

Tennis Contingency Group:

The Season 3 Contingency Groups met on Wednesday, March 16 beginning at 6pm. All spring contingency groups met together for the first few minutes to review some of the current guidance as well as continued decisions to be made ahead.

In the tennis specific contingency group, we began our discussion with considerations for tennis specifically. One focus of our discussion was scheduling and travel considerations that are being discussed at the school level. Contingency group members presented their competition schedules and they all are remaining local and competing within their regional area. Discussions regarding bussing concerns, both safety and availability were also presented. Some double duals are being scheduled, but the group members were not aware of any tournaments being scheduled for tennis, other than district/league tournaments. Along with the scheduling discussion of remaining regional, many of our contingency group members expressed that the district/league tournament is currently scheduled for their area to take place during the first part of the culminating week for tennis. If there is going to be more events in the culminating week hosted by OSAA, then those schedules would need to be adjusted.

A few other considerations that were discussed was the 5-practice minimum and options for coaches and athletes when it is raining. The ability to do training and conditioning instead of a full tennis practice is considered a fine option as long as the students are acclimating their bodies in preparation for competitions. We also discussed basic logistics for tennis practices and matches, for example restroom availability. If there are multiple events taking place outdoors at a high school (i.e. softball and tennis at the same time) could they share a restroom? Many of our schools do not have multiple outdoor restrooms available. Water availability for hydration was also a consideration that may need to be addressed with coaches to clarify what is allowed and what should be avoided.

Some other clarifications that would help coaches and athletic directors are possible formats for double duals and tournaments so they can follow protocols and allow for play to happen safely.

The contingency group members identified two key considerations for decisions ahead for culminating week events, which include participation for all levels of students and limiting travel. We did discuss options for remaining regional and creating possible ladder tournaments or invitational events. We did discuss concerns regarding the travel as well as the qualification processes that would need to take place for an OSAA State Championship to take place. In addition, the format would need to significantly change to avoid overnight stays for the current tournament format. We also discussed a regional tournament format possibility that could be either an individual tournament or a team tournament format.

The tennis contingency group plans to meet again as needed as well as communicate via email as needed in coming weeks.