



Oregon School Activities Association

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June 15, 2020

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director;
Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director;
Gibby Reynolds, IT Systems Administrator

SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – June 15, 2020

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on June 15 via ZOOM meeting for the second and final time this school year to continue its review of the rankings, and the Winter 2019-20 season.

Following this final meeting, the Committee will forward its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for consideration at the Board’s Summer Workshop, July 20-22, 2020.

The Committee began reviewing Winter 2019-20 brackets and rankings, and final 8 sites for each classification. Following this review, the Committee examined rankings scenarios and correlation studies of current and former systems, along with several other data for accuracy of the rankings and minor tweaks if needed. There was no public testimony.

Correlation Studies: Correlation studies are produced by OSAA staff and serve as one way to gauge the “accuracy” of the system. What counts as “accurate” regarding a rankings system is certainly open to interpretation, but Committee members believe there is value associated with this information, especially when looking at making possible changes.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Regular Season</u>	<i>Using the final frozen rankings, correlation studies analyze the % of contests where the better ranked team in a classification won, going backwards through the regular season. A contest where that happens is considered “accurate”. In 2019-20 Girls Basketball, the current system was 88.83% “accurate” going back through the regular season.</i>
19-20	Football	91.26%	
19-20	Boys Soccer	87.54%	
19-20	Girls Soccer	90.74%	
19-20	Volleyball	88.61%	
19-20	Girls Basketball	88.83%	
19-20	Boys Basketball	85.79%	
19-20			
19-20			
19-20			

Football Rankings / Adjusted Playoff Rankings

The Committee discussed the concern with the football rankings. There is such a small sample size with only 8 or 9 contests played each year, that maybe there needs to be a “human element” added to the Adjusted Playoff Rankings. The Committee agrees that there needs to be more conversation and buy-in from the schools. The OADA will make this topic for discussion at their first OADA league meeting of the year to see how much support this concept has and bring back to this Committee their ideas . ***The Committee has decided to table this concept until more information is gathered.***

Should there be 2 or 3 “friendly” contests during preseason that would not count in the Rankings

The Committee discussed this and had some real concerns about the process, what contests would that be, would both schools need to mutually agree, what happens in the Spring with rainouts? While understanding schools desire to play all athletes and with the condensed timeframe for schools whose teams participate deep into the playoffs, there would need to be more structure to this proposal. This concept will be brought up at the OADA Conference with a

straightforward question to clarify the parameters of a “friendly” so that schedule manipulation is limited. ***The Committee has tabled this concept until given a more concise proposal.***

Concerns about the ties in soccer

This topic had been talked about last year, but with the concern being brought up at an OACA Executive Board Meeting, it is being brought up again. It is determined that the tie element in the rankings does not have that big of an effect as people had thought compared to wins and losses. ***The Committee is not recommending a change to the Rankings system to include ties.***

Eliminating the “Wheel” at the 1A in the 1st Round of the Playoffs / Re-seeding the Rankings once the Final 8 are set

The 1A has a unique situation compared to all of the other Classifications as they have 8 Leagues and so as long as the League Champion is inside of the top 16 they are guaranteed a home contest, making the adjusted playoff ranking not the true rankings for the bracket. Allowing the wheel to not take place would not be a financially feasible decision for the Association. As for the second part of the proposal the have the schools be reseeding their rankings would be a fundamental change in our playoff system, which would need to go through the State Championship Committee, not the Rankings Committee. ***The Committee is not recommending eliminating the “Wheel” at the 1A in volleyball and basketball and encourage the 1A if they would like to have this changed to take this concept up to the State Championship Committee.***

Rankings Freeze and Play-in Dates Summary:

The Committee discussed the Rankings Freeze and Play-in Dates for the 2020 -21 school year, which are included in this update and will take these dates to the OSAA Executive Board for adoption with the understanding that these dates may need to be shifted depending on the status of playing due to the pandemic.

Plan B for Rankings if the Pandemic alters any of our seasons:

The Committee discussed some different concepts, but with so many unknowns of the status of our fall season, the Committee decided it may need to come together in September when we have a better understanding of what we will be able to offer and participate during this pandemic.

Schedule Manipulation Policies

The Committee believes that adding dates to each season after which contests won't be counted in the rankings has helped to alleviate, but not eliminate, the issue of schedule manipulation. ***The Committee is recommending new deadlines for each 2020-21 season to address schedule manipulation (see below).***

- 1) **Contests vs. Teams More Than One Classification Away.** In the RPI system, results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (***Fall – Sept. 16; Winter – Dec. 23; Spring – Apr. 7***) vs. a team more than one classification away shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: bracketed contests at tournaments are not affected by this policy.
- 2) **Contests Added After a Certain Date.** Results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (***Fall – Sept. 30; Winter – Jan. 13; Spring – Apr. 14***) shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: Contests not affected by this policy include bracketed contests at tournaments, league tiebreakers, and district/league tournaments. Schools may apply for an exception to OSAA Staff in extenuating circumstances.

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee likes the online version of these meetings and will consider these to be used next year. There is also an understanding that this Committee may need to gather in August or September to help make recommendations depending on the circumstances of the current pandemic Oregon is experiencing. Other dates are January 14, April 1, and June 14.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Rankings Committee for their review. Please send emails to Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) or Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.