



Oregon School Activities Association

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July 30, 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 July 30, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the sixth time. Most members were present.

We began with quickly reviewing our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 179 membership schools who sponsor soccer during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over all of the information that we know as of July 30: The OSAA Executive Board met during their 3-day retreat and made some decisions; as of now to open up the Association year on August 17, but delay the start of Fall competitions to September 23; they also took action on mandating 9 days of practice prior to first competition, with no multiple practices in a single day. The Governor also released the State's new guidelines/metrics for schools to have in-person learning; surrounding states have released their hopeful plans for sports seasons; and that the OSAA Executive Board will be meeting again on Wednesday, August 5. Our ability to find creative solutions to have coaches and kids back together safely is ESSENTIAL!

Some of the things we can anticipate are other states and outside agencies will find ways to conduct athletics this fall, which will create issues of some type; some school districts may be online all year long; and that we will need to make changes again to our latest plan of starting fall competitions on September 23.

We went over all of the information that we put together into our OSAA Soccer Plan, then looked at the surrounding states models for the 2020 – 21 seasons.

- California's two-season approach of having more sports/activities in each season for a longer season but causes lots of overlap, making students, coaches and schools to make a decision on which sport to participate in.
- Washington's four-season approach having shortened seasons with less overlap.
- Nevada's three-season approach having very little overlap and the three seasons are split out equitably.

The soccer contingency group felt that equality for all sports was important; to get back to competitiveness and camaraderie. It is also important that we have opportunities for kids to do something and if that means in soccer schools just playing matches that would be okay, playoffs would be a luxury. The club soccer programs in the Portland area will work with the high schools to “fill the voids” during the seasons that high schools do not offer soccer, but also take off the seasons that high school does offer soccer so that there is very little conflict/overlap for the athletes.

The bottom line is this whole situation is more complicated with lots of groups at the state level who are making many of the decisions and until those groups finalize some items, it is difficult for the OSAA and the schools to figure out what we are going to do. The membership schools would like some hard dates that they can work with, to have seasons in order to create schedules with fellow membership schools. Realizing that in-person learning could make it very difficult for some school districts to offer extra-curricular activities, those schools that choose to open in-person should have the opportunities to get kids in front of coaches and participating in some activities.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, August 20 (4:00pm – 5:15pm) following the Executive Board Retreat

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need, if we do, we will stay on Thursdays at 4:00pm. 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!