

Oregon School Activities Association

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Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors,

We've received clarification today from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) regarding face covering requirements quidance as it pertains to wrestling and we wanted to get the information out to member schools.

Direct excerpt from the OHA Indoor Recreation and Fitness Establishments FAQs:

Q22: The Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance has an exception for activities where wearing a mask, face covering or face shield is not feasible. For which activities is wearing a mask, face covering or face shield considered not feasible?

A22: In Oregon, there is an exception to the mask, face covering, face shield requirement for individuals when they are engaged in an activity that makes wearing a mask, face covering, face shield not feasible. Examples of activities where wearing a mask, face covering, face shield is not feasible are swimming, gymnastics, water polo and wrestling. Individuals are required to wear a mask, face covering, face shield when they are not engaged in these activities. For example, when on the pool deck or on the sidelines of a wrestling match, individuals are required to wear a mask, face covering or face shield.

OHA indicated this clarification is related to the mask being a potential choking hazard in wrestling.

Per this clarification from OHA:

- Indoor Wrestling: A mask is not required for an individual actively engaged in wrestling indoors during competition or practice, regardless of vaccination status. A mask is required for an individual when not actively engaged in wrestling while indoors, unless the individual is fully vaccinated and vaccination status is checked by the school in a manner described by OHA in guidance.
- Outdoor Wrestling: Students, staff, volunteers, and spectators are not required to wear face coverings at outdoor sports events, regardless of vaccination status. This includes participants and officials.
- These provisions are optional for the venue operators. School districts, charter schools, and private schools may still choose to require face coverings.

OHA has also confirmed that contact tracing requirements for indoor events have not changed and remain in effect.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

