



## Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors  
FROM: Peter Weber, Executive Director  
SUBJECT: OHA Mask, Indoor/Outdoor Space, and Game Officials Clarifications

The following are the latest Oregon Health Authority (OHA) clarifications pursuant to [OAR 333-019-1025](#) (mask mandate) and [OAR 333-019-1030](#) (vaccination mandate) as of 8/31/21.

As a membership of schools, it's important that schools work closely with one another, their communities, and officials' associations to uphold state-mandated administrative rules by adhering to these requirements. This will help maintain ongoing participation opportunities for students throughout the state. Schools, both hosts and visitors, failing to make reasonable efforts to enforce these administrative rules are subject to fines, forfeiture, and/or other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.

### **1. What is mandated by OHA for coaches, players, support staff and spectators attending contests?**

#### **Indoor or Outdoor**

Students are not required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors when practicing or playing a competitive sport at any level, including cheerleading and dance/drill. Students not actively participating (i.e., on the sideline during an indoor or outdoor competition, etc.) are required to wear a mask. Students are required to wear a mask when in the weight room.

#### **Indoor**

Coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask during indoor practices and competitions. This includes weight training regardless of location.

Spectators (5 years or older) are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at indoor practices and competitions.

Students are not required to wear a mask indoors when playing an instrument that requires the mouth. Choir and speech students are required to wear a mask during indoor practices but are exempt from this requirement for performances.

#### **Outdoor**

Coaches and support staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a mask during outdoor practices and competitions when 6' of physical distance cannot be maintained.

Spectators (5 years or older) are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at outdoor practices and competitions when 6' of physical distance cannot be maintained.

### **2. What requirements does OHA have for indoor and outdoor spaces under [OAR 333-019-1025](#)?**

#### **Indoor Space Masking Requirements**

A person responsible for an indoor space must:

- (a) Ensure that employees, contractors, and volunteers comply with this rule within the indoor space.

- (b) Make reasonable efforts to ensure customers, guests, visitors and other individuals comply with this rule within the indoor space.
- (c) Post signs at every entrance to the indoor space that masks, face coverings or face shields are required as described in this rule.

#### **Outdoor Space Masking Requirements:**

An organizer of an event or gathering in an outdoor space must:

- (a) Ensure that employees, contractors, and volunteers comply with this rule during the event or gathering.
- (b) Post signs at every entrance to the event or gathering that masks, face coverings or face shields are required as described in the rule, if they are not already posted.

### **3. What are the requirements for game officials under [OAR 333-019-1025](#) and [OAR 333-019-1030](#)?**

#### **Masks for Game Officials**

The OSAA advocated with OHA and ODE for language specific to contest officials. Here is the portion that was included in the update to [OAR 333-019-1025](#):

- (5) *A mask, face covering, or face shield is not required when an individual:*
  - (h) *Is officiating a competitive sport that requires a high level of physical exertion by the official.*

Based on communication with OHA and ODE, officials on the field actively officiating football and soccer games, plus basketball officials on the court and wrestling referees in the circle, are not required to wear masks given the high level of physical exertion required by the official. Referees in volleyball or umpires on the field in baseball/softball are required to wear masks as those roles don't require a high level of physical exertion by the official. Football chain crews, volleyball line judges, a 4<sup>th</sup> official in soccer, cheer/dance judges, track & field officials, score table staff, speech judges, music adjudicators, etc. also are required to wear masks as those roles don't require a high level of physical exertion by the official. NOTE: schools/school districts and venues are permitted to impose more restrictive mask requirements and must communicate such policies and procedures in advance with opponents and officials' associations.

#### **Vaccinations for Game Officials**

The new vaccination mandate for teachers and school staff ([OAR 333-019-1030](#)) came out last week. The OSAA has been communicating with OHA and ODE regarding clarifications of this rule, specifically as it relates to sports/activities and officials. Per the OAR, officials are considered contractors/service providers to schools and will be required to be fully vaccinated or have provided documentation of a medical or religious exception on or before October 18, 2021, in order to officiate school events, regardless of where the school event is held. NOTE: schools/school districts are permitted to implement vaccination requirements at an earlier date.

Contractors/service providers will be responsible for obtaining proof of vaccination and maintaining this documentation in accordance with state and federal laws for two years pursuant to [OAR 333-019-1030](#). Contractors will attest to abiding by this OHA requirement and provide the proof of vaccination to OHA upon request. The OSAA is working to develop an online system to assist local associations in being able to verify vaccination status for game officials to meet this OHA requirement.