



Oregon School Activities Association

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September 11, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Board

SUBJECT: OSAA Baseball Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Baseball Contingency Group met on September 10, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the first time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 4 sports with Baseball, Golf, Softball, Tennis, and Track & Field Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff went of the evolution of our policies and procedures for the 2020-21 Association year. This included the memos and documents on what schools could and could not do depending on their educational system in place; comprehensive distance learning (no indoor competitions, but can compete in outdoor activities and competitions), in-person or hybrid learning (indoor competitions could take place along with all outdoor activities and athletics). After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

The Baseball Contingency started with introductions: Russ Bolin, Athletic Director Roseburg HS; Howard Rub, Athletic Director Astoria HS; TJ Presley, Athletic Director/Principal Pilot Rock HS; John Arntson, Head Baseball Coach Clackamas HS; Matt Kabza, Head Baseball Coach at Grant HS; Scot McDonald, Head Baseball Coach at Crescent Valley HS; Mark Vidlak, Head Baseball Coach Hidden Valley HS; Parker McKinley, Head Baseball Coach at La Grande HS; Bo DeForest, Head Baseball Coach at La Pine HS; Kevin Moffatt, Athletic Director and Head baseball Coach at Kennedy HS; Dave York, Head Baseball Coach at Umpqua Valley Christian HS; and Tad Cockerill (State Rules Interpreter, official).

After introductions, we quickly reviewed our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 197 membership schools who sponsor baseball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over all of the information that we know as of September 10: The OSAA Executive Board met during a work session on August 5 and made some decisions; open up the Association year on August 31, and create a 4 season calendar for the Association year breaking the last 3 seasons into 9 equal weeks, 7 weeks of competition. Starting with Season 1(August 31 – December 27) being an open season, while still following the OSAA Policies and rules except for a few exceptions; followed by Season 2 (December 28 – February 28) our “traditional winter sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 3 (February 22 – April 28) our “traditional fall sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events; then Season 4 (April 19 – June 20) our “traditional spring sports/activities followed by a week of culminating events. The Governor also released the K-12 School Sports, Limited Return to Play Guidance. This new guidance ties the abilities of schools to education restrictions as opposed to County Phases. If a school is strictly online with not in-person learning they can participate in outdoor activities including competitions, but indoors would be limited to

conditioning and no competitions. If a school district decided to have some in-person learning, they can do all of the same restrictions as an online only school but can also participate in competitions that are indoors. In either case masks must be worn indoors at all times and also outdoors where 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Some of the things we can anticipate are schools wanting to start scheduling their seasons and coming up with ideas for what “culminating events” should look like.

After all of the information, the Group started discussing the focused questions.

What are your school’s plans for Season 1?

Most schools are not doing anything and are in a Moratorium-like state until their school year begins or even until October. Some schools are using a google form developed by Redmond School District to keep records of their kiddos for tracing purposes, this helps with the management of checking on each athletes as they enter the facility and allows the coaches to only have to monitor the google document. Some schools districts are wide open and doing everything they possibly can to get as many kids in front of their coaches as they possibly can, there are other schools who have divided Season 1 into 3 5-week seasons, so that there are no undue pressures on student-athletes to choose one sport over the other. Most schools that are starting this are doing so with our traditional spring sports teams and individuals, then the second 5-week season would be our traditional fall sports teams and individuals, followed by the last 5-week season for traditional winter sports teams and individuals. During those 5-week seasons there are some of the schools making the decision to not compete against other schools and strictly do inter-squad scrimmages to achieve “student engagement”, while there are some starting to schedule competitions. Those that are scheduling competitions are trying to do an entire week with the same school to help with tracking and scheduling (i.e. La Grade would play Baker home and away in all sports during one week, then moving to another school for an additional week, if that works out). The coaches are excited about what they can do during Season 1 and just want to connect with their kiddos! With schools still fairly concerned with transportation restrictions some schools are placing the responsibility on the families to get their student-athletes to games, which also restricts the distance of trips. Other schools have broken it down into weeks with priorities 3 days during that week are with their priority season and 2 days a week are with the non-priority sports so that those coaches still get some contact with their athletes. Some schools have broken out Season 1 into 3 seasons with 3 days a week sports specific and 2 days a week with general conditioning. Some schools have closed their doors to athletics until sometime in October. There are some school districts that will work with their athletes for 2 weeks then it moves to the next season. Some schools in the Portland -Metro area who have already been told by their school district that they will not be able to engage with their student-athletes have tried encouraging their athletes to sign up for some Fall Ball leagues out of this area. One of the concerns brought up with these schools competing with other schools is the opportunity to cross contaminate athletes and what we gain now could be lost during Season 4 if we are not able to have a season, so schools really should be conscientious of their actions during Season 1 as to not effect our ultimate goal of having a baseball season during Season 4.

Ideas for looking at schedules for Season 4 and the 18 games Participation Limitation.

As far as actually scheduling games, schools are all over the board with ideas, some are planning on having just a league schedule or splitting their league into 2 leagues and having a District tournament in the final week of the season prior to the culminating week. Other leagues are concerned about travel as they won’t have buses and are going to try and stay local/regional and if needed play some league district

tournaments prior to the culminating week. There are other classifications that are waiting to see what the culminating week looks like, prior to scheduling anything. Some schools were thinking that they could play their league season in the first six weeks and either extend the Culminating week to two weeks so that the “traditional” state playoffs can take place sense baseball lost out on this opportunity last year completely or play all of their league games within the first six weeks, followed by some type of District tournament during the final week of the regular season. While no one has “officially” scheduled their baseball season yet, most are hoping to start putting something together within the next three weeks except for the 2A/1A who typically wait and see who is having teams prior to scheduling their league schedules. Some classifications are waiting to see what the culminating week looks like before they start scheduling league or regional play.

What are your initial priorities on Culminating week?

Most people would like to see some type of State Championships, especially sense baseball missed out on this last year. They want to have something “exciting” to shoot for and there really should be limited obstacles involved, especially a money issue. We started throwing out a few examples, but everyone agreed we should probably have a Plan A and a Plan B, with Plan A being a typical state championship look whether that is modified to a regional approach, limiting the number of teams into a bracket (Final 8 or 16 team), or just matching up “leagues” and placing them into flights of 8 teams to play either 2 or 3 extra games during that week. This would give teams/schools something to play for instead of just an extra week of competitions. Realizing that transportation may be a factor. Some schools are worried about losing athletes to outside clubs or sports within the school if there is nothing truly to play for at the end, especially since club/American Legion will be starting up since the season has extended into the middle to end of June. Teams will probably be traveling the following week after the culminating week, so we should do everything we can to have a “true” state championship. They do not want the school season to become intramurals, the pursuit and team bonding aspects are real and powerful to kids and coaches. The group is interested in hearing from others to see other potential ideas for what the culminating week looks like. Some group members have started thinking about potential proposals for each classification.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, September 24, (6:30pm – 7:45pm)
- Thursday, October 8, (6:30pm – 7:45pm)

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need. Will send out the focused questions ahead of time. Kris will email out that with the invite for the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you for everyone’s willingness to be on this group and for your insight!