



Oregon School Activities Association

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November 20, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Baseball Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Baseball Contingency Group met on November 19, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the third time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 4 sports with Baseball, Golf, Softball, and Track & Field Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff updated the groups on items since the last meeting. The OSAA staff summarized the Delegate Assembly caucus discussions and that from those discussions, we were not going to be using the Rankings this year and to prioritize scheduling locally and regionally as opposed to within leagues/conferences. We also stated that Oregon is in a 2-week statewide freeze through at least December 2nd and that all indoor activities were placed on hold, prohibiting any type of workouts, which includes batting cages/facilities if your facility has any type of wall that restricts airflow and if you are doing outdoor workouts, masks must be worn by everyone the entire time. After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

We quickly reviewed our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 204 membership schools who sponsor baseball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

After some discussion, the Group started on the focused questions.

What are your thoughts on other sports being shifted into Season 4?

The first impression is that Season 4 (Spring sports) already has a lot of opportunities for kids to participate in and that adding more places puts lots of pressure on the athletes to choose a sport, places even more pressure on the multiple sport coach and ultimately even the most positive school and compatible working programs are placing programs against other programs at the school. This would cause schools/programs to not have the depth they have had to allow those "tweener" kids the opportunity to play because they might only have a Varsity team due to low numbers. Another concern is for those kids at the sub-varsity level who choose to play a different sport may end up losing them from that sport when we come back to a regular year because that kid feels they are too far behind especially since Season 4 sports lost all of last year, which would become half of their high school eligibility. This also could create a management nightmare with not enough space for a school to offer so many activities at the same time that the affects could actually make it less opportunities for kids to participate and have a positive experience. If we were to split the week into 2 parts with basketball playing competitions on Tuesday and Friday and baseball playing on Monday, Wednesday,

Friday and/or Saturday that could place safety issues on the kids and overuse. Ultimately while this may sound good on paper theoretically, it is not reality! This is not a good idea especially since baseball lost a year last year. If we are considering the least amount of impact on the least number of athletes, Season 2 has the least number of sports and the least number of athletes, by altering either Season 3 or Season 4 with placing Season 2 on top of them ends up negatively impacting more sports and more athletes, who have already suffered by not being allowed to participate last year.

The WIAA just came out with their new Season schedule of reducing each of the three seasons to 5-weeks of competition followed by a culminating week. What are your thoughts on condensing seasons to limit overlapping of sports?

The baseball group is already concerned that they are losing a week because of Season 3 (football) last contest goes into the first week of contests, so some schools are already not going to be able to play that first "official" week of contests. Of the two options, this group thinks condensing the number of weeks is much better but could live with a maximum of only one week being cut from Season 4. Due to baseball losing out on an entire year last year, they would opt that if the seasons needed to be condensed, to condense Seasons 2 and 3 and leave Season 4 alone. Baseball athletes are excited to have the high school experience so would like as many opportunities to play as possible. If the Executive Board is considering cancelling Season 2, we would hope that there could be some conversation on moving the starting dates up for Season 3 so that there would not be an overlap from football to baseball even if it is to just allow Season 3 an additional week of practice. This group took into consideration the weather and snow in Central and Eastern Oregon and believed that the teams could deal with the weather especially if it was just for an additional week of practice. They felt that Season 3 starting the week of February 15 was certainly okay and if they needed to start February 8 moving them up 2 weeks and moving the start of Season 4 up a week would be the best option as the other concern for the baseball group was the lateness is completing the high school season. Many schools have baseball players that play for different summer leagues and they have some serious concern on being able to play in the last week of June. Either way we hope the Executive Board could make a decision as early as possible so the schools can adjust their schedules if they need to. Having a hard date for the decision to be made would be very helpful for the schools.

The future meeting dates:

- TBD (6:30pm – 7:45pm) maybe not meeting as we have time and see what comes out of the Executive Board meeting and any changes if any from the Oregon Health Authority.

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need. Will send out the focused questions ahead of time. Kris will email out that with the invite for the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you for everyone's willingness to be on this group and for your insight!