



Oregon School Activities Association  
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May 14, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Board

SUBJECT: OSAA Soccer Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Soccer Contingency Group met on May 14, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the first time. All members were present; the attendees included: SRI Patrick Duffy; OAOA/OSAA Gibby Reynolds; Mike Blok, AD Beaverton HS (6A); Dave Hancock, AD South Eugene HS (6A); Darren Goodman, AD La Grande HS (4A); Missy Smith, AD Oregon Episcopal (3A); Monty Hawkins, Head Boys Coach – Sherwood HS (6A); Jamie Brock, Head Girls Coach – Summit HS (6A); Jaime Rivera, Head Boys Coach – Hood River Valley HS (5A); Stephanie Vanderbusch, Head Girls Coach – Phoenix HS (4A); and OSAA staff members, Kelly Foster, Brad Garrett, KT Emerson, Kyle Stanfield, Peter Weber, and Kris Welch.

We began with introductions and ground rules with this being a Zoom Meeting to make sure everyone understood how Zoom meetings work. We then talked about how this group was formed, attempting to get regional representation along with classification representation and all group representation, Officials, Athletic Directors, and Coaches. This group was formed to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our membership schools with guidance and a comprehensive set of guidelines in the specific sport of soccer. Realizing that there are 179 membership schools who offer soccer, we need to keep these recommendations simple.

We went over all of the information that we know as of May 14: members schools are in moratorium-like restrictions through the end of the Association year; the OSAA Executive Board will be meeting on May 20; Oregon's Governor Brown's Executive Orders, 20-20 extending school closures until the end of each school end of year/contract (which does vary depending on school districts school year ending), EO 20-12 allowing outside activities but no contact and maintaining physical distancing. We also explained the Governor's Re-opening Oregon plan, which has opening in phases and that 33 of the 36 counties had applied for Phase 1 and 28 counties as of May 14 were approved to re-open in Phase 1. This means we will all be in different phases at different times. We also discussed that the 2020-21 school year will most likely not start with any "normalcy". Our ability to find creative solutions to have coaches and kids back together safely is ESSENTIAL!

This group understands that whatever recommendations they come up with, could be impacted by other organizations mandating restrictions, for instance: the NFHS/SMAC and the OSAA/SMAC will be sending down regulations within the next week, which will also mean that every sport and activity will be not be re-opening

at the same time. The ODE will also be forthcoming with decisions on whether or not schools will open as usual in September and that will have an impact on OSAA Athletics and Activities.

We then started into the focused questions segment of the meeting.

- What would you consider the minimum time needed to acclimate a soccer player that has had limited opportunity to train?

*Most agreed that a two-week minimum acclimation would be enough time, but that it is important to know your players; their health; level of athleticism/commitment and that they need to adapt to their athletes. The ability in soccer of subbing tends to allow coaches some latitude to help manage their teams better in competition. There was a little concern about these athletes and the shape some will be in especially with the loss of spring sports, some of these kids will not have done anything for almost five months. If the OSAA Executive Board allows schools in the summer to at least connect with their athletes, the coaches can start organizing training sessions to help these athletes.*

- What types of restrictions, number of trainings/practices do you use in your programs?

*Most schools do not have restrictions on the number of practices needed prior to soccer players participating in matches. One school district mandate ten practices prior to participating in competition.*

- If there was an interruption during the season, would we need to have a re-acclimation period before starting again?

*There are several variables that could effect the re-acclimation: how much time is left in the season, whether it is in the preseason (where the kids are still working on conditioning), middle of the season (where kids are in better shape), or end of the season (kids are in shape). It is up to the kids to maintain their conditioning and running during the interruption. Maybe we can put together a chart depending on the length of the interruption; for example 1 week delay – start right back; 2 week delay – 3 days.....*

- If in small groups (no more than 5, including a coach) were allowed to convene to practice, could soccer coaches make that work?

*Coaches are adaptable, would be nicer to have more than just 4 kids and a coach. Coaches can stagger practices/sessions. Lots of individual skill drills can be achieved in a shorter period of time. There was a concern brought up about coaches getting burned out with the extended time spent with kids. One concern brought up is facility usage, bathrooms and sanitation and the increase of cost to the schools to have custodians constantly re-sanitizing the facility. We would definitely need help with guidance, another concern is who is checking on the status of the athletes, trainers may not be able to be back helping the schools because of furlough days or being pulled out for healthcare responsibilities.*

- What if the number was 10?

*This would be better on the coaches, less sessions to meet the criteria.*

- How would physical distancing work in soccer?

*Give coaches the parameters and they can make anything work. They would need to set boundaries with their athletes and make sure every kid understands the boundaries. Lots of skill work, dribbling, shooting on goal, all good drills that can be done without contact. There is a concern with coaches and/or kids who are*

*competitive that their instincts jump in and contact will take place. Some adaptations that could take place are kick-ins as opposed to throw-ins when a ball goes out of play.*

- What is your comfort level with soccer camps or clinics organized and/or conducted by member schools during the summer?

*We started all across the board on this but got reeled in rather quickly with the realization that schools' districts will probably place mandates and requirements in place. Counties will probably have to be in the same Phase before they would be allowed. Regional concepts are doable, some districts have already started meeting to organize a "Plan B" for camps/trainings/matches. No one wants the liability*

- Should we be taking a position on these events?

*Guidance would be great.*

- What are other soccer groups/clubs have you heard from on their plans?

*OYSA has tentatively set a July 6 date for tryouts, but it is all dependent on school districts and Phases their counties are in. Several "private trainers" are working with their kids virtually, but basically there are no areas where kids can train right now.*

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, May 21 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
- Thursday, May 27 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
- Thursday, June 4 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
- Thursday, June 11 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)

Will send out the focused questions ahead of time. We may not be meeting on May 21 depending on all the information or lack of information from the State we have received. 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!