



Oregon School Activities Association

25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 <http://www.osaa.org>



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:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Bracket size</u>	<u>Playoff Allocations</u>
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
1026+	
6A-1 - Portland Interscholastic League	9
Benson Astros*	575
Cleveland Warriors	1057
Franklin Lightning	1278
Grant Generals	1588
Ida B. Wells Guardians	1176
Jefferson Democrats	303
Lincoln Cardinals	1157
McDaniel Mountain Lions*	1001
Roosevelt Roughriders*	843
6A-2 - Metro League	6
Beaverton Beavers	955
Jesuit Crusaders*	966
Mountainside Mavericks	1445
Southridge Skyhawks	1079
Sunset Apollos	1468
Westview Wildcats	1931
6A-3 - Pacific Conference	5
Century Jaguars	1069
Glencoe Crimson Tide	1047
McMinnville Grizzlies	1348
Newberg Tigers	945
Sherwood Bowmen	1218
6A-4 - Mt. Hood Conference	5
Barlow Bruins	1324
Central Catholic Rams*	655
Clackamas Cavaliers*	968
Nelson Hawks	1131
Reynolds Raiders	1291
6A-5 - Three Rivers League	6
Lake Oswego Lakers*	947
Lakeridge Pacers*	914
Oregon City Pioneers	1519
Tigard Tigers	1302
Tualatin Timberwolves	1271
West Linn Lions	1347
6A-SD-1 Special District 1	5
McNary Celtics	1256
North Salem Vikings	1130
South Salem Saxons	1456
Sprague Olympians	1237
West Salem Titans	1173
6A-SD-1 Special District 2	5
Grants Pass Cavemen	1160
North Medford Black Tornado	1065
Sheldon Irish	1039
South Medford Panthers	1168
Willamette Wolverines*	935

5A	39
1025-581	
5A-SD1 - Special District 1	5
Centennial Eagles	954
David Douglas Scots^^	1434
Gresham Gophers^^	1120
Hood River Valley Eagles	764
Sandy Pioneers	977
5A-SD2 - Special District 2	5
Milwaukie / Arts Academy Mustangs	771
Parkrose Broncos*	544
Putnam Kingsmen	792
St. Helens Lions	620
McKav Scots^^	1245
5A-SD3 - Special District 3	7
Aloha Warriors**	1112
Canby Cougars	877
Forest Grove Vikings^^	1180
Hillsboro Spartans	834
La Salle Prep Falcons*	507
Liberty Falcons	981
Wilsonville Wildcats	878
5A-SD3 - Special District 4	7
Corvallis Spartans	836
Crescent Valley Raiders	610
Dallas Dragons	628
Lebanon Warriors	685
Silverton Foxes	848
South Albany Red Hawks	877
West Albany Bulldogs	889
5A-SD4 - Special District 5	8
Churchill Lancers	696
Crater Comets	852
Eagle Point Eagles	682
North Eugene Highlanders	641
Roseburg Indians^^	1072
Springfield Millers	808
Thurston Colts	935
South Eugene Axe^^	1047
5A-4 - Intermountain Conference	7
Bend Lava Bears	865
Caldera Wolfpack	902
Crook County Cowboys	658
Mountain View Cougars	841
Redmond Panthers	759
Ridgeview Ravens	670
Summit Storm	979

4A	34
580-281	
4A-SD1 - Special District 1	8
Astoria Fishermen	414
Banks Braves	281
Scappoose Indians	526
Seaside Seagulls	299
Taft Tigers	291
Tillamook Cheesemakers	462
Valley Catholic Valiants	297
Woodburn Bulldogs^^	989
4A-SD2 - Special District 2	7
Cascade Cougars	577
Central Panthers/Kings Valley Charter Eagle	550
Estacada Rangers	401
Gladstone Gladiators/Riverdale Mavericks	524
Molalla Indians	533
Philomath Warriors	363
Stayton Eagles	488
4A-SD3 - Special District 3	7
Cottage Grove Lions	525
Junction City Tigers	340
Marist Catholic Spartans	319
Marshfield Pirates	550
North Bend Bulldogs	460
South Umpqua Lancers	290
Sweet Home Huskies*	401
4A-SD4 - Special District 4	7
Ashland Grizzlies^^	586
Cascade Christian Challengers*	178
Henley Hornets	564
Hidden Valley Mustangs	322
Mazama Vikings	459
North Valley Knights	297
Phoenix Pirates	387
4A-SD5 - Special District 5	5
Baker Bulldogs	377
La Grande Tigers	410
Ontario Tigers	318
Pendleton Buckaroos / Nixyaawii Eagles	554
The Dalles Riverhawks	527

* Confirmed Play Up Requests

** Approved Petition to Play Down (C&D Cmte.)

^^ Approved Petition to Play Down (FB Ad Hoc)

3A	30
280-141	
3A-SD1 - Special District 1	7
Amity Warriors	185
Dayton Pirates	164
Horizon Christian Hawks	150
North Marion Huskies^^	349
Santiam Christian Eagles	187
Warrenton Warriors	200
Yamhill-Carlton Tigers	192
3A-SD2 - Special District 2	7
Blanchet Catholic Cavaliers	165
Gervais Cougars	177
Harrisburg Eagles	146
Kennedy Trojans*	132
Newport Cubs^^	420
Salem Academy Crusaders	168
Scio Loggers	156
3A-SD3 - Special District 3	6
Creswell Bulldogs	243
Elmira Falcons^^	299
Klamath Union Pelicans^^	461
Pleasant Hill Billies	216
Sisters Outlaws	280
Madras White Buffaloes^^	404
3A-SD4 - Special District 4	5
Brookings-Harbor Bruins	270
Coquille Red Devils	198
Douglas Trojans	267
Siuslaw Vikings	229
Sutherlin Bulldogs	264
3A-SD6 - Special District 5	5
Burns Hilanders	158
McLoughlin Pioneers	279
Nyssa Bulldogs	161
Umatilla Vikings	241
Vale Vikings	169

2A	39
140-78	
2A-SD1 - Special District 1	7
Clatskanie Tigers	118
Corbett Cardinals^^	238
Gaston Greyhounds	114
Knappa Loggers	90
Neah-Kah-Nie Pirates^^	151
Nestucca Bobcats	92
Rainier Columbians^^	156
2A-SD2 - Special District 2	7
Colton Vikings	130
Jefferson Lions^^	141
Regis Rams	85
Santiam Wolverines	98
Sheridan Spartans	137
St. Paul Buckaroos	71
Willamina Bulldogs	153
2A-SD3 - Special District 3	6
Central Linn Cobras	118
Lowell Devils	88
Monroe Dragons	77
Oakridge Warriors	73
Toledo Boomers	116
Walport Irish	116
2A-SD4 - Special District 4	6
Bandon Tigers	122
Glide Wildcats	145
Gold Beach Panthers	72
Illinois Valley Cougars^^	179
Myrtle Point Bobcats / Pacific Pirates	125
Oakland Oakers	129
2A-SD5 - Special District 5	6
Culver Bulldogs	131
Lakeview Honkers	136
La Pine Hawks ^^	245
Lost River Raiders	92
Rogue River Chieftains**	191
St. Mary's Crusaders ^^	235
2A-SD6 - Special District 6	7
Enterprise Outlaws	98
Grant Union Prospectors	93
Heppner Mustangs	83
Irrigon Knights	139
Riverside Pirates^^	200
Stanfield Tigers	94
Weston-McEwen Tiger Scots	122

1A (8-Player)	30
77-52	
1A(8)-SD1 - Special District 1	7
Bonanza Antlers	77
Camas Valley Hornets	36
Chiloquin Panthers	64
Crosspoint Christian Warriors	49
Glendale Pirates	53
Prospect Cougars / Butte Falls Loggers	62
Riddle Irish	61
1A(8)-SD2 - Special District 2	7
Chemawa Braves**	74
C.S. Lewis Watchmen	53
Mohawk Mustangs	61
North Douglas Warriors	70
Perrydale Pirates	65
Reedsport Brave^^	111
Vernonia Loggers^^	122
1A(8)-SD3 - Special District 3	8
Dufur Rangers	57
Echo Cougars	63
Elgin Huskies	67
Imbler Panthers	76
Joseph Eagles	62
Lyle Cougars/Wishram/Klickitat/Glenwood	78
Pilot Rock Rockets / Ukiah Cougars	69
Sherman Huskies	53
1A(8)-SD4 - Special District 4	8
Adrian Antelopes	50
Cove Leopards	74
Crane Mustangs	67
Harper Hornets	67
Pine Eagle Spartans	37
Powder Valley Badgers	54
Prairie City Panthers/Burnt River Bulls	57
Union Bobcats	72
1A (6-Player)	25
51-	
1A(6)-SD1 - Special District 1	9
Condon Blue Devils	32
Dayville Tigers/Monument/Long Creek	29
Griswold Grizzlies	39
Huntington Locomotives	19
Ione Cardinals/Arlington Honkers^^	59
Jordan Valley Mustangs	11
South Wasco County Redsides	42
Spray Eagles/Mitchell Loggers/Wheeler Falcons	49
Wallowa Cougars	41
1A(6)-SD2 - Special District 2	8
Alsea Wolverines	29
Country Christian Cougars^^	68
Eddyville Charter Eagles	32
Falls City Mountaineers	27
Jewell Blue Jays	14
Mapleton Sailors	22
Siletz Valley Warriors	38
Triangle Lake Lakers	51
1A(6)-SD3 - Special District 3	8
Crow Cougars	47
Days Creek Wolves	39
Elkton Elks	51
Gilchrist Grizzlies	46
McKenzie Eagles	26
North Lake Cowboys	43
Powers Cruisers	20
Yoncalla Eagles	45