



Oregon School Activities Association
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January 31, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update

The Football Ad Hoc Committee conducted its sixth public meeting on January 25, 2019 at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville. All Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Board for review and potential adoption at a future date.

OSAA staff provided a summary of seven pieces of correspondence received after the last meeting. The Committee received no public testimony. The group then convened into a work session to discuss strategies to address the observations/issues identified during the 2019 season.

The group discussed a variety of topics during the work session.

- The group reviewed a proposed change to OSAA Executive Board Policy – Certification of Athletic Directors and Coaches that will be a first reading item at the February 11 meeting of the Board. The proposed change would modify the current requirement and instead require each schools Player Safety Coach to be certified at an in-person clinic every other year (not annually) and it would also exempt those attending the in-person PSC clinic from completing the Heads Up online certification courses. Player Safety Coaches would be required to complete the Heads Up online certification courses during the year they did not attend an in-person clinic. The proposed rule change is included with this update.
- OSAA staff updated the group on the progress made towards reaching out to youth organizations and distributing the consensus position statement. The document has now been distributed to all Athletic Directors, Head Football coaches, and identified youth organization leadership around the state.

Feedback to this point has been mostly positive and supportive of the effort. OSAA staff has made an offer to visit any youth organization to have a conversation with administrators about the points outlined in the position statement. Several youth groups are interested, and details are being discussed but nothing is finalized at this point.

All group members understand that continuing discussion and communication efforts will be essential moving forward and as such OSAA staff outlined potential next steps outlined below for consideration at a future meeting.

- Continued promotion of the position statement with our print/audio media contacts.
- Building recognition program – “OSAA Blue Ribbon Youth Football Program”
- Increased social media promotion about position statement

- Consensus letter from college coaches that agree with the position statement
- The group reviewed proposed changes to the sub-varsity kicking game modification policy. The policy has been simplified for coaches and game officials. A proposed draft of the modifications is included with this update.
- The group continues to discuss developing new criteria that addresses each of the following questions:
 - What criteria will be used to determine if a school who has played down for a two-year time block should be moved back to their original classification?
 - What if a school who has played down for a two-year time block fails to meet the criteria to be moved back to their original classification – should they remain as assigned or be moved down another classification level?
 - What criteria, if any, will be used to determine if a school who has been successful within their classification be moved up a classification level?

The group discussed a variety of different strategies moving forward to address the questions above.

There is agreement that any criteria developed to move a team who has played down for a two-year time block back to their original classification requires a different benchmark. Programs that show improvement and as a result do not meet the current standards would have to show significant progress to be automatically bumped back up.

Programs who have played down for a two-year time block and continue to meet the current benchmarks could potentially be moved down another classification level dependent upon an evaluation of additional factors (e.g. overall Colley winning %, participation numbers, etc.).

Creating benchmarks that would move a program up a classification level because of their success is complex. Several states use a system that awards a point value to post-season success and dependent upon the system procedures looks at the cumulative points over a defined period. These states then establish benchmarks that determine which classification level programs participate at based on that cumulative point total. The group has asked the staff to develop a simulation of this type of system for consideration at the next meeting.

- The group discussed the 6-player pilot and the implications related to introducing the game. Concerns related to how many teams will opt down if the activity is sanctioned by the Board at a future date and the impact that may have on the 8-player game. The Chair has suggested surveying the membership to identify those schools who would consider moving down so everyone has a better idea of what that looks like moving forward.

The following topics will continue to be addressed at the next scheduled meeting:

- Defining criteria to move schools up a classification level
- Strategies to address declining participation numbers
- Strategies to address declining number of game officials
- Role of the OSAA and member schools as related to youth football

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 bradg@osaa.org. Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

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

2019 Oregon Sub-Varsity Rules Modifications

For the 2019 season, modifications to the kicking game introduced in 2018 are further modified as noted below. The 2019 modifications will be implemented **only at the sub-varsity level** for all classifications.

Mutual agreement to use the following NFHS kicking rules deviations at the sub-varsity level is required of the participating schools prior to the coin flip. Failure to have mutual agreement prior to the coin flip results in the game being played by NFHS rules. If modifications are agreed upon the kicking game modifications outlined below apply to both kickoffs and punts.

Once an option is selected it can't be modified during the game for any reason.

It is recommended that these modifications be discussed and agreed upon by Athletic Directors and coaches well before game time, preferably in the week leading up to the game.

Kickoff Modifications

- Options for the team that wins the coin toss will be to defer choices **OR** choose to go on either offense or defense **OR** choose the goal that team will defend. The team on offense will start 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a score, the non-scoring team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line after their opponents PAT. The ball will be placed on the 35-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a safety, the ball will be placed on the Team B 45-yard line, 35 yards from the Team A 20-yard line, anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.
- Following a touchback, the ball will be placed on the Team B 20-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The game clock will start on the snap.

Punt Modifications

- The receiving team will put the ball in play 1st and 10 at the succeeding spot 25-yards from the previous spot anywhere between the hash marks. If the previous spot is on or inside the Team B 45-yard line, the ball will be placed at the Team B 20-yard line. The game clock will start on the snap

Note: Field goal attempts and PAT's by placekick will be conducted under NFHS Football Rules in all situations.

Proposal to Amend Executive Board Policy – Certification Athletic Directors and Coaches
(First Reading)

QUESTION: Should the Executive Board revise current policy that requires schools to certify a Player Safety Coach (PSC) annually and complete the Heads Up online courses to instead require bi-annual certification and remove the requirement to complete the online Heads Up courses?

RATIONALE: Redundant course delivery and material – fundamental techniques are not developing at the rate where updates are needed each year so bi-annual requirement is sufficient. With exception to Sudden Cardiac, the required online course requirements repeat the in-person PSC clinic presentations and requiring those who attend in-person workshops to complete them is not necessary.

RULE CHANGE SPONSORED BY: OSAA Executive Board

NEXT STEPS: First reading only.

POSSIBLE RULE CHANGES:

KEY: Add Delete

9. CERTIFICATION – ATHLETIC DIRECTORS AND COACHES

(Revised Spring 2016)

Athletic directors and coaches shall achieve certification in the following areas prior to assuming duties as an athletic director or coach. The high school principal shall be held accountable for verifying that athletic directors and coaches have been certified. EXCEPTION: Any emergency exception to an OSAA requirement must be authorized in writing by the OSAA.

A. NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching. <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. This is a one-time requirement.

B. Concussion Recognition and Management Training. <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 336.485](#)) requires that athletic directors and coaches receive training to learn how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and how to seek proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion. The NFHS's Concussion in Sports free course satisfies this requirement. This training is required annually.

C. NFHS Heat Illness Prevention. <http://nfhslearn.com/>

The OSAA requires that athletic directors and coaches must achieve a passing score on the test included with the NFHS's Heat Illness Prevention free course. This training is required once every four years.

D. Anabolic Steroids and Performance-Enhancing Substances Training. <http://www.osaa.org/steroids>

The OSAA and Oregon State Law ([ORS 342.726](#)) require that athletic directors and coaches receive training on identifying the components of anabolic steroid abuse and use and prevention strategies for the use of performance-enhancing substances. This training is required once every four years.

- E. Spirit Safety Clinic (Cheerleading and Dance/Drill Coaches Only). <http://www.osaa.org/activities/che>

The OSAA requires that any cheerleading or dance/drill coach receive spirit safety training by achieving a passing score on the test included with the OSAA's online Spirit Safety Clinic. This training is required annually.

- F. Heads Up Football Certification. <http://www.osaa.org/activities/fbl>

The OSAA requires that any football coach, ***not attending an in-person Player Safety Coach Clinic***, complete the USA Football Heads Up Certification prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually prior to the beginning of each Association year. Additionally, each member school sponsoring football is required to identify a Player Safety Coach. Each Player Safety Coach is required to attend an in-person clinic ***bi***-annually prior to the start of the Association year that is conducted by a USA Football Master Trainer in preparation for implementing and overseeing the primary components of Heads Up Football at their school.