



## Oregon School Activities Association

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To: Superintendent, Principals, Athletic Directors  
From: Peter Weber, OSAA Executive Director  
Subject: Spring 2022 Updates – Masking, Transportation, Vaccinations, and Academic Hardships

Thank you for your continued efforts and the critical role you played throughout the Fall and Winter seasons to help provide participation opportunities for students throughout our state. As we continue with Winter State Championships the next two weeks and look forward to the start of Spring competitions on Monday, March 14, here are a few reminders/updates.

### **Local Decision Making for Indoor Masking for Interscholastic Sports and Activities**

Per Governor Brown's announcement last week, after 11:59pm on March 11, Oregon will lift mask requirements for indoor public spaces and move from mask requirements to mask recommendations in schools. **This means that beginning March 12 indoor face coverings are now a local decision.** This change also applies to interscholastic sports and activities.

The CDC, OHA and ODE continue to strongly advise the universal use of face coverings indoors in schools when county COVID-19 Community Levels are high. ODE has also updated its [RSSL Resiliency Framework](#), effective beginning on March 12, including safety protocols for quarantine, contact tracing, and testing. Please take steps to ensure the school environment is safe and welcoming to everyone around COVID-19 safety, including the use of masks.

Remember that a school, county, or facility may institute its own policies and a school, and its supporters, must adhere to the more those policies in place from the host school/venue. It's critical that schools communicate any such policies in advance to avoid on-site issues. The OSAA is working closely with its state championship venues and will communicate directly with participating schools regarding any indoor mask policies still in effect after 11:59pm on March 11. Our goal is for OSAA State Championship events to be mask optional whenever possible.

### **Local Decision Making for Transportation**

The requirement to mask on K-12 transportation in Oregon will end when Oregon's indoor masking mandate is lifted at 11:59 pm on March 11, 2022. At their discretion, schools may choose to require that people wear masks on buses or vans as part of their local decisions on the use of face coverings in school settings.

### **Vaccination/Exception Requirement for Contractors/Service Providers and Volunteers**

A reminder that [OAR 333-019-1030](#) requires contractors/service providers and volunteers for school based programs be fully vaccinated or have provided documentation of a medical or religious exemption to the school. Per OHA, sports officials are considered contractors/service providers to member schools. Schools must communicate to their local officials' associations additional requirements, if any, in place for those with an exception.

### **Academic Eligibility Hardship Request Process**

As in the Fall and Winter, the OSAA will continue to utilize an email process for academic eligibility hardship requests rather than the online request form. A school administrator may email a list of academically ineligible students to [peterw@osaa.org](mailto:peterw@osaa.org). The request should include each student's name, grade, and how they are ineligible (not on track to graduate and/or did not pass enough classes in the previous term), along with confirmation that the school has an academic action plan in place for each student. Students that are granted academic eligibility must remain enrolled full-time and passing all current classes to be eligible for competition. Remember that seniors, even those only needing a class or two to graduate, must be enrolled full-time to be academically eligible.

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, on behalf of your communities. Please let us know if you have questions.