

OSAA Football Contingency Planning Framework

Required Acclimation Period (Regardless of Start Date)

The anticipated acclimation period needed is somewhat dependent upon how often and in what ways coaches will be able to work with athletes prior to the Aug 17 start date. Many schools conduct a “conditioning” week prior to the OSAA first practice date – it may or may not include a camp of some type, but it does provide additional days to acclimate kids.

The OSAA minimum requirement is 9 days of practice prior to competition against another school – adding some additional days to account for the traditional conditioning week seems like a reasonable consideration – doing so would essentially imply that 14 days is the more accurate reflection of what OSAA schools currently use.

Significant Dates, Benchmarks, and Considerations

Date: August 17
Benchmark: OSAA First Practice Date
Considerations:

- First practice date assumes that contact sports are allowed under Governor’s guidelines and we can participate in a “mostly” normal practice situation - this will require some modifications to current recommendations.
- It does appear that all counties will have the opportunity to perhaps complete Phase 3 of the Governor’s plan (based on the 21- day progression?) that is required. The final county will be Multnomah who has indicated they will be moving to Phase 1 on June 19 – Phase 3 would end on Aug 21.
- At this point we do not know what Phase 3 components look like nor do we know what happens after Phase 3. But the governor has signaled that larger gatherings such as concerts, festivals, sporting events, and more may not return until at least September or a vaccine has been proven effective for treating the virus.
- It is probable that teams may reach this benchmark at different times. There is consensus that when guidelines allow teams to begin practice, those that have met the criteria can begin practice – regardless of whether other teams in their league/conference have that option.
- In the case where we have considerable fragmentation (some open and some not) it would be prudent for Athletic Directors work together to develop “regional competition” back-up plans in all areas of the state. A key consideration in this planning will be defining what regional means – as a starting point best practice suggests aligning in some fashion with the established regions under the Oregon Health Authorities Health Security and Preparedness program. You can find a map of how the state is organized under this program at the link below: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREPAREDNESS/PARTNERS/Documents/AllState.pdf>.
- If the first practice date is not an option for member schools a decision on how long to delay will be made by the OSAA Executive Board.

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Date: August 27

Benchmark: OSAA First Contest Date

Considerations:

- If we can practice, we can play so advancing to this benchmark is dependent upon meeting the Aug 17 benchmark. Obviously if we must move the Aug 17 date later into the calendar for any reason, then this benchmark would move accordingly.
- If we can't start practice, there is consensus that working through a weekly delay scenario is better than setting an arbitrary date to start somewhere in the future.
- If we fail to meet this benchmark there seems to be some consensus that a season consisting of at least 6 games – enough to rank teams into a viable playoff bracket. Holding to a 6-game season and not adjusting the playoff dates or championship field sizes would require that teams play their first game on 9/25 or 9/26.
- As with practice situations the group agrees that teams that can start competition should be allowed to do so even if that means that other league/conference opponents would not be able to start.
- We should anticipate situations in which scheduled games can't take place because of restrictions, out-breaks, and other COVID related reasons. Outcomes of games that can't be played for reasons outside of the control of schools involved will need a resolution framework that all schools can refer to if that situations occurs.
- There is consensus that teams not able to participate because of COVID restrictions or school district policy should not be penalized.
- The potential for travel restrictions because of physical distancing requirements will have unknown impact. Schools should be prepared to limit travel – this will impact leagues/conferences differently depending on which geographic region and league/conference alignments.

Date: Sept 7

Benchmark: Must start date if playing 6-game schedule

Considerations:

- Practice must start by this date in order to complete 6-games and allow for a 2-week acclimation period. Survey results indicate that most coaches would prefer a 5 or 6 game schedule prior to the playoffs if possible.
- Under a 5 or 6 game regular season scenario several leagues would not be able to complete a full league schedule – thus many would have to create a method to determine qualifiers without using head to head criteria.

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Date: Oct 5
Benchmark: Deadline to modify the Championships
Considerations:

- If competition has not resumed by this point the group supports modifying the Championships to allow extended regular season play – options to consider:
 - Reduce the number of team at each classification level
 - Move the Championships to a date later in the calendar
 - Eliminate the Championships and change the cut-off date to Dec 5

Date: Nov 28
Benchmark: 5A,4A,3A, 2A and 1A Championships
Considerations:

- Championship dates at all classification levels are tied to previous benchmarks. While it may be possible to move these dates later into the calendar there are implications that need to be vetted prior to exercising that option.
 - Sliding the date will create more overlap between Fall and Winter sports.
 - Implications for schools at all classification levels that may share significant numbers of athletes across programs.
 - Championship locations and facilities may have to change depending upon the date
 - Consideration should be given to weather – it does not get any better by moving later into the calendar.

Date: Dec 5
Benchmark: 6A Championship
Considerations:
Same as previous benchmark

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Benchmarks with No Current Deadline:

Date: ???

Benchmark: OSAA Executive Board decision on whether to change Championship dates

Considerations:

- This benchmark most likely becomes more viable if we fail to start competition by September 25.

Date: ???

Benchmark: OSAA Executive Board decision on whether to “flip” sport seasons

Considerations:

Table below summarizes a variety of input on this topic

Pros	Cons
1) Spring sports are not considered "contact sports" in comparison to the Fall sports of Football and Soccer.	1) Does not guarantee that Baseball and Softball will play a “normal” season. Potential that they would lose 2 seasons.
2) All spring sports are competed at outdoor venues unlike in the Fall with Volleyball being an indoor sport.	2) Impact on multiple sport coaches and athletes at all Classification levels.
3) Typically, crowds for contests are smaller for our Spring Sports compared to crowds for Fall Sports.	3) Weather complications more prevalent during the Championships (Nov rain compared to June rain)
4) With the prospect of travel restrictions or unreasonable busing options due to spacing between passengers on a bus, we would be able to schedule out of classification contests versus schools in our county for the non-contact sports offered in the Spring. This is not necessarily an option for the contact sports offered in the Fall. For example, I can schedule baseball and softball versus a smaller school in my county but could not necessarily do this in football or soccer.	4) Contributes to the fragmentation already occurring throughout the sports continuum.
5) Locker Room / Shower Facilities are not commonly offered to opposing teams and/or are not necessary for home teams during the Spring sport season. The Fall sport season commonly offers Locker Room / Shower Facilities to both home and visiting teams and would largely be considered necessary for the Fall sport of Football.	5) Potential negative impact on coaches and athletes because of pre-existing conflicts?
	6) Potential scheduling issues given AD’s are on vacation and would have to reconstitute in some way to create the new statewide schedule.