



Oregon School Activities Association

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April 17, 2026

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
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SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – April 16, 2026

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on April 16 via Zoom meeting for the first time this school year to begin its review of the rankings from the 2025-26 Fall and Winter seasons.

The Committee spent time on a brief overview of the rankings system. Next, the floor was opened for public testimony and opportunities from the Committee members who may have had some discussions with their peers, then the Committee went into a closed work session.

The Committee reviewed the Final 8 rankings for each sport and classification, 2025-26 Fall and Winter brackets and 2025-26 frozen rankings. Following this review, the Committee examined various rankings scenarios, correlation studies of current systems, and rankable contest counts.

Correlation Studies: Correlation studies are produced by OSAA staff and serve as one way to gauge the “accuracy” of the system. What counts as “accurate” regarding a rankings system is certainly open to interpretation, but Committee members believe there is value associated with this information, especially when looking at making changes.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Regular Season</u>	
25-26	Football	92.24%	<i>Using the final frozen rankings, correlation studies analyze the % of contests where the better ranked team in a classification won, going backwards through the regular season. A contest where that happens is considered “accurate.” In 2025-26 Girls Soccer, the current system was 90.85% “accurate” going back through the regular season.</i>
25-26	Boys Soccer	90.80%	
25-26	Girls Soccer	90.85%	
25-26	Volleyball	89.92%	
25-26	Girls Basketball	90.80%	
25-26	Boys Basketball	85.75%	

During its closed work session, the Committee discussed the following concepts:

Using a Multiplier for Contests vs. Higher Classification Opponents

Currently the rankings use a standard 1.2 value for away wins and 0.8 for home wins, and 1.0 for ties (Soccer only) regardless of the opponent. The Committee heard from schools as we are starting a new 4-year time block and creating hybrids with two classifications in the same league, as to whether there should be a multiplier for schools who are playing a school from a higher classification. The Committee spent time discussing the differences between each classification in each sport and is interested in feedback on a potential multiplier for contests vs. opponents at a higher classification. The state of Arizona uses a multiplier, and the Committee has asked the staff to find out how Arizona’s multiplier works. Should the rankings take into consideration a multiplier for schools playing a team that is at a higher classification? If supported, should the multiplier increase if vs. more than one classification higher?

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 9 meeting on using a multiplier in the rankings.

Including a Human Element in the Rankings

The Committee spent considerable time on this topic. The rankings are currently based on data with no human element. Discussion took place about adding a human element to the placement of teams on championship brackets. The conversation centered around having league representatives (one from each league) meet to discuss special circumstances for instance “strength of schedule”, and possibly head to head, as there are a few examples where a school who beat a team twice during the season is ranked below them and maybe the Representatives could take those circumstances into account prior to the Rankings freeze, to see if there should be some “tweaks” in the Adjusted Playoff Rankings prior to placing teams on the bracket.

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 9 meeting on including a human element in the rankings.

Avoiding Same League Matchups in 1st Round

The Committee discussed that with the new 4-year time, block whether the vocabulary used when placing teams on the brackets should be adjusted as there are some brackets that have limited 1st round contests before the round of 16. The current language states the bracket shall be adjusted to avoid teams from the same league matching up in the 1st round. Should there be new language around those brackets where there are only a few 1st round contests played and extend the avoidance of same league matchups to the 2nd round in those brackets when possible?

The Committee is interested in receiving feedback prior to its June 9 meeting on avoiding same league matchups in 1st round.

The Committee’s final meeting of the year for public testimony will be on Tuesday, June 9, 2029, via Zoom meeting starting at 11am. Following the meeting, the Committee will forward its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for consideration at the Board’s Summer Workshop, July 20-22, 2026.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Rankings Committee for their review. Please send emails to Kris Welch (krisw@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.