



Oregon School Activities Association
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February 3, 2020

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors
FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Update from the Transfer Task Force – February 3, 2020

The Transfer Task Force had their third meeting at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville on Monday, February 3, 2020 to continue its review of current OSAA transfer policies.

The Task Force was appointed by the OSAA Executive Board following a request from the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) and a survey of statewide athletic directors at the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) State Conference last April.

The OSAA Executive Board has charged the group with exploring the following topics related to transfer policies:

- Thorough review of the current Rule 8.6 regarding transfers, including the Joint Residence requirement
- Strategies to address the increasing number of transfers
- Consideration of policies in effect in other states as it relates to transfers
- Feasibility of allowing ineligible transfers to participate at the sub-varsity level
- Policies and procedures for transfers involving homeless students as defined by McKinney-Vento
- Transfers with affiliation, including students returning to a school previously attended
- Mid-year transfers vs. transfers between school years
- Transfer hardship appeals process involving District Hardship Committees
- Plus, any other topics deemed relevant by the Task Force

The Task Force was welcomed by OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber along with other OSAA Executive Staff members. The charge of the Committee was presented before they began their discussion.

Task Force members are concerned with a “free agency” mentality regarding transfers and the increased role that out-of-season club sport participation has on which school a student attends. After much discussion and ideas, the Task Force has focused on two aspects of transfers that they believe will help the landscape across the state. The main topics will be drafted and taken to the Oregon Athletic Directors Association Conference in April for feedback, along with feedback from the OSAA Executive Board and Delegate Assembly at their upcoming meetings. Those two focuses are:

Sub-Varsity Participation for Transfers

The Task Force believes that participation is key in connecting students to a school. For ineligible transfers, they do not want to take the opportunity of participation away from an individual, but they are interested in restricting at what levels they can participate. The concept would be that any ineligible transfer is automatically eligible at the sub-varsity level but not at the varsity level. The idea is that if someone is going to transfer for athletic purposes then knowing that they won't be eligible at the varsity level may detour them from transferring. The period of eligibility at the sub-varsity level only would be consistent with current OSAA rules (typically one calendar year). For schools that do not have sub-varsity teams there would be a similar hardship process to what is currently in place. The group directed the staff to put together potential wording following a review of policies from other states.

Participation in the same Sport in the same Season

To curb early season / mid-season transfers, the Task Force is interested in restricting a student to participating for a single school in a single activity in a season even if the transfer is legal. This restriction would begin once a student attends tryouts, practice or participates in a contest. An example would be: a student participates in tryouts at school 'A' but doesn't make the team. They decide to then transfer to school 'B' to try to make the team there. This student, because of their tryout at school 'A' would not be eligible to participate in that activity at any other school for that sports season, even with a move of the entire family. This concept would help keep students at their originating school and not transferring for athletic purposes.

Additional Conversation

The group continues to have discussions around other policies associated with a potential transfer of a student. They will continue to discuss the undue influence rule and if there are ways to create more guidance in the area. They plan to discuss the Eligibility Appeals Board structure and if a regional panel would provide greater consistency across the state. The OSAA Executive Board is reviewing a potential rule change at their upcoming meeting about McKinney-Vento students which could provide necessary education to schools about how that could affect eligibility.

The task force is also interested in gaining more information on the students who are transferring, whether they're eligible or not. This group, along with other committees/task forces of the OSAA, may have interest in the type of transfers, who's transferring, the demographics of a transfer etc. that are happening across the state. This information could prove useful to future discussions.

The Task Force will meet in late April to early May, after the OADA Conference feedback. Currently those meetings are scheduled to be work sessions, but the group welcomes feedback from member schools on areas the Task Force should address during its work.

Written suggestions and proposals on any transfer related subjects should be emailed to the OSAA (kyles@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all task force members for review and discussion.