

Oregon School Activities Association



Public Address Announcer Scripts

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OSAA Standardized Public Address Announcements

Overview & Rationale:

As the governing body for State Athletics, the Oregon School Activities Association is taking a leadership role in providing guidance to schools regarding the duties and requirements of a sports public address announcer.

Recognizing that the P.A. announcer is a vital part of sporting events, this guidance is provided to ensure that professionalism and good sportsmanship occur both on and off the field.

To that end, these recommendations provide a framework for the Announcer to work within, as well as suggested scripting to provide for a uniformity of message across Oregon. These guidelines are intended to cover all OSAA events, despite the use of specific terms like “Field” and “Court.”

These scripts are made available for you to copy/paste, edit, and use as you see fit.

General Guidelines for Announcers to Follow:

Treat Teams Equally In Terms Of Enthusiasm.

While it is natural to want to pump up the crowd in the home stands, the P.A. announcer is there to provide information first and foremost. You might want to show favoritism toward the home team, but try to make it subtle and balanced. This will be easier when your school is hosting tournament play, since multiple teams will be represented.

Emphasize The Educational Nature Of The Game:

Games have winners and losers. Scholar-athletes compete not only to win, but to learn sportsmanship, teamwork, respect for opponents, and other valuable lessons that sports is uniquely positioned to teach. The fans may seem to care only about the Win/Loss column, but it is still important to remind them through your actions that at this level, there is more to sports.

Be Brief and Consistent with Calls:

You are there to provide information... you are telling the crowd what they just saw. You are not the play-by-play or color commentator. With especially thrilling plays, you may want to reflect the excitement of the crowd. This is fine, but you should not get to the point where you sound like you are calling a soccer goal on Telemundo.

Neutrality for Penalty Calls ... Don't Editorialize:

Whether – in your opinion – the penalty call (or missed call) is legitimate, justified, or not... you are there to provide information for the fans. Don't over-emphasize penalty calls for the visiting team; don't minimize penalty calls for the home team. Same goes for players who are having a terrific/horrific night's performance.

No Talking while Play is in Action:

This can be a distraction on the court, and could – in some circumstances – lead to officials assessing a technical foul against the home team.

*Speak Slowly Enough To Be Understood,
& Quickly Enough To Return Attention To The Players:*

Getting the information out is one thing; talking so fast that you are unintelligible is another. You are providing information, but if that information cannot be understood, the announcements can become distracting.

Don't be Funny... Be Informative:

This is not a night at The Improv. There are some quips and one-liners that probably work well, but know that your audience is diverse enough that not everyone will find the humor in your humor. Officials are an easy target for squibs, but do not belittle them... this could lead to personal embarrassment, and diminished respect for the officiating squad as a whole.

Civil War and Other Rivalry Games:

When there are rivalry games, the rules surrounding neutrality can be relaxed a bit. Everyone knows that this is The Big Game, and expect the support to be weighted toward the Home Team. Don't go overboard!

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These guidelines are just that... guidelines. You are the professional announcer at courtside, you are expected to comport yourself in a manner that will bring honor to your school and yourself.

There will be entries in ***Red Bold Italics***. This indicates where school-based customization should be.

Statewide Scripts

All OSAA contests should contain the following announcements.

- Welcome fans and teams
- No Smoking
- Fire Marshall Announcement
- Sportsmanship & S.T.A.R. blurb
- Star Spangled Banner
- Introduce Coaches, Refs, Starters, VIPs, etc.
- End of Game announcements

There are also situational scripts that can be used when the need arises:

- Moment of Silence
- Senior Night
- Fight on Field
- Spirit Shop
- Concession Stands
- Lost Child
- Fire Alarm
- Loss of Power
- Emergency Evacuation:
Stadium/ Gym/ Field
- Lockdown / Shelter In Place
- Violent Event
- Medical Emergency on Field/ Court
- Severe Weather / Imminent Act of God
- UAV (Drone) Over Playing Field
- Special Recognitions / Retirements
- Covid 19 Mask Requirement

These scripts should be modified as needed to fit the particular event being announced.

Mandatory Scripts

Welcome Fans and Teams:

Good evening, and welcome to <*name of venue*>, the home of your <*team name and mascot*>. Tonight, the <*home mascot*> host the <*opposing mascot*> from <*opposing High School*>

Example: Good evening and welcome to Speigelberg Stadium, the home of your South Medford Panthers! Tonight, the Panthers take on Crosstown Rivals, the North Medford Black Tornado.

No Smoking or Tobacco Use:

Ladies and Gentlemen, a reminder: The use of tobacco products – including electronic cigarettes – is prohibited in the stadium and on school district grounds. Please refrain from smoking until you are in your car, and out of the parking lot.

Fire Marshall Announcement:

Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with Fire Marshal's regulations, we ask you to identify two emergency exits closest to you. We have checked these exits, and other emergency equipment, and have verified that they are available for use. In case of an emergency, please follow staff instructions, and pay close attention to the announcer for important life safety information.

Sportsmanship:

The <*Southwest Conference*> and the Oregon School Activities Association take great pride in providing opportunities for all athletes to participate in a healthy and safe environment. We ask you to join us in setting an exemplary model of sportsmanship for tonight's event.

Spectators are asked to remain in their assigned seating and remember that any spectator removed from this event may be banned from attending future <*Southwest Conference*> activities. Please support our athletes, coaches, and officials with positive action & encouragement and enjoy tonight's contest.

S.T.A.R. Program:

Every student performing here (today/tonight) has had dreams of being a star in their own right. What they never dreamed of, is being ridiculed or threatened for how they look, where they came from, how they worship, or who they love. And yet this happens repeatedly at sporting events across our state. We are better than this. As athletes. As fans. As Oregonians.

As <*Mascot Name*>.

In sport, every participant must play by the same rules. Now, so does everyone in attendance at OSAA interscholastic events. Each of us is expected to encourage and contribute to an environment of SAFETY, TOLERANCE, ACCEPTANCE and RESPECT throughout the event.

The OSAA calls it being a STAR. And if you can do it, consider yourself a STAR. If you can't, you'll find yourself on the outside looking in at this and potentially any future interscholastic events in Oregon.

We all have a role to play in making events like this a success. So whether you're on the field or in the stands—play well, play hard, and play fair.

Because Greatness...is Hateless.

National Anthem:

And now, please rise, gentlemen remove your hats, for the singing/playing of our National Anthem, performed this evening by <*Name of Performer or group*>.

Introduction of Players, Coaches, Officials:

Now let's meet the < *Visiting Team Mascot* >:

- Non-Starters*
- Starters
- Coaches & Assistants

And now, your < *Home Team and Mascot* >!

- Non-Starters
- Starters
- Coaches & Assistants

Officials for tonight's contest, from the < *Rogue Valley Officials Association* > are: < *names* >

* At times, it will be impractical to introduce all members of the team. Use your best judgment as to who should be introduced.

** If there are any VIPs who warrant special introduction, they should be introduced before the visiting team players.

End of Contest:

Ladies and Gentlemen, a reminder: Spectators not allowed on the field/court at the conclusion of tonight's game until players have shaken hands. We thank you for your cooperation and commitment to good sportsmanship.

Upcoming Match (example):

Join us < *next Friday Night* > when the < *Lady Hornets* > take on the < *Central Medford Tigers* > Frosh & JV games start at 5:30, and varsity starts at 6:45!

Situational Scripting

These suggested scripts should be used as the need arises.
These will not be used for every contest.

Moment of Silence (Before National Anthem):

Words cannot express the tremendous grief we are experiencing over the tragic events in <*where ; when... Roseburg last week*>.

We are stunned.

We mourn the injuries and loss of life, and our deepest sympathies go out to the victims, their families, friends, and community. As we struggle to comprehend these acts, please stand silently for a moment of reflection and respect.

15 sec silence... use a timer!

Thank you. Tonight we stand united with our friends in <*Roseburg*>

We now ask that you show your support for those most deeply affected by this tragedy by joining us in singing a song of perseverance and solidarity: "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Senior Night:

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a <*Bulldog*> Tradition to honor and recognize our graduating seniors during their last home game. Tonight, we continue that proud tradition...

Fight on Playing Area

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We ask that you please remain in your seats and do not enter the Field/Court area. Again, please remain in your seats and do not enter the playing area. Please allow the authorities to handle the situation.

Spirit Shop:

The Spirit shop is located in the Southwest corner of the Stadium. Please stop by and check out the latest school gear for sale. All proceeds benefit the *<Booster Club. Or whomever>*

Concession Stands:

Tonight the concession stands are staffed by members of *<school>* Clubs and Activities. Stop by, say hi, get some refreshments, and help support our school's programs!

Missing Child Scenarios:

Child has gone to a staff member and reported losing parent/guardian/adult.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. Would *<parent/guardian/adult>* please report to the *<concession stand/scorer's table>* at this time, please? Once again, would *<parent/guardian/adult>* please report to the *<concession stand/scorer's table>* at this time?

Parent/guardian/adult has gone to a staff member and reported losing child.

Would *<child's name>* please report to the *<concession stand/scorer's table>* at this time, please? Once again, would *<child's name>* please report to the *<concession stand/scorer's table>* at this time?

Verified missing child, who has not been located.

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We are asking for your assistance in locating a missing child. The child is <*age*> years old, a <*height, weight,*> <*boy/girl*>, wearing <*clothing description*>. The child's first name is <*child's name*>. If you locate <*child's name*>, please contact the nearest identifiable staff person, or proceed immediately to the <*concession stand/scorer's table*>. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Fire Alarm:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. The fire alarm has been initiated and we have verified that in the interest of your safety, we request that you begin to evacuate the <*gym/building/stadium*> at this time. Please identify one of the emergency exits and proceed to the exit and follow the directions of the staff members at the exit. Please remain calm and follow the staff's directions please.

Loss of Power:

Please remain calm and stay in your seats. If power is not restored shortly, emergency lighting will come on in aisles and walk way areas allowing for safe exit. Some of the light fixtures are very bright so we recommend not looking directly at them.

We will work to find out the source of the power outage and announce if we intend to continue to game or not. This may take a little bit of time.
Spectators and fans SHOULD NOT come on the field

*Should power not be able to be restored,
or officials deem the event should stop,
follow emergency evacuation protocol.*

Emergency Evacuation:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. School District officials are requesting that you begin to evacuate the <*gym/building/stadium*> at this time. Please identify one of the emergency exits and proceed to the exit in a calm and orderly manner. Please follow staff member instructions, and listen for further announcements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Emergency Lockdown:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. The lockdown alarm has been initiated. In the interest of your safety, we request that you remain calm, and stay in your seats. School Administrators and local police are taking the appropriate actions. There is no cause for alarm. Please remain calm, and follow instructions from administrators and staff. I will bring you updated information as I receive it.

Violent Event (Active Shooter, Gang Fight, Explosion, etc.)

In the case of a violent event – one that would cause general panic or pandemonium – the announcements should direct people to remain calm, and move away from the locus of the event. If the announcer is in a position to view the event (football skybox, etc.), the announcer should direct evacuation away from the threat. Announcer should also be in contact with Game Management/ P.D. officials to provide information regarding the threat that they may not be aware of.

In any event, the announcer should remain calm, give information only to assist in evacuation, and not announce speculative information, or information that might give the evildoer notice regarding the actions of P.D. or Game Management.

Medical Emergency on Field:

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We ask that you please remain in your seats and allow medical personnel to perform their duties. Once again, please remain in your seats and allow the medical personnel room to perform their duties. Thank you for your cooperation.
<remain silent after this announcement until player is completely off the field>

- If Player walks off field – either under their own power, or assisted – state their name only.
- If they are carried off field, or transported in ambulance, say nothing.

Severe Weather / Imminent Act of God:

Outside – Field or Stadium

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We have just received word from the National Weather Service of a severe storm issued for this area. All activities will cease at this time and we ask that you please begin clearing the area and move to a place of safety or under the stadium seating area in a calm and orderly manner. Please follow staff member instructions, and listen for further announcements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Inside – Gymnasiums

Ladies and gentlemen, may I have your attention please. We have just received word from the National Weather Service of a severe storm issued for this area. All activities will cease at this time and we ask that you please move into the hallways, in a calm and orderly manner. Please follow staff member instructions, and listen for further announcements. Thank you for your cooperation.

Special Events/ Retirements/ Recognitions:

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have a special celebration in honor of <*person or event*>. We invite you to join us for this shortly after the end of tonight's contest.

UAV (Drone) Over Playing Field:

Ladies and Gentlemen, There is a drone over the playing field. OSAA regulations require that the match be suspended for player safety until the drone leaves the area. To the pilot of the Drone: Please withdraw your aircraft from over the field. We cannot resume play until your drone is no longer over the field... again, please remove your drone from our airspace. (repeat as warranted.)

Mask Requirements (As Needed):

Ladies and Gentlemen: This year, our season depends on the cooperation and support from everyone to follow the safety guidelines set by the Oregon Departments of Health and Education, the Governor's office, and the Oregon School Activities Association.

As we have seen before, our students' opportunity to play sports can be taken away by the spread of COVID-19. We ask that everyone in attendance wear proper face coverings, maintain good hygiene, and practice appropriate social distancing. Please do not gather before, during, or after the game, and make sure you follow all safety markings when entering and leaving the venue/gym/stadium.

We hope you enjoy Today's/Tonight's game, and we thank you for your continued support of inter-scholastic athletics.

