



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1

Wilsonville, OR 97070

503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 <http://www.osaa.org>



July 28, 2021

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Summary of Executive Board Action at the July 19-20, 2021, Summer Workshop

At the OSAA Executive Board Summer Workshop, the Board took the following actions:

- Voted to approve a two-week season extension for the 2021 season for the 6-person Football Pilot.
- Voted to approve 2021-22 Winter and Spring Special Districts (updated for each sport on www.osaa.org).
- Voted to adopt the 2021-22 Athletic Officials Handbook (updated on www.osaa.org/officials#rules).
- Voted to add Board Policy – Eligibility – GED Students and to amend Rule 8.5 – School Representation in alignment with new state legislation (attached).
- Voted to add Board Policy – Hair Adornments allowing hair adornments in specific activities in Oregon in alignment with new state legislation (attached).
- Voted to amend Board Policy – Practice Model to require students complete a minimum of five days of practice before competing unless they participated in the immediately preceding season. The Football practice requirement remains unchanged at nine days.
- Voted to amend Board Policy – State Championships – Rankings which updates calendar dates within the policy.
- Voted to approve the 2021-22 Eligibility Appeals Board Roster and Calendar of meetings.
- Voted to adopt revisions to the Cheerleading score sheets and rubric.
- Voted to increase the Wrestling brackets for girls to a 12-person bracket in each weight class starting with the 2021-22 state championships.

A summary of Executive Board actions is posted on the OSAA website following each Executive Board Meeting.



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



Excerpt from 2021-22 OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies

27. ELIGIBILITY – GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED) STUDENTS

(July 2021)

- A. **Compliance with Oregon Statutory Requirements.** In order for a General Education Development (GED) student to represent an OSAA member school in competition, the student must be enrolled in a GED program and satisfy all relevant requirements included in the GED statutes ([ORS 339.450](#), [ORS 339.460](#)) including but not limited to the following:
- 1) **Meet School District Eligibility Requirements.** The GED student shall meet all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of:
 - a) **The school district’s school or class attendance requirements, and**
 - b) **The OSAA academic eligibility requirements dealing with number of credits required per grading period.**
 - 2) **Meet School District Responsibilities and Standards of Behavior and Performance.** The GED student shall be required to fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, of other students participating in the interscholastic activity of the team or squad and shall be required to meet the same standards for acceptance on the team or squad. The GED student also shall comply with all school requirements during the time of participation.
 - 3) **Academic Eligibility Requirement.** In lieu of satisfying the OSAA academic eligibility requirements dealing with number of credits required per grading period, the GED student shall demonstrate that, prior to beginning the interscholastic activity each year, the student has passed at least one practice test administered through the GED program.
 - 4) **Effect of Academic Ineligibility.** Any GED student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility prior to transferring to a GED program shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a GED student for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and for the following year. The student may take the required practice tests at the end of the second year and becomes eligible for the third year.
- B. **Compliance with OSAA Deadlines and Regulations.** In addition to satisfying the Oregon statutory requirements summarized above, a GED student wishing to participate representing a member school must satisfy the following OSAA deadlines and regulations:
- 1) **Deadlines.**
 - a) **Notification of Intent.** The GED student shall notify the local school or ESD prior to the first day of school of the public or private school at which the student is eligible to participate in order to represent that school during that school year.
 - b) **Testing.** The GED student shall demonstrate that each year, prior to beginning the interscholastic activity, the student has passed at least one practice test administered through the GED program. The student may participate while awaiting practice test results.
 - c) **Transfer.** A transfer by a student to a GED program is considered to have taken place “in between school years” if the transfer occurs prior to the first day of school of the public or private school at which the student is eligible to participate.
 - 2) **Other OSAA Regulations.** Other OSAA regulations are summarized below. (Please see the Rules section of this Handbook for more detailed explanation including questions and answers regarding the regulations.)
 - a) **School Representation (Rule 8.5.1.(b)).** A GED student is eligible to represent only a public or private school located within the public school attendance boundaries of the joint residence of the student and student’s parents.
 - b) **Transfer Student Eligibility (Rule 8.6.3.).** If the transfer to or from the GED program occurs in between school years, the student is immediately eligible at the beginning of the school year. If the transfer to or from the GED program occurs during the school year, the student is ineligible for the remainder of that school year unless the student’s school of representation does not change.

- c) ***Duration of Eligibility/Graduation (Rule 8.2).*** A student may participate in interscholastic activities for four consecutive years or eight consecutive semesters after entering the 9th grade.
 - d) ***Age Restrictions (Rule 8.3).*** A student who becomes 19 before August 15 is ineligible for interscholastic competition. A student who becomes 19 on or after August 15 remains eligible for that entire school year.
- 3) ***Except where the denial of eligibility of a GED student is based upon Oregon statutory or regulatory requirements, the District Committee may in individual cases, at its discretion, waive or modify the eligibility rules regarding transfers involving GED students when in its opinion there are circumstances beyond the control of each of the student and the student's parent(s), or other circumstances whereby enforcement of the rule would work an undue hardship upon the student. See [Rules, Rule 8.5., "School Representation"](#) for additional information.***



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



Excerpt from 2021-22 OSAA Handbook, Rules

8.5. School Representation.

[\(School Representation Eligibility Certificate\)](#)

8.5.1. A student who competes in a sport or activity representing a school other than the one in which the student has been enrolled becomes ineligible for that sport or activity for the remainder of its season. **EXCEPTIONS:**

(a) Home School Students. [\(Home School Eligibility Parent Checklist\)](#)

A home school student who meets the eligibility standards established by *state* law may represent the public or a private school located within the public-school attendance boundaries of Joint Residence of the student and student's parents provided that the home school student was enrolled in the home school prior to the first day of school for the public/private school. See [Executive Board Policies, "Eligibility – Home School Students"](#) for additional information.

Once a home school student represents a school, that home school student may not represent another school for one calendar year after last representing the original school without a change in Joint Residence, except that a home school student who has chosen to represent a private school may also represent the resident public school in any activity not offered by the private school, provided that both high school principals agree.

(b) General Education Development (GED) Students.

A General Education Development (GED) student who meets the eligibility standards established by state law may represent the public or a private school located within the public-school attendance boundaries of Joint Residence of the student and student's parents provided that the GED student was enrolled in a program provided by a school district or an education service district to earn a GED certificate prior to the first day of school for the public/private school. See Executive Board Policies, "Eligibility – General Education Diploma (GED) Students" for additional information.

Once a GED student represents a school, that GED student may not represent another school for one calendar year after last representing the original school without a change in Joint Residence, except that a GED student who has chosen to represent a private school may also represent the resident public school in any activity not offered by the private school, provided that both high school principals agree.

(c) Students Attending Full Member Private Schools. A student attending *a* private school that is a full member of the Association, which does not offer a particular activity, may represent the public school of Joint Residence of the student and student's parents, provided that both high school principals agree.

(d) Students Attending Full Member Public Charter Schools. A student attending *a* public charter school that is a full member of the Association may participate on teams representing the full member public charter school only.

(e) Students Attending Associate Member Private or Alternative Schools. A student attending *a* private school or alternative school (except public charter schools) that is an associate member of the Association may represent the public school of Joint Residence of the student and student's parents, provided that both high school principals agree.

(f) Students Attending Associate Member Public Charter Schools. A student attending *a* public charter school that is an associate member of the Association and does not offer any interscholastic activities may represent the public school of Joint Residence of the student and student's parents.

EXCEPTION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL STUDENTS: However, a student who was previously eligible to represent a public school that is not the public school of Joint Residence of the student and the student's parents who is subsequently placed in an Associate Member alternative school, remains eligible while attending the alternative school to represent the non-resident public school at which the student was previously eligible.

1. **Q.** May a high school student who is a member of a high school team also compete on a non-school, organized athletic team or as an unattached individual in that sport during the Association Year?

A. Yes.
2. **Q.** May a home school **or GED program** student represent a member school in interscholastic activities?

A. Yes, providing the home school **or GED program** student meets all necessary requirements and represents the public high school or the private high school in which district the student's parents reside. See [Executive Board Policies, "Eligibility – Home School Students"](#) **or Executive Board Policies, "Eligibility – General Education Diploma (GED) Students"** for additional information.
3. **Q.** If a student living in School A's attendance area attends School B and then becomes a home school **or GED program** student during the school year, when is that student eligible to represent School A?

A. The student is eligible to represent School A at the beginning of the school year following the date the student becomes a home school **or GED program** student, providing all other eligibility requirements are met.
4. **Q.** If a student who lives in School A's attendance area attends School B and then becomes a home school **or GED program** student and represents School A, can that student return to School B as a regularly enrolled student and be eligible?

A. No. If this occurs, the student in question would be eligible at School B one calendar year from the date of return to School B.
5. **Q.** If a home school **or GED program** student's parents reside in School A's attendance area and the student's parents move to School B's attendance area, how does this affect the eligibility of the student?

A. The home school **or GED program** student would be eligible only at school B.
6. **Q.** If a home school **or GED program** student's parents reside in a public-school district that also has a private school and/or a member charter school within its attendance boundaries, which school may the home school **or GED program** student represent?

A. The home school **or GED program** student would be eligible to represent any of the schools within the attendance boundaries of the public school, but only one of the schools. Once the home school **or GED program** student attended a practice or represented one of the schools, that school would be the only school the home school **or GED program** student would be eligible to represent unless at least one calendar year has passed since the home school **or GED program** student last represented any of the schools. **EXCEPTION:** A home school **or GED program** student who has chosen to represent a private school may also represent the resident public school in any activity not offered by the private school, provided that both high school principals agree.
7. **Q.** If a home school **or GED program** student's parents reside in a public-school district that also has a private school and/or a member charter school within its attendance boundaries, may the home school **or GED program** student represent different schools in different sports or activities?

A. No. Once the home school **or GED program** student attended a practice or represented one of the schools, that school would be the only school the home school **or GED program** student would be eligible to represent. The home school **or GED program** student would be ineligible to represent any school other than the one the student initially represented unless at least one calendar year has passed since the home school **or GED program** student last represented the initially represented school. **EXCEPTION:** A home school **or GED program** student who has chosen to represent a private school may also represent the resident public school in any activity not offered by the private school, provided that both high school principals agree.
8. **Q.** If there is more than one private school within the public-school boundaries where a home school **or GED program** student's parents reside, which private school may the home school **or GED program** student represent?

A. The home school **or GED program** student may represent any of the private schools, but only one.
9. **Q.** If a home school **or GED program** student's parents reside in a public-school district that has no private school within its attendance boundaries, may the home school **or GED program** student represent a private school in an adjacent public-school district?

A. No. If there is no private school within the public-school attendance boundaries in which the home school **or GED program** student's parents reside, the home school **or GED program** student may only represent the public school within whose attendance boundaries the home school **or GED program** student's parents reside.
10. **Q.** May a home school **or GED program** student whose parents reside within a multiple high school district select the high school he or she wishes to represent?

A. No. The home school **or GED program** student is eligible only at the public school within whose attendance boundaries the student's parents reside, or at a private school located within those same attendance boundaries.

11. Q. If a student resides within the attendance boundaries of a public school and attends a full member private school outside those attendance boundaries, and the private school does not offer a particular sport, what public school may that private school student represent in that sport?
- A. The private school student may represent only the public school in whose attendance boundaries the parents of the private school student reside.
12. Q. If a full member private school student represents the public school within whose attendance boundaries the private school student resides in one sport, may the private school student then represent the private school in another sport?
- A. Yes. If the private school student represents a public school because the private school does not offer that particular sport, the private school student may then represent the private school in another sport that is offered. **NOTE:** A private school student may represent a public school only if the private school does not offer the particular sport.
13. Q. If a student attending a full member private school resides in a multiple high school district, which public school may the private school student represent if the private school does not offer a particular sport?
- A. That student may represent only the high school in whose attendance area the student's parents reside within the multiple high school district.
14. Q. Are emancipated minors eligible?
- A. Even though a student is emancipated, that student still must attend the high school in which district *their* parents reside if that student wishes to be eligible for interscholastic competition. If the student in question moves to another district, in order to be eligible, the student's parents also would have to move to that district.
15. Q. If a full member private school drops a sport after the first contest date of a sports season, may those students participate in that sport at the public school in whose attendance boundaries the parents of the student reside, providing both high school principals agree?
- A. No. The private school must drop a program before the first contest date of that sports season in order for the students to be eligible to participate in that sport at their resident public school.
16. Q. If a full member public school does not offer a particular sport, may a public school, full member private school, associate member school or home school student who resides in the public school's attendance boundary and who wishes to participate in that sport participate at another school in order to compete in that sport?
- A. No.
17. Q. If tuition is paid in order for a student to attend a public high school outside the attendance area of Joint Residence, is the student eligible?
- A. No. The student is not eligible for a period of one year, unless the student enrolled in the school to which tuition is paid prior to initial enrollment in the 9th grade.
18. Q. May an individual student who attends a full member public school that does not offer a school team in a given sport participate in practice sessions at a neighboring school which does offer a school team in that sport?
- A. No.
19. Q. At what point does a student become ineligible once the student has withdrawn from a school?
- A. The student becomes ineligible the day following the student's withdrawal from a school.
20. Q. If a full member private school does not offer a girls' program in an activity, where may the girl participate in that activity?
- A. She may either participate on the boys' team at the private school if permitted by the private school or she may participate on the girls' team at her resident public school, provided that both high school principals agree. Once the student chooses on which team she wishes to participate, she may not change teams during that season.
21. Q. May a student at a school in the process of applying for Associate Membership practice and/or compete for the student's resident public school?
- A. The student may practice but may not compete in an interscholastic contest.
22. Q. How is it determined which school a student may represent when the student attends two full member schools simultaneously?
- A. The student is only eligible to represent the school at which the student is enrolled as a full-time student.



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



Excerpt from 2021-22 OSAA Handbook, Executive Board Policies

41. HAIR ADORNMENT

(July 2021)

The OSAA aims to be inclusive of all students from varying cultural backgrounds to access athletic and activity programs provided at member schools, while providing a fair and safe environment. This policy was developed inclusive of the language established in Oregon House Bill 2935 and in collaboration with the OSAA Equity and Diversity Committee and other stakeholders. The OSAA recognizes that this policy will need to be reviewed on a regular basis and continued education to member schools will be required to ensure understanding of this policy. The OSAA recognizes the value of athletics and activities for all students and the potential for inclusion to reduce harassment, bullying and barriers faced by certain students. The OSAA also recognizes the concerns of students, parents, and coaches to ensure a fair, equitable, and safe competitive environment.

A. House Bill 2935 Language. House Bill 2935 amended [ORS 659A.001](#), [ORS 332.075](#) and [ORS 659.850](#) relating to discrimination.

1) [ORS 659A.001](#), Amended to read:

- a) *“Protective hairstyle” means a hairstyle, hair color or manner of wearing hair that includes, but is not limited to, braids, regardless of whether the braids are created with extensions or styled with adornments, locs and twists.*
- b) *“Race” includes physical characteristics that are historically associated with race, including but not limited to natural hair, hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles.*

2) [ORS 332.075](#), Amended to read: (1) Any school district board may: (e) Authorize the school district to be a member of and pay fees, if any, to any voluntary organization that administers interscholastic activities or facilitates the scheduling and programming of interscholastic activities only if the organization: (A) Implements equity focused policies that:

- a) *Address the use of derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults, profanity or ridicule that occurs at an interscholastic activity, including by spectators of the interscholastic activity;*
- b) *Prohibit discrimination as defined in [ORS 659.850](#);*
- c) *Permit a student to wear religious clothing in accordance with the student’s sincerely held religious belief and consistent with any safety and health requirements; and*
- d) *Balance the health, safety and reasonable accommodation needs of participants on an activity-by-activity basis;*

3) [ORS 659.850](#), Amended to read: (B) “Discrimination” does not include enforcement of an otherwise valid dress code or policy, as long as the code or policy:

- a) *Provides, on a case-by-case basis, for reasonable accommodation of an individual based on the health and safety needs of the individual; and*
- b) *Does not have a disproportionate adverse impact on members of a protected class to a greater extent than the policy impacts person generally.*
- c) *“Race” includes physical characteristics that are historically associated with race, including but not limited to natural hair, hair texture, hair type and protective hairstyles as defined in [ORS 659A.001](#).*

B. Activities Allowing Hair Adornments as Exception to NFHS Rules. House Bill 2935 requires OSAA to implement equity focused policies that balance the health, safety, and reasonable accommodation needs of participants on an activity-by-activity basis. After careful review, and in alignment with House Bill 2935 and other rule-governing bodies, the OSAA will allow hair adornments in the following activities, despite current NFHS rules prohibiting them.

1) **Cheerleading** – Currently prohibited per NFHS Spirit Safety Rule: 2.1.5 Situation A.

OSAA Interpretation – Hair must be worn in a manner that is appropriate for the activity involved. Hair adornment(s) must be secured.

- 2) **Volleyball – Currently prohibited per NFHS Volleyball Rule 4.1.6.**

OSAA Interpretation – Hair with adornments must be secured so as not to present a safety hazard to the player, teammates, or opponents. If the hair adornment(s) become dislodged prior to or during competition, it must be secured before the participant can return to play.

- C. **Activities Adhering to NFHS Rules Prohibiting Hair Adornments. House Bill 2935 requires OSAA to implement equity focused policies that balance the health, safety, and reasonable accommodation needs of participants on an activity-by-activity basis. After careful review, and in alignment with House Bill 2935 and other rule-governing bodies, the OSAA is adhering to NFHS rules prohibiting hair adornments in the following activities due to health and safety considerations.**
 - 1) **Basketball – Prohibited per NFHS Basketball Rule 3-5 Article 4.**
 - 2) **Football – Prohibited per NFHS Football Rule 1-5 Article 3.**
 - 3) **Soccer – Prohibited per NFHS Soccer Rule 4-2 Article 1.**
 - 4) **Wrestling – Prohibited per NFHS Wrestling Rules 3-1-4b and 4-2-1.**
- D. **Activities Already Allowing Hair Adornment per NFHS Rules. OSAA-sanctioned activities where hair adornments are already allowed by NFHS or rule-governing bodies.**
 - 1) **Cross Country**
 - 2) **Dance**
 - 3) **Baseball**
 - 4) **Golf**
 - 5) **Softball**
 - 6) **Swimming**
 - 7) **Tennis**
 - 8) **Track & Field**