



Oregon School Activities Association

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kelly Foster, Assistant Executive Director
Kyle Stanfield, Chief Operating Officer

SUBJECT: Update to the Proceedings of the Championship Thresholds Task Force

The Championship Thresholds Task Force held its fifth meeting via Zoom on January 23, 2025. The Task Force will be utilizing a virtual format for all meetings that allows both Task Force members and those seeking to provide input the option of participating via webinar.

The Championship Thresholds Task Force was created at the request of the Executive Board after receiving feedback from the previous State Championship Committee. The State Championship Committee felt that their condensed timeframe made it difficult to delve into the intricacies of the overall qualifying percentages across each sport and activity.

Peter Weber and Kelly Foster provided the Task Force with extensive data and information regarding state championship qualifications in individual sports and activities. In previous meetings, the group reviewed qualifications for team state championships, but it was important to get a fuller picture by including individual sports and activities.

After lengthy discussions, the Task Force remained steadfast that, in general, too many students are qualifying for the state championships. Overall, the Task Force's philosophy remains that getting to a state championship bracket or event is an honor and should be more difficult to achieve than it currently is in many instances. Additionally, the expense to travel is increasing for schools and some are questioning if so much early round travel is necessary when the matchups are often lopsided. A reduction in the number of teams making it to the playoffs should also increase the competitiveness of each championship.

The group discussed a qualification percentage range on which they believe the State Championship Committee and Executive Board should focus. Specifically, they support an optimal qualification percentage range between 30%-40%, with a low-end base of 25% and high-end cap of 45%. There will never be a perfect, one-size-fits-all percentage because each classification's size is different, the number of students participating is different, and the structure/format of the championships differs by activity.

The OSAA staff will produce questions for the Oregon Athletic Director Conference in April gather input regarding this group's current stance. The Task Force feels it is critical to get feedback from this group, and others, as their conversations continue.

The Task Force will continue meeting throughout the 2024-25 school year. The next meeting will be held in late April / early May, 2025. The group will review feedback received and additional information from OSAA Staff regarding how potential changes based on this qualification percentage range may impact member schools and the Association financially.

Written suggestions and proposals on these issues should be emailed to Kelly Foster (kellyf@osaa.org) **Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all task force members for review and discussion.** The Task Force will keep the OSAA Executive Board up to date on their work during the process.

A future list of meeting dates, Task Force Roster, charge to the Task Force, and information are available at the OSAA website: <https://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces#thresholds>.

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