



Oregon School Activities Association

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December 5, 2024

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches
FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update – December 5 Meeting

The Football Ad Hoc Advisory conducted its first public meeting of this school year in a hybrid model with most Committee members in-person at the OSAA Office and several attending via Zoom. The goal of this group is to review football data for schools, along with any proposals, and make recommendations to the Executive Board for their February 3rd meeting.

OSAA staff provided a summary of 13 pieces of correspondence received prior to the meeting. During the meeting the Committee received testimony from eight individuals, either in-person or online, representing five different schools. At the completion of the testimony, the Committee convened into a work session to discuss a variety of topics, review testimony, and develop this update. Topics discussed include:

2025 Special Districts

The Committee looked at the 21 schools who had qualified for consideration to play down but because we didn't have complete information from each of these schools, the Committee decided to delay its first draft of the 2025 Special Districts. The same was true for the five schools who qualified for consideration to be moved back up to their original classification. The staff will follow up with each school eligible for consideration, up or down, to gather the requested data prior to the December 19th meeting. The Committee is committed to publishing a draft of the 2025 Special Districts following the December 19 meeting.

Required Information. A member school that meets the criteria of winning percentage shall provide the Football Ad Hoc Committee with the following information:

- 1) Participation numbers by grade level (9-12).
- 2) Win/loss records, including point differentials, for each level in the program.
- 3) Listing of any forfeits for each level in the program.
- 4) Coaching staff continuity for each level in the program.
- 5) School Administration continuity.
- 6) Description of off-season programs (team camp, youth camp, 7 on7/lineman challenge, summer weights).
- 7) Youth program participation numbers by grade level and coaching staff continuity for the past four years.
- 8) Description of school/community support and action steps taken, or planned, by the school to return the program to its original classification.

OSAA Football Week

The Committee received correspondence requesting a possible change in the definition of the football week. Currently, the OSAA football week is defined as Tuesday through Monday to allow schools to know exactly how many quarters each sub-varsity student can play in the sub-varsity contest. The suggestion received was to redefine the OSAA football week to Wednesday-Tuesday. This could provide more options for sub-varsity games to occur, especially given officials shortages in some areas, and also allow schools more opportunity to double up sub-varsity football and volleyball on the same bus to lower transportation costs.

The Football Ad Hoc Committee is interested in receiving feedback from schools to see if there would be support for redefining the football week.

Zero Week and Bye Week for Sub-Varsity Players

There was some discussion on an unforeseen consequence of varsity games taking place during “zero” week. Currently, participants are allowed to play in nine (9) weeks of competitions during the season. With “zero” week being Labor Day weekend most schools were not able to play a sub-varsity contest that week. When that school’s varsity team has its bye week, the school would schedule a sub-varsity contest to make up for the lack of a game during “zero” week. The issue is that “swing” players who played in the varsity “zero” week game used up a week and were not eligible to participate for the sub-varsity team during the varsity team’s bye week as it would result in them playing in 10 weeks of competitions. OSAA staff will seek input from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee on this topic as well.

The Football Ad Hoc Committee is interested in receiving feedback from schools to gauge support to allow those players an opportunity to play in the “bye” week game while maintaining their limit of five quarters in a week.

6A Playoff System

The group spent time discussing the current 6A playoff system, including the results from last year’s surveys of 6A athletic directors and coaches. There was also correspondence received by the Committee on this topic. In general, the group believes that reducing the total number of teams and changing how teams were selected were successful. They are waiting to see if there are any changes to the number of 6A football teams before determining if additional changes should be recommended. The group also discussed the naming of the brackets for this past season with more discussion to come at upcoming meetings.

The Football Ad Hoc Committee is interested in receiving feedback from 6A schools regarding their playoff system.

Future Meetings: These meetings will be hybrid format with both in-person and via Zoom. All will include public testimony sessions for schools.

Thursday, December 19th, 10:00am (OSAA Office and Zoom)

Wednesday, January 8th, 10:00am (OSAA Office and Zoom)

Wednesday, January 22nd, 10:00am (OSAA Office and Zoom)

The OSAA staff will provide a committee update, like this one, to all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, and football coaches following each meeting. The Committee roster, charge, and any additional committee information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA at krisw@osaa.org. Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

Please contact Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.