



Oregon School Activities Association

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May 12, 2022

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Local Associations

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Officials Fee Review Committee – May 5 Meeting Update

The Officials Fee Review Committee conducted its second public meeting via Zoom on May 5, 2022. The constitutionally mandated purpose of this Committee is to make recommendations to the OSAA Delegate Assembly for adoption in October 2022. These recommendations will consider items involving fees paid to individual officials, commissioners, or Local Associations. This includes game fees, mileage, per diem, check writing fees, commissioner fees, or any other type of service fee provided.

The Committee received public testimony from several people including officials' association representatives for soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball. We know that wrestling is organizing themselves and will have some information for our next meeting along with cheerleading. The Committee also reviewed six pieces of correspondence and then adjourned to a work session to begin development of a recommendation.

The Committee discussed several topics, all of which are still open for discussion:

- **Pay rate differentials between various sports.** Each sport, while unique, has common aspects in preparation/training for the season, along with state requirements and time commitment. The Committee is trying to work through rationale for the current differentials between sports and develop a proposal that the members can support so a proposal can be recommended to the Delegate Assembly.
- **Commissioner's fees/check writing fees (discussion on changing the name of the Check writing fee).** Currently these are tied to a team's game schedule and those fees are the same as an official's rate at the Varsity level for that sport. So, if the game rates increase, so do the Commissioner's fees. The only two sports where that does not occur are baseball and softball, historically based on the amount of work involved in rescheduling games due to rainy Spring weather. Commissioner's fees in baseball and softball are 50% more per schedule. There was discussion on adjusting this to an assigning fee per official per game. For instance, a soccer commissioner assigning three officials to a match would charge the school a certain amount per official scheduled. Discussion took place that if the schedule changed, the commissioner would still receive that amount for the original schedule and potentially another fee for the rescheduled match. This would help to compensate commissioners for the multiple changes and extra work they on with significant numbers of changes.
- **Game rate fees.** These were discussed and percentages were thrown out for discussion, but nothing was finalized. Commissioners were loud and clear that the extreme shortage of officials has led to other organizations increasing their fees to secure officials. It is becoming more difficult for commissioners to attract officials to high school contests when they can often make more money doing games for other organizations. To give schools an idea of how much money the increases could cost them,

An increase of 2% annually of affect the schools:

This would be an increase to a 6A/5A/4A school on average of **\$1,102** a year and 4- year total **\$4,412**.

This would be an increase to a 3A/2A/1A school on average of **\$719** a year and 4-year of **\$2,875**.

An increase of 8% annually would affect the schools:

This would be an increase to a 6A/5A/4A school on average of **\$2,139** a year and 4- year total **\$8,560**.

This would be an increase to a 3A/2A/1A school on average of **\$2,075** a year and 4-year of **\$8,300**.

- **Mileage fee.** This was discussed and it was noted by staff that the Executive Board recently approved an increase in the mileage fee for next year to \$.53/mile for officials. There was also discussion on potentially raising the minimum mileage fee which has been at \$5 per official for many years.

The following items are currently under consideration and have the full support of the Committee, but they request feedback from the member schools and officials on each of the following topics:

- The creation of a four-year fee schedule.
- Within the four-year time block, the 3A/2A/1A Varsity rate would continue to increase at 2-year increments to equalize with the 6A/5A/4A Varsity rate, while that rate also increases over those four years. This would create a single Varsity rate per sport by the 2026-27 school year.
- Maintaining the sub-varsity rate at 75% of the Varsity rate at each respective classification level.
- Potential creation of a fund from either game fees or school fees to help with generating money for startup fees to officiate, whether that be registration fees or equipment/uniforms costs

The following topics are items that the Committee is looking for feedback that have not been discussed in detail, but that the group plans to consider:

- Cheerleading Officials rates.
- Game cancellation policy.

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, similar to this one, to all officials associations, superintendents, principals, and athletic directors 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, as well as other officials' fees related subjects should be emailed to the OSAA, Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

The next public meeting of the Fee Review Committee will be at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 9th, 2022 via Zoom. The general format for the meeting will be for the Committee to receive public testimony followed by a closed work session.

The Committee appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.

If you wish to participate in the public testimony, please email your request to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) and he can send you the details of the zoom meeting links.