



Oregon School Activities Association

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October 21, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors
FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Update from the Transfer Task Force – October 16, 2019

The Transfer Task Force had an initial meeting at the OSAA Offices in Wilsonville on Monday, October 16, 2019 to begin 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. As it was the initial meeting, the discussion mainly focused on the charge, an explanation of current OSAA transfer policies and forms with examples, and areas of concern that have arisen over time. Task Force members contributed to the discussion with their own areas of concern and experience of transfers in their schools, leagues, and classifications.

Task Force members are concerned with a “free agency” mentality regarding transfers and the increased role that out-of-season club sport participation has as well. Concerns were expressed about the very high percentage of transfers approved through the current District Athletic Committee (DAC) process and whether a regional approach has merit. Discussion also took place regarding the possibility of sub-varsity participation for ineligible transfers and how such policy would impact the culture of transfers in our state. The Task Force is aware that recent trends in education in Oregon champion more choices, not fewer, and any potential changes to transfer policies must be carefully considered.

At the Task Force’s direction, OSAA staff will work to gather the following information for the group’s next meeting:

- Data for the District Athletic Committee (DAC) Hardship process, including # of requests by type, # granted/denied by type, common themes in DAC decisions, DAC member roles in schools/school districts, etc.
- Survey of schools regarding # of transfers by grade level, types of transfers (family move, reciprocal, etc.), # of multiple high school district vs. interdistrict transfers, etc.
- Transfer policies from other states, including incoming 9th grade policies
- Information regarding transfers involving students designated as homeless through McKinney-Vento
- Resources utilized by other states to educate schools, coaches, and families regarding transfer policies and rationale

The Task Force set two future meeting dates (December 10, 2019; February 3, 2020). 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 (peterw@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all task force members for review and discussion.