

Volleyball Contingency Group Notes- Meeting #4- June 15, 2020

We reviewed what is currently happening throughout the state regarding current practice models and facility usage. The answers varied from facilities continue to be shut down at some schools, to some schools are allowing small group instruction with strict guidelines. The increase in cases in areas outside of urban areas was part of the discussion for future openings of some of our schools in more rural areas.

Competition guidelines were discussed including:

- Seating capacities for various gyms- does that make a difference on the number of people they can have in a facility including spectators?
 - o Is 50 for indoor events based on capacity? Or the maximum number?
- Separated gyms- does that allow for 50 per each gym? Or for the entire facility?
- Bus capacities- with the new ODE guidelines, mathematically it is assumed that only 24 people can ride on a bus at one time.
 - o Will schools be able to afford to send two buses for an entire volleyball program to travel?
- What cleaning processes or guidelines will be given for in between sets? Matches?
 - o Can students and coaches help with cleaning processes?
- Parents have to help students take the protocols more seriously. Some parents are not screening their students prior to returning to play and that will put other athletes at risk.

Volleyball Contingency Group Framework:
Discussion June 15, 2020 (DRAFT information)

Required Acclimatization Period
(Regardless of Start Date)

Volleyball has no standardized acclimatization period because in past practices. With tryouts/practices have always begun on the first day of the Association year and have allowed volleyball players to compete 10 days later.

Significant Dates, Benchmarks, and Considerations

Date: August 27
Benchmark: OSAA First Contest Date
Considerations: Travel considerations for schools- Including availability of buses and distance, tournaments, and official availability.

Volleyball practice should be able to begin given that physical distancing if required can be maintained in practice situations. Game like situations may have to be avoided as physical distancing is much more challenging in competition situations.

If we can practice, we can compete 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 fail to meet this benchmark there is consensus that the regular season could be delayed up to but not beyond September 28. Competitions would need to begin by September 28 allow four weeks of regular season play. With a minimum of ten matches, that would be three matches a week. All qualifying events would need to be conducted by this date in order to conduct the Championships on the scheduled date. Essentially, there is a consensus that all **Volleyball** will need at least **ten matches or one round of league play plus two out of league matches** to provide some data and ability to develop a post season bracket.

Questions:

- Travel guidelines may be restrictive – does this create any issues that can't be overcome?
- Tournament play- Gatherings? Including state championships.
- Double Duals?

Benchmark: Volleyball Cut-off Dates
Date: Oct 26 and 27
Considerations: Change to state championship format-

Questions: What if a league has some teams who cannot compete? Do we have a modified league?

Benchmark: Volleyball Championships
Date: Nov 3 Quarterfinals hosted at home sites
Date: November 5 Semi-Finals hosted at home sites
Date: November 7 Finals hosted at Neutral Site/State Championship Site
Considerations: Home schools host responsibilities, spectators, streaming,

Questions:

- Implications related to moving this date later in the calendar.
 - Do we slide the entire calendar to accommodate the move? If not, does overlapping the Fall and Winter create significant issues, especially for smaller schools?
- **Benchmark:** OSAA Executive Board decision on whether to “flip” sport seasons
- **Date:** Late July
- **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	4) Contributes to the fragmentation already occurring throughout the sports continuum.

<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>5) Potential negative impact on coaches and athletes because of pre-existing conflicts?</p>
	<p>6) Potential scheduling issues given AD's are on vacation and would have to reconstitute in some way to create the new statewide schedule.</p>
	<p>7) Official availability due to the club season going in the spring. Match availability may be easier, but Saturdays for any tournament may be more challenging.</p>