



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Basketball Contingency Group Meeting Summary – Wednesday, September 23

The OSAA Basketball Contingency Group met on September 23, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the second time. Most members were present.

We began as a whole group of Season 2 sports with Basketball, Swimming, and Wrestling Contingency Groups together as the OSAA staff updated the groups on items since the last meeting. After the completion of information and questions and answer session, the contingency groups broke off into their own break-out sessions.

After introductions, 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 basketball during these unprecedented times of uncertainty. While we realize that basketball is still on the prohibitive list for the state of Oregon, we are committed to putting a contingency plan together to help schools determine what they can do when basketball becomes available for schools.

We went over the Basketball Plan book to ensure everyone understands what schools can and cannot do. Then we jumped into thoughts and concerns. There is still a consensus that the number of contests (14) is low compared to all of the other sports. An additional thought is that the lower classifications only have 11 weeks of competition, so that too would/should change the proportion to add an additional 2 contests to basketball allowing them 16 contests instead of the recommended 14 contests. Another concern brought up was that there is an inequity taking place during Season 1 as there are some school districts allowing their teams to use the gym, while others are not. It was mentioned that each school district has the right to make their own decision whether or not they are allowing their students in the facility to work on basketball.

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

What conversations are people having about plans for transportation?

Some schools have stated that there will not be any transportation until there are new OHA Guidelines. Other schools are hearing that they will need to stay local and possibly have the parents drive their kids to contests. Others are saying, if we get to play basketball transportation will be taken care of.

Would the elimination of Rankings for this year help schools with scheduling?

The group has some ideas about this as of right now, most schools have not scheduled anything for the most part as most schedule backwards from the end of the season, so the culminating week needs to be determined so that the schools can schedule either league contests, regional contests, or a combination. The goal is to get kids games and make it as big as they possibly can as they want to play for something. Interscholastic athletics teaches kids several things one of those is competing with purpose so just playing games to just play games should be the last option. Some of the 2A schools have split their league into 2 divisions to participate in more contests as a league with cross over games within the division. Their season would be done after week 6 so that they could have a league tournament that final week. By not using the Rankings for the 2020-21 season would help some of those schools who are trying to figure out how they want to Schule. It will also help to support all schools to make sure everyone gets to play the maximum number of contests. Not using the Rankings would help with scheduling a little, but ultimately whatever the culminating week results in will have an affect on scheduling. Whether League Champions get placed into an 8-team bracket and the next best #2 or if a Committee is used to determine who the "better" teams are. The Group believes there could be a Committee put together and during weeks 5 and 6 those groups could be used to help with the matchups or bracket play or whatever is determined to be the culminating week. Whatever is decided, needs to happen sooner than later to give the Commissioners the opportunity and time to get schedules done. The Group also stated the concern for the status of basketball as a state. Some are willing to make modifications of some type in the actual game if that helps the state make the decision to allow basketball, their ultimate priority is to get the kids playing!

What are your initial priorities on Culminating week?

Most people would like to see some type of State Championships, whether that is modified to a regional approach, limiting the number of teams into a bracket, or just matching up "leagues" and placing them into flights of 8 teams to play either 2 or 3 extra games during that week. This would give teams/schools something to play for instead of just an extra week of competitions. Realizing that transportation may be a factor. Some schools are worried about losing athletes to outside clubs or sports within the school if there is nothing truly to play for at the end. They do not want the school season to become intramurals, the pursuit and team bonding aspects are real and powerful to kids and coaches. Maybe we should have 3 plans in place; the first plan could be state championships hosted at host schools with 16 team bracket starting on the Saturday with the higher-seed hosting then round of 8 on Tuesday higher seed or the old school X on the bracket, Thursday would be the semifinals and the finals would be on the Saturday; a second plan could be regionally where you could match two leagues together to play 2 additional games, like a cross-over tournament #1 vs. #2 and then the winners play and the losers play; the third way could be having a Committee formed and having those Committee match up games like a show case type look.

The future meeting dates:

- Wednesday, October 7, (6:30pm – 7:45pm) maybe, keep in on your schedule and we will be in touch, definitely meeting again, just not sure when

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!