



Oregon School Activities Association
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S.T.A.R. School Program

Year 1- Why Become a S.T.A.R. School: The S.T.A.R. Initiative (Safety, Tolerance, Acceptance and Respect) is focused on helping schools create a safe, welcoming and validating environment by specifically disrupting racism and combating discrimination so every student can thrive as they are. Later this Fall, schools will have the opportunity to opt-in as an official S.T.A.R. School. Doing so includes striving to follow an established set of guidelines for behavior at OSAA sanctioned events and creating a welcoming and safe environment for all to enjoy. The OSAA will serve as the sponsor for the program, which aims to provide ideas and resources that encourage schools to promote, engage and monitor positive sportsmanship and inclusive practices across their school and within their programs.

S.T.A.R. Initiative Standards: The S.T.A.R. Initiative is built around awareness, action, and resources on how to prepare for, educate, and interrupt discriminatory behaviors occurring during high school events.

Steps to Become a S.T.A.R. School Guidelines: To become a S.T.A.R. School you must provide the following accommodations at your OSAA sanctioned events with the intention to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all participants.

Safety:

- Signage posted to help visiting participants and spectators know where facilities are and how to navigate the event.
- Required S.T.A.R. Public Address reads are announced at each OSAA sanctioned event.
- Member schools will conduct a pre-season meeting with student-athletes, coaches and parents/guardians to review the S.T.A.R. sportsmanship standards.
- Game management (communication to other school/visitors)
 - Host schools arrange for adequate event personnel
 - Visiting school hosts a representative at the event to contact
- Member schools hosting a game should designate specific seating areas for students, bands, adults and visitors. If possible, opposing student bodies should be separated.
- Member schools should take measures to prevent fans from getting near or on the playing area and around the players benches. After the contest, prevent fans from going onto the playing area.
- Member schools should provide for adequate supervision of students and facilities. Supervisors should sit in the stands with the students.

Tolerance:

- During outdoor events, no air horns or horns of any kind or whistles will be used, and any other noisemakers will be allowed with the host athletic director's approval and only be used during "dead ball" situations to celebrate good play.
- During all indoor events, no noisemakers will be used. Pep bands are allowable at a home contest if the school provides adult supervision and the band only plays during "dead ball" situations.
- Spectators will cheer positively to support their team and will not cheer negatively against the opponent.
- Spectators will show respect for the game officials and their decisions.

Acceptance:

- Public Address reads/signage available in your school's facility in multiple languages.
- Any signs displayed must be positive in nature, reference only the school supported by the sign maker, and must be pre-approved by the athletic director of the school referenced in the sign.
- Coaches will exemplify high moral character, behavior, and leadership, led by example, and set a standard for players and spectators to follow both on and off the athletic arena.
- Coaches will teach players the rules of the game and to respect the game and will take action when athletes exhibit poor sportsmanship.

- Coaches will respect the integrity and judgement of officials and will not publicly criticize or question the decisions of officials.
- Coaches will be aware of the competitive balance of contests and will manage the score in a manner that is sportsmanlike and respectful of opponents.
- Players will accept the responsibility and privilege the student-athlete has in representing their school and community by learning and showing teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline in all aspects of the game.
- Players will demonstrate respect for self, coach, teammates, opponents, officials and spectators by exhibiting good character and conducting themselves as a positive role model.
- Players will win and lose graciously.
- Players will cheer for your team, not against your opponent.
- Players will congratulate opponents in a sincere manner following either victory or defeat.

Respect:

- The S.T.A.R. expectations should be as widely disseminated as possible using the student-parent handbook, student-athlete handbook, school newspaper, parent newsletter, school web site and the local media.
 - Member schools require having athletes, parents/guardians, sign an acknowledgement which would show that they have read the student-athlete handbook and understand the S.T.A.R. expectations.
- When event programs are provided, a sportsmanship statement is included.
- Announcers will be enthusiastic but not show favoritism while making announcements, and never publicly question or criticize the players, coaches, or officials.
- Member schools hosting a game should make available to visiting schools necessary game information – includes directions for parking, location of ticket booths, seating arrangement, ticket prices, game time, directions for each game site.

Application Process and Benefits of being a S.T.A.R. School: OSAA Member Schools will be able to apply to be a S.T.A.R. School starting December 2021. S.T.A.R. Schools will be recognized on the OSAA website with a S.T.A.R. Logo placed on the school's OSAA page. The schools in the Association who achieve the standards above will also be recognized on a list of identified S.T.A.R. Schools on the OSAA website. S.T.A.R. Schools will also receive 500 OSAA Cup points when the application is submitted and the status of becoming a S.T.A.R. school is indicated on the OSAA website.

Tiered System to start during year 2 of implementation of S.T.A.R.: More information to come in 2021-22 Association Year.