



Oregon School Activities Association

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January 23, 2026

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Football Ad Hoc Advisory Committee Update – January 22 Meeting

The Football Ad Hoc Advisory conducted its fourth and final public meeting of this school year in a hybrid model with most committee members in-person at the OSAA Office and five attending via Zoom. The goal of this group is to review football data for schools, along with any proposals, and make recommendations to the Executive Board for their February 2nd meeting.

OSAA staff provided a summary of 24 pieces of correspondence received prior to the meeting, with a total number of 78 pieces throughout the process. During the meeting, the Committee received testimony from 14 individuals, either in-person or online, representing 12 different schools. At the completion of the testimony, the Committee convened into a work session to discuss a variety of topics, review testimony, and develop this update and its final recommendations for this year.

2026 Special Districts Final Recommendation

The Committee discussed all the testimony and correspondence submitted and has created its final draft and recommendations of Football Special Districts for 2026 (see attached). This final recommendation incorporates changes from all correspondence and testimony received. Please note these are the recommendations that will be presented to the Executive Board on February 2nd.

- This recommendation includes a few minor changes to school placements. At the 5A classification, there was a robust discussion around bigger leagues vs. smaller leagues. Ultimately the committee stuck with the smaller league approach that included more odd-numbered leagues. With 6A/5A schools scheduling non-league games together, having 10 odd-sized leagues of similar sizes creates more scheduling opportunities to ensure that schools get complete schedules and more opportunities to play teams of similar ability. At the 4A Classification, with the strong likelihood of Valley Catholic being approved for Independent Status, the Committee moved Taft to SD 1 so all leagues in that classification have an odd number of teams for balance. At the 2A Classification, the Committee adjusted the higher end enrollment cutoff for 8-player football from 76 to 77, which moved Bonanza from 2A back down to 1A-8. The Committee also approved a request from Lone/Arlington to move from 1A-8 to 1A-6 SD 1.
- The Committee also spent significant time considering updated requests and information from schools whose previous requests to play down a classification or stay down a classification had been denied. In the end, the Committee did not change their earlier decisions on these requests. Committee members spoke to program participation numbers/roster sizes as it relates to other schools in the classifications and the overall health of a program for rationale.

Enrollment Zone for 1A 8-Player and 1A 6-Player

The Committee once again discussed the cutoff for an enrollment zone for both the 8-player and 6-player divisions. The Committee remains dedicated to keeping both 6-player and 8-player football viable in the state of Oregon. After listening to testimony and reviewing correspondence, the Committee continues to support the 6-player football enrollment zone at 51 and below. The Committee is also recommending moving the 8-player football enrollment zone from 76 to 77.

Roster Cap for 1A 6-Player Football

The Committee continues to support the idea that 6-player teams with large rosters should be playing 8-player football. The Committee is recommending that 6-player teams have a roster cap of 18 players over a 3-year average. To that end, if approved, the Football Ad Hoc Committee will contact 6-player schools starting in December 2026 that exceeded this cap over the past three years to move up to 8-player football for the 2027 season.

Potential Timeline for Schools Playing Down a Classification for Multiple Years

Since the Committee spent most of their time with the final recommendation and playoff allocations, this concept was tabled. The Committee will meet one additional time this Spring to look at creating systems and criteria for schools who have been playing down a classification for multiple years (i.e., four or more, etc.) and the pathway for them to get back to their original classification. The Committee will also review the entire play down process and current criteria with an emphasis on the health of a football program, rather than just wins and losses.

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback from schools regarding putting a timeline on how long a school should be allowed to play down a classification.

Two-Year Review for Schools Petitioning to Play Down

After hearing from the OADA about the challenges created by moving so many schools down every year, the Committee spent time discussing a two-year review timeline for schools that meet the criteria to enter the pool for consideration for discussion to play down. In December 2026, the Committee plans to only review those schools that qualify to enter the pool for consideration to be moved back up to their original classification. A review for schools seeking to play down would not occur until after the 2nd year of football in these configurations (December 2027).

Recommended Playoff Allocations and Bracket Sizes

The Committee will be forwarding their recommendations to the State Championship Committee, who will make final recommendations to the Executive Board. The Committee considered the Championship Threshold Task Force optimal qualification percentages, and produced the following recommendations:

Classification	Bracket size	Playoff Allocations
1A – 6 Player	10 – teams	SD1 – 3AQ's, SD2 – 3AQ's, SD3 – 3AQ's then 1 at-large spot
1A – 8 Player	14 – teams	SD1 – 2AQ's, SD2 – 2AQ's, SD3 – 3AQ's, SD4 – 3 AQ's then 4 at-large spots
2A	16 – teams	Each Special District receives 2 AQ's then 4 at-large spots.
3A	14 – teams	SD1 – 3AQ's, SD2 – 3AQ's, SD3 – 2AQ's, SD4 – 2AQ's, SD5 – 2AQ's, then 2 at-large spots.
4A	16 – teams	SD1 – 3AQ's, SD2 – 3AQ's, SD3 – 3AQ's, SD4 – 3AQ's, SD5 – 2AQ's, then 2 at-large spots.
5A	16 – teams	SD1 – 1AQ's, SD2 – 1AQ's, SD3 – 2AQ's, SD4 – 2AQ's, SD5 – 2AQ's, IMC – 2 AQ's then 6 at-large spots.
6A	20 – teams	The Committee did not have a specific allocation suggestion.

Spring Meeting

The Committee will hold one additional meeting this Spring to look at the playdown model. There will not be public testimony during this meeting, but individuals are encouraged to send topics/ suggestions to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org). The Committee plans to review its Charge for potential updates/adjustments, including an evaluation of the criteria outlined for teams to submit for consideration to play down or back to their original classification, prior to the completion of next year's football season.

Any communication received by the OSAA at this point in the process will be shared with the Executive Board for review and discussion. Please contact Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.

Football Ad Hoc Committee FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS January 22, 2026

6A		41		5A		39		4A		34		3A		30		2A		39		1A (8-Player)									
1026+		1025-581		580-281		280-141		140-78		77-52		2A-SD1 - Special District 1		7		1A(8)-SD1 - Special District 1		7		1A(8)-SD2 - Special District 2									
6A-1 - Portland Interscholastic League	9	5A-SD1 - Special District 1	5	4A-SD1 - Special District 1	8	3A-SD1 - Special District 1	7	2A-SD1 - Special District 1	7	1A(8)-SD1 - Special District 1	7	Benson Astros*	575	Amity Warriors	185	Clatskanie Tigers	118	Bonanza Antlers	77	Cleveland Warriors	1057	David Douglas Scots^{AA}	1434	Corbett Cardinals^{AA}	238	Camas Valley Hornets	36		
Franklin Lightning	1278	Gresham Gophers ^{AA}	1120	Scappoose Indians	526	Horizon Christian Hawks	150	Gaston Greyhounds	114	Chiloquin Panthers	64	Grant Generals	1588	North Marion Huskies ^{AA}	349	Knapa Loggers	90	Crosspoint Christian Warriors	49	Ida B. Wells Guardians	1176	Tillamook Cheesemakers	462	Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates ^{AA}	151	Glendale Pirates	53		
Jefferson Democrats	303	Sandy Pioneers	977	Valley Catholic Valiants	297	Warrenton Warriors	200	Nestucca Bobcats	92	Prospect Cougars / Butte Falls Loggers	62	Lincoln Cardinals	1157	Woodburn Bulldogs ^{AA}	989	Rainier Columbians ^{AA}	156	Riddle Irish	61	McDaniel Mountain Lions*	1001	Yamhill-Carlton Tigers	192						
Roosevelt Roughriders*	843	Milwaukie / Arts Academy Mustangs	771					2A-SD2 - Special District 2	7	1A(8)-SD2 - Special District 2	7	Beaverton Beavers	955	Blanchet Catholic Cavaliers	165	Colton Vikings	130	Chemawa Braves**	74	Jesuit Crusaders*	966	Parkrose Broncos*	544	Gervais Cougars	177	C.S. Lewis Watchmen	53		
St. Helens Lions	620	Putnam Kingsmen	792	4A-SD2 - Special District 2	7	3A-SD2 - Special District 2	7	2A-SD3 - Special District 3	6	3A-SD3 - Special District 3	6	Central Panthers/Kings Valley Charter Eagle	550	Harrisburg Eagles	146	Jefferson Lions^{AA}	141	Mohawk Mustangs	61	Mountainside Mavericks	1445	Estacada Rangers	401	Kennedy Trojans*	132	North Douglas Warriors	70		
Southridge Skyhawks	1079	McKav Scots ^{AA}	1245	4A-SD3 - Special District 3	7	3A-SD4 - Special District 3	7	4A-SD3 - Special District 3	7	Gladstone Gladiators/Riverdale Mavericks	524	Newport Cubes^{AA}	420	Salem Academy Crusaders	168	Perrydale Pirates	65	Sunset Apollos	1468	Molalla Indians	533	Sheridan Spartans	137	Reedsport Brave^{AA}	111				
Westview Wildcats	1931			5A-SD3 - Special District 4	7	3A-SD5 - Special District 3	6	4A-SD4 - Special District 4	7	Mariloma Warriors	363	Salem Academy Crusaders	168	St. Paul Buckaroos	71	Vernonia Loggers^{AA}	122			Wilsonville Wildcats	834	Stayton Eagles	488	Scio Loggers	156	Willamina Bulldogs	153		
6A-3 - Pacific Conference	5	Century Jaguars*	1069	Corvallis Spartans	836	Creswell Bulldogs	243	4A-SD4 - Special District 4	7	Cottage Grove Lions	525	Elmira Falcons^{AA}	299	Central Linn Cobras	118	Dufur Rangers	57	Glencoe Crimson Tide	1047	Junction City Tigers	340	Echo Cougars	63	McMinnville Grizzlies	1348	Marist Catholic Spartans	319	Elgin Huskies	67
Newberg Tigers	945	Wilsonville Wildcats	878	5A-SD4 - Special District 5	8	4A-SD5 - Special District 5	5	4A-SD5 - Special District 5	5	Marshfield Pirates	550	Pleasant Hill Billies	216	Monroe Dragons	77	Imbler Panthers	76	Reynolds Raiders	1291	North Bend Bulldogs	460	Oakridge Warriors	73	Sheriff Eagles	62				
Sherwood Bowmen	1218			5A-SD5 - Special District 6	7	4A-SD6 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD6 - Special District 4	7	South Umpqua Lancers	290	Sisters Outlaws	280	Toledo Boomers	116	Lyle Cougars/Wishram/Klickitat/Glenwood	78			Sweet Home Huskies*	401	Madras White Buffaloes^{AA}	404	Waldport Irish	116	Pilot Rock Rockets / Utkiah Cougars	69		
6A-4 - Mt. Hood Conference	5	Corvallis Spartans	610	5A-SD6 - Special District 5	8	4A-SD7 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD7 - Special District 4	7	Churchill Lancers	696	Brookings-Harbor Bruins	270	Creswell Bulldogs	122	Sherman Huskies	53	Barlow Bruins	1324	Crater Comets	852	Coquille Red Devils	198	Echo Cougars	63				
Central Catholic Rams*	655	5A-SD7 - Special District 6	7	4A-SD8 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD8 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	685	Ashland Grizzlies^{AA}	586	Elmira Falcons^{AA}	299	Elmira Falcons^{AA}	299	Glide Wildcats	145	Cove Leopards	74	Clackamas Cavaliers*	968	Cascade Christian Challengers*	178	Glide Beach Panthers	72	Crane Mustangs	67		
Nelson Hawks	1131	5A-SD8 - Special District 7	8	4A-SD9 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD9 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	682	Horley Hornets	564	Horley Hornets	564	Horley Hornets	564	Gold Beach Panthers	72	Harper Hornets	67	Tigard Tigers	1302	Mazama Vikings	459	Illinois Valley Cougars^{AA}	179	Pine Eagle Spartans	37		
Reynolds Raiders	1291	5A-SD9 - Special District 8	9	4A-SD10 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD10 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	North Valley Knights	297	Phoenix Pirates	387	North Valley Knights	297	La Pine Hawks ^	245	Powder River Badgers	54			Crater Comets	641	South Albany Bulldogs	889	Siuslaw Vikings	229	Prairie City Panthers/Burnt River Bulls	57
6A-5 - Three Rivers League	6	5A-SD10 - Special District 9	10	4A-SD11 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD11 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Phoenix Pirates	322	Phoenix Pirates	387	Phoenix Pirates	322	Lost River Raiders	92	Union Bobcats	72	Lake Oswego Lakers*	947	Hidden Valley Mustangs	322	Myrtle Point Bobcats / Pacific Pirates	125	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235		
		5A-SD11 - Special District 10	11	4A-SD12 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD12 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Rocky River Chieftains**	191	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			Rocky River Chieftains**	191	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235		
6A-SD-1 Special District 1	5	5A-SD12 - Special District 11	12	4A-SD13 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD13 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD5 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD6 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD1 - Special District 1	9		
		5A-SD13 - Special District 12	13	4A-SD14 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD14 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD6 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD7 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD2 - Special District 2	8		
6A-SD-1 Special District 2	5	5A-SD14 - Special District 13	14	4A-SD15 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD15 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD7 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD8 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD3 - Special District 3	8		
		5A-SD15 - Special District 14	15	4A-SD16 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD16 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD8 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD9 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD4 - Special District 4	8		
6A-SD-1 Special District 3	5	5A-SD16 - Special District 15	16	4A-SD17 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD17 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD9 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD10 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD5 - Special District 5	9		
		5A-SD17 - Special District 16	17	4A-SD18 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD18 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD10 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD11 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD6 - Special District 6	9		
6A-SD-1 Special District 4	5	5A-SD18 - Special District 17	18	4A-SD19 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD19 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD11 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD12 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD7 - Special District 7	9		
		5A-SD19 - Special District 18	19	4A-SD20 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD20 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD12 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD13 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD8 - Special District 8	9		
6A-SD-1 Special District 5	5	5A-SD20 - Special District 19	20	4A-SD21 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD21 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD13 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD14 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD9 - Special District 9	9		
		5A-SD21 - Special District 20	21	4A-SD22 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD22 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD14 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD15 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD10 - Special District 10	9		
6A-SD-1 Special District 6	5	5A-SD22 - Special District 21	22	4A-SD23 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD23 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD15 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD16 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD11 - Special District 11	9		
		5A-SD23 - Special District 22	23	4A-SD24 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD24 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD16 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD17 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD12 - Special District 12	9		
6A-SD-1 Special District 7	5	5A-SD24 - Special District 23	24	4A-SD25 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD25 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD17 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD18 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD13 - Special District 13	9		
		5A-SD25 - Special District 24	25	4A-SD26 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD26 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	527	St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235			St. Mary's Crusaders ^	235	2A-SD18 - Special District 5	6	2A-SD19 - Special District 6	7	1A(6)-SD14 - Special District 14	9		
6A-SD-1 Special District 8	5	5A-SD26 - Special District 25	26	4A-SD27 - Special District 4	5	4A-SD27 - Special District 4	7	Crater Comets	641	Portland Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554	Portland Buckaro																	