



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kyle Stanfield, Chief Operating Officer
Gibby Reynolds, IT Systems Administrator

SUBJECT: Update on the Proceedings of the Petition to Play Down Task Force

The Petition to Play Down Task Force held its second meeting in a hybrid format on October 19. The Task Force will be utilizing a hybrid format for all meetings that allows both Task Force members and those seeking to provide input the option of participating via webinar or in person. This Task Force was reestablished by the OSAA Executive Board following the conclusion of the Classification and Districting process.

After introductions, the group received a review of the charges from the OSAA Executive Board and a review of the timeline. The reviews were conducted by OSAA Executive Director Peter Weber and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Stanfield.

The Task Force began by reviewing the current Petition to Play Down Policy and the four variables necessary for a petition to be accepted. The four criteria are:

- a) Documentation showing the school's percentage of students on free lunch at 50% or higher.
- b) Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 50% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 75% of the time for the previous three years.
- c) Documentation showing that the school's teams finished in the bottom 20% of the final frozen rankings at their current classification at least 50% of the time for the previous three years.
- d) Documentation showing that the winning percentage for the school's teams in team sports was 25% or less at least 40% of the time for the previous three years.

The Task Force dissected each of the criteria and made the following conclusions.

- The Task Force supports removing criteria a) a school's percentage of students on free lunch at 50% or higher. The rationale is an SES adjustment is already built into the Computation of ADM used to classify schools and the reason for a petition down is based on a lack of competitiveness which could affect any school within the Association.
- For criteria b), c), and d), the Task Force wants to review schools' winning percentage against their own classification vs. the RPI as it includes games across all classifications. The staff can pull that information from the Colley ranking system. The group is interested in seeing how schools fared against their own classification as that is the group they are trying to petition away from. In addition, if a school played against schools of a lower classification, that information could be prudent in determining if they fit at a lower classification. With that review, modifications to the percentages could be necessary.

The Task Force is interested in the following information:

- The current Petition to Play Down only looks at team sport results. Since a petition to play down affects all programs at a school, they are interested in developing a system which would include individual sports. Criteria use could be but not limited to the number of state qualifiers from a school, the participation data of the programs in those schools and trophies earned by a school individual sports and activities.
- The Task Force believes that different criteria should be used when reviewing a school currently playing down and wishing to stay at that lower classification. They believe that looking at the classification specific data, as referenced above, will help guide the group in developing new criteria for those schools. In addition, that criteria could utilize a point system (like the one used in the dominant activity portion of the Petition to Play Down policy) which would reflect the success of a school's programs.

The OSAA staff will provide additional documentation and school feedback to the Task Force at their next meeting.

The Task Force is looking for feedback from the membership on these issues. The Task Force will keep the Executive Board regularly updated on their progress. The group will next meet on Tuesday, December 5.

The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Stanfield (kyles@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions or to provide feedback.

The Task Force Roster, charge to the Task Force, and updated information are available at the OSAA website: <https://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces#play-down-petition>