participants in a given activity are making it to the championship and the Task Force believes that is too many. The group believes it should be difficult to make it to a state championship, hence heightening the memories for those involved.

The group feels that a reduction in participation has additional qualities. A change would help reduce some lopsided matchups that happen in the opening rounds of the playoffs, help increase academic seat time for students, decrease the overlap between seasons hence helping multi-sport athletes get the rest or practice needed before heading into the next season, and lowers the costs for districts who have teams traveling significant distances to play.

The group is not solely focused on reduction but is supportive of expansion where needed. The group believes that Tennis needs to be reviewed by the State Championship Committee as they average the lowest participation across all sports (11%-17% of participants make it to state). In addition, the group supports the review of 3A/2A/1A Girls Cross Country, 4A/3A/2A/1A Girls Golf and 3A/2A/1A Soccer where additional championships could be provided due to increased participation by schools. Overall, the Task Force's philosophy is that getting to a state championship bracket or event is an honor.

The Task Force has asked the staff to provide a breakdown of what a 25%, 33% and 40% qualification percentage would look like across all activities. No set number will ever be perfect as each classification is different in their size, number of leagues, etc. but they are curious what those qualifications could look like and the impact on the Association and events.

The Task Force will continue meeting throughout the 2024-25 school year. The next meeting will take place in mid-December.

Written suggestions and proposals on these issues should be emailed to Kelly Foster (kellyf@osaa.org) **Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all task force members for review and discussion.** The Task Force will keep the OSAA Executive Board up to date on their work during the process.

A future list of meeting dates, Task Force Roster, charge to the Task Force, and information are available at the OSAA website: <https://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces#thresholds>.

The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) or Kelly Foster (kellyf@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.