



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
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SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – April 4, 2024

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on April 17 via Zoom meeting for the first time this school year to begin its review of the rankings from the 2024-25 Fall and Winter seasons.

The Committee welcomed its four new members and spent time on a brief overview of the rankings system. Next, the floor was opened for public testimony. One piece of correspondence was discussed but as there was no one looking to testify, the Committee went into closed session.

The Committee reviewed the Final 8 rankings for each sport and classification, 2024-25 Fall and Winter brackets and 2024-25 frozen rankings. Following this review, the Committee examined various rankings scenarios, correlation studies of current systems, and rankable contest counts.

Correlation Studies: Correlation studies are produced by OSAA staff and serve as one way to gauge the “accuracy” of the system. What counts as “accurate” regarding a rankings system is certainly open to interpretation, but Committee members believe there is value associated with this information, especially when looking at making changes.

| <u>School Year</u> | <u>Activity</u> | <u>Regular Season</u> | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 24-25 | Football | 93.69% | <i>Using the final frozen rankings, correlation studies analyze the % of contests where the better ranked team in a classification won, going backwards through the regular season. A contest where that happens is considered “accurate.” In 2024-25 Volleyball, the current system was 89.62% “accurate” going back through the regular season.</i> |
| 24-25 | Boys Soccer | 87.75% | |
| 24-25 | Girls Soccer | 91.83% | |
| 24-25 | Volleyball | 89.62% | |
| 24-25 | Girls Basketball | 88.61% | |
| 24-25 | Boys Basketball | 85.53% | |

During its closed session, the Committee discussed the following concepts:

Using a Multiplier for Contests vs. Higher Classification Opponents

Currently the rankings use a standard 1.2 value for away wins and 0.8 for home wins, and 1.0 for ties (Soccer only) regardless of the opponent. The Committee spent time discussing the differences between each classification in each sport and is interested in feedback on a potential multiplier for contests vs. opponents at a higher classification. Should the rankings take into consideration a multiplier for schools playing a team that is at a higher classification? If supported, should the multiplier increase if vs. more than one classification higher?

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 12 meeting on using a multiplier in the rankings.

Including a Human Element in the Rankings

The Committee spent considerable time on this topic. The rankings are currently based on data with no human element. Discussion took place about adding a human element to the placement of teams on championship brackets. The conversation centered around having league representatives (one from each league) meet via Zoom 2 times prior to the Rankings freeze, with the final meeting being once rankings are frozen to discuss and vote on

seeding the top 25% of a bracket. Once those seeds are determined, current practice would be used to fill the brackets based on rankings, league champions, and same league match-up avoidance. Staff contacted WIAA about their procedures in this area and will also reach out to other states.

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 12 meeting on including a human element in the rankings.

“True” Colley Pilot Program

The Committee discussed running a pilot program in a specific sport that only uses in-classification contests for the rankings. This would eliminate RPI rankings, contests vs. out-of-state opponents, and contests against opponents outside of the opponent’s classification from being included in the rankings.

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 12 meeting on the use of a true Colley as a pilot program for a specific sport in the rankings.

Not Counting All Contests in the Rankings

This is a topic that has come up in previous years and the committee discussed it again. The concept is that with the overlap of the previous season, the first couple of contests in each season would not be counted in the rankings.

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 12 meeting on allowing a few contests early in the season not to be included in the rankings.

The Committee’s final meeting of the year for public testimony will be on Thursday, June 12, 2025, via Zoom meeting starting at 11am. Following the meeting, the Committee will forward its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for consideration at the Board’s Summer Workshop, July 21-23, 2025.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Rankings Committee for their review. Please send emails to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.