
2026-2027

Oregon School Activities Association

Athletic Officials Handbook



Published by

OREGON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

25200 SW Parkway, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070

www.osaa.org

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How to find information in this handbook

*The first section of the OSAA Athletic Officials' Handbook includes a Table of Contents for the entire publication. Major rule changes are noted in **bold italic** lettering and summarized in Appendix A. References to other OSAA governing documents are shaded and internal references are shaded.*

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RULES

Rule 1 – Governance

Section 1. This Athletic Officials Handbook (AOH) shall govern the officiating of interscholastic activities as established by the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) in [OSAA Rule 2 – Officials](#). The regulations established in this AOH pertain to local officials associations, commissioners, and officials in regard to the officiating of OSAA-sanctioned activities and interscholastic contests.

- a) The term “official” refers to and includes sport and activity officials, referees, umpires, marshals, judges, and adjudicators.
- b) The term “contest” refers to interscholastic and OSAA-sanctioned events which include activity contests, games, matches, meets, events, competitions, and tournaments.
- c) The sports and activities covered in this AOH include the following OSAA-sanctioned activities: Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading, Baseball, and Softball.

Section 2. Each local officials association, commissioner, and official shall abide by the regulations established by the OSAA constitution, rules, board policies, and interpretations; this AOH; and all Oregon Athletic Officials Association (OAOA) rules and regulations. Unless deferred by the OSAA Executive Director, all changes and additions to those regulations shall be immediately binding upon all local associations, commissioners, and officials.

Section 3. Local association constitutions and/or bylaws are to be formulated and adopted by each individual local association to guide local association administrators. They shall not supersede or conflict with any provision of the regulations mentioned in [AOH Rule 1.2](#).

Section 4. Local associations shall establish an executive board that shall be responsible for the administration of the association’s business, supervision of member officials, and other responsibilities outlined in this AOH.

Section 5. It is the responsibility of the local association to establish membership criteria. Such additional qualifications for membership may be no less stringent than the certification requirements in [AOH Rule 4](#).

Section 6. Subject to OSAA oversight, matters such as membership standing; local association policy, association finances, and fee distributions; membership dues; conduct of the officials, executive board officers, and commissioner; and member discipline shall be the responsibility of the local association.

Rule 2 – Charter Requirements

Section 1. A letter of application requesting certification as a chartered local officials association shall be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Director. The letter shall include the following information:

- a) The proposed name of the local association,
- b) A statement why a local association should be established in the area,
- c) A copy of the constitution and/or bylaws of the local association ([AOH Rule 1.3](#)),
- d) A list of the local association’s executive board officers ([AOH Rule 1.4](#)),
- e) A list of possible members,
- f) A list of proposed schools to be serviced,
- g) A meeting schedule which shall include at least six study/training meetings or 10 hours of training ([AOH Rule 3.2](#)), and
- h) The current name, address, email address, and telephone number of the commissioner.

Section 2. When these requirements are met, the local association may be accepted on a one-year probationary basis. The probationary period may be extended by the OSAA Executive Director. Final approval for the local association will be granted by the OSAA Executive Board.

Section 3. The OSAA shall assign member schools and their sports programs to a probationary local association for the purpose of providing officiating services on a temporary basis.

Rule 3 – Local Associations

Section 1. In order to maintain its charter, a local officials association shall annually:

- a) Prior to the start of the sport season, submit to the OSAA the following:
 - i. A complete upcoming season's schedule of local association meetings (AOH Rule 3.2),
 - ii. An excused absence policy (AOH Rule 3.3),
 - iii. The names of the association's executive board officers (AOH Rule 1.4),
 - iv. A conflict of interest policy (AOH Rule 3.11), and
 - v. Documentation outlining the association's mentoring program (AOH Rule 3.12).
- b) Prior to the start of the sport season, verify the roster of schools serviced by the association (AOH Rule 3.7).
- c) At the close of each sport season, submit to the OSAA a list of members who have not met the attendance requirements for officials' certification outlined in AOH Rule 4.1.d.

Section 2. Each local association shall include in their annual schedule of association meetings at least six study/training meetings or provide at least 10 hours of training per sport season.

Section 3. Each local association shall adopt an excused absence policy that outlines what constitutes an excused absence from association study/training meetings and/or training hours and what penalties or remediation options are expected of member officials. Absences that are excused by a local association do not count toward an official's certification requirements (i.e., an excused absence from a training meeting cannot count toward an official's study/training meeting requirement per AOH Rule 4.1.d).

Section 4. Each local association shall submit to the OSAA a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws whenever such governing documents are substantially changed.

Section 5. When specifically requested by the OSAA, a local association shall be required to submit a report on any status or matter of local association business, any of its members, or any serviced contest.

Section 6. Each local association shall complete the prescribed process to receive reimbursement for officiating duties performed during the OSAA State Championships.

Section 7. The OSAA shall assign member schools and their sports programs to a local association for the purpose of providing officiating services on a regular basis.

Section 8. Local associations wishing to discontinue service to an assigned member school shall petition the OSAA Executive Director for permission. The local association shall provide a rationale for discontinuing service to a member school.

Section 9. Member schools wishing to change local association affiliation in any sport shall petition the OSAA Executive Director for permission. The member school shall provide a rationale for changing to a different local association.

Section 10. Officials assigned to OSAA-sanctioned contests shall be members of a local association and are independent contractors.

Section 11. Per OSAA Executive Board Policy "Officials – Minimum Conflict of Interest Standards (Varsity Only)," local associations shall adopt a written conflict of interest policy to include, but not limited to the following provisions.

- a) Unless the athletic directors of the schools involved in the contest and the assigning commissioner agree, no official shall be assigned to a varsity contest if:
 - i. The contest involves a school currently attended by the official's child or stepchild.
 - ii. The contest involves a school at which the official or a member of their immediate family* is a current employee or coach.
 - iii. An immediate family* member of the official is a team member of one of the involved teams.
 - iv. The contest involves a school from which the official has graduated within the last four years.

- v. There are other factors or relationships between the official and a participating school that, in the judgment of the commissioner or the official, might give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

b) Associations are free to adopt additional more restrictive standards if appropriate.

*Definition of “immediate family” as used in this policy: Spouse, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren (including adopted and step), brothers and sisters, mother and father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, and daughter and son-in-law.

Section 12. Local associations shall implement a member mentorship program. The mentoring program should be documented in writing and contain the following minimal information (refer to AOH Appendix B for examples of mentoring programs):

- a) Goals and objectives of the mentoring program,
- b) How the mentorship program is administered; i.e. mentoring format, mentor-mentee interactions, program administration, etc.,
- c) Qualifications, responsibilities, and expectations of mentors and mentees,
- d) Procedures for mentor-mentee pairing, and
- e) A plan for feedback and evaluation of the mentorship program.

Section 13. Failure to meet the requirements, duties, and responsibilities of local associations may result in denial of allocated playoff assignments for OSAA State Championship events, withholding of OSAA payments and/or reimbursements, modification of assigned member schools, or revocation of the local association’s charter by the OSAA Executive Director.

Rule 4 – Annual Certification and Requirements of Officials

Section 1. In order to be a certified official:

- a) The official must be at least 18 years of age. Exceptions for youth officials under the age of 18 may be approved by the OSAA Executive Director after a petition by the local officials association commissioner, provided the guidelines in AOH Appendix C are followed.
- b) The official must be a member in good standing of a local association.
- c) The official must complete the annual OSAA online officials registration process.
- d) By the end of their respective sport’s regular season, the official must annually attend at least six study/training meetings or complete at least 10 hours of approved training.

Note: Certified attendance at an OAOA-sponsored clinic and/or the OSAA-sponsored state rules interpretation meeting may count as one study/training meeting toward this attendance requirement. Approval for training hours is determined by the local association. It is recommended for local associations to establish what constitutes approved training prior to the start of the season.

- e) The official must submit to a criminal conviction history screening per OSAA Rule 2 – Officials and OSAA Executive Board Policy “Officials – Background Checks.” Any denial of certification as a result of this screening may be waived or modified by the OSAA Executive Board in individual cases if it determines in its sole discretion that there exist circumstances justifying such a waiver or modification. The cost of this background check shall be included in the officials’ certification fees. To be certified, officials cannot have been convicted of:
 - i. A felony involving the use, possession, or sale of a controlled substance within the last 10 years. The 10-year period of ineligibility to officiate shall commence from the date of suspension from officiating duties or from the date of conviction – whichever occurred first; or
 - ii. A crime involving the use or threatened use of violence against a person within the last 10 years. The 10-year period of ineligibility to officiate shall commence from the date of suspension from officiating duties or from the date of conviction – whichever occurred first; or
 - iii. A crime involving a minor child at any time.

- f) The official must receive annual training from an appropriate health care professional to learn the signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with a concussed player and how to seek proper medical attention for a player suspected of having a concussion in accordance with Oregon State Law (ORS 417.875) for all officials working OSAA-sanctioned contests. This requirement is accomplished by completing the annual online OSAA concussion course and must be completed prior to officiating any OSAA-sanctioned contest.
- g) The official must annually take the relevant OSAA sport rules examination. This requirement is accomplished by answering all questions on the relevant online OSAA sport rules examination. Completing the rules exam satisfies the basic certification requirement. An official's score of correctly answered questions on the rules exam determines the official's level of certification, see AOH Rule 4.3.
- h) An official's certification expires upon conclusion of the final championship contests in their respective sport unless the official is dropped for non-attendance or for another reason their certification is suspended or revoked by the local association or the OSAA.

Section 2. In order to officiate any level of OSAA-sanctioned contest, including jamborees, officials must at a minimum complete the following items every year (in addition to any other requirements): register with the OSAA, pass a criminal conviction history screening, complete the online OSAA concussion course, and take the relevant OSAA sport rules examination.

Section 3. The following levels of certification (listed by level, lowest to highest) are obtained if the official:

- a) **Registered** – completed the annual OSAA online officials registration process and passed a criminal conviction history screening (AOH Rule 4.1.c & e). Registered officials who have not obtained a higher level of certification are prohibited from officiating any OSAA-sanctioned contest.
- b) **Sub-Varsity** – met the requirements of a registered official, completed the annual online OSAA concussion course (AOH Rule 4.1.f), taken the relevant OSAA sport rules examination (AOH Rule 4.1.g), completed the OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Discriminatory Acts Training (AOH Rule 4.5), and completed any other required components. Sub-varsity certified officials are not allowed to officiate OSAA-sanctioned contests above the sub-varsity level.
- c) **Varsity** – met the requirements of a sub-varsity official, scored at least 75% on the relevant OSAA sport rules examination, and completed any other required components. Varsity-certified officials are allowed to officiate varsity and sub-varsity OSAA-sanctioned contests.
- d) **Playoff** – met the requirements of a varsity official, scored at least 90% on the relevant OSAA sport rules examination, has OCEP Principles certification (AOH Rule 4.4), obtained and has current OCEP Playoff certification (AOH Rule 10.2), and completed any other required components. Playoff-certified officials are allowed to officiate varsity and sub-varsity OSAA-sanctioned contests and are eligible to officiate OSAA State Championship events (see AOH Rule 10 for additional requirements to officiate any OSAA State Championship event).

Exception: Cheerleading officials must obtain the varsity level of certification (AOH Rule 4.3.c) and score at least 75% on the OSAA Cheerleading rules exam in order to officiate any level of OSAA-sanctioned contest.

Section 4. As part of the Officials Certification and Education Program (OCEP), officials must obtain OCEP Principles certification within the first three years of officiating. OCEP Principles certification is gained by attending a course or clinic approved by the OAOA Executive Board on the basic principles of officiating or by completing the online NFHS Interscholastic Officiating Course. This requirement does not apply to officials certified by the OSAA in 2005-06 or prior; or any transfer official previously licensed or certified by a state high school governing body. Each local association should conduct an annual OCEP Principles course.

Section 5. As part of the Officials Certification and Education Program (OCEP), officials must complete the OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Discriminatory Acts Training to be prepared to work collaboratively and act if a discriminatory or harassing incident occurs during an interscholastic event. This training is a one-time requirement. Officials must complete this online training course before officiating any level of OSAA-sanctioned contest, including jamborees.

Section 6. The local association or the OSAA may suspend or revoke the certification of any official in the event the local association or the OSAA becomes aware that the official does not meet the requirements for certification. If

certification is suspended or revoked, the official may appeal the decision to the OSAA Executive Director, or their designee, for consideration of reinstatement.

Section 7. When required by the OSAA, officials shall submit a written report of their conduct in any OSAA-sanctioned contest in which they participated as an official.

Section 8. Physical examinations for officials are not required but are recommended. A program of personal fitness and conditioning at least four weeks prior to the season is recommended and highly desirable for all officials in physically demanding sports.

Rule 5 – Commissioners

Section 1. The commissioner shall be duly elected by the members of the local officials association with majority approval of the schools serviced by the local association. The term shall be three years, with no term limit. The commissioner shall receive remuneration for their services as established by the OSAA. Local associations may supplement this remuneration at their discretion.

Section 2. The commissioner, or designee, shall make all contest assignments in accordance with AOH Rule 9 and any local association policy.

Section 3. The Commissioner may be removed from office at any time by a two-thirds vote of the local association or a two-thirds vote of the schools serviced by the local association.

Section 4. Commissioners may officiate if they are an OSAA certified official having met all of the annual certification requirements established in AOH Rule 4 and only in the following cases:

- a) The commissioner has been approved to officiate by a vote of the members of the local association, or
- b) The commissioner has petitioned and been granted permission by the OSAA Executive Director to officiate in the event of either a low number of registered and certified officials within the local association or the number of assignments exceeds the number of officials, or
- c) In an emergency situation.

Rule 6 – Ethics and Conduct

Section 1. Officials at interscholastic athletic events are participants in the educational development of high school students. As such, they must exercise a high level of self-discipline, independence, and responsibility. The purpose of this code is to establish guidelines for ethical standards of conduct for all OSAA officials.

- a) Officials shall master both the rules of the game and the mechanics necessary to enforce the rules, and shall exercise authority in an impartial, firm, and controlled manner.
- b) Officials shall work with each other and the Oregon School Activities Association in a constructive and cooperative manner.
- c) Officials shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession in all interactions with student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.
- d) Officials shall prepare themselves both physically and mentally, shall dress neatly and appropriately, and shall comport themselves in a manner consistent with the high standards of the profession.
- e) Officials shall be punctual and professional in the fulfillment of all contractual obligations.
- f) Officials shall remain mindful that their conduct influences the respect that student-athletes, coaches, and the public hold for the profession.
- g) Officials shall, while enforcing the rules of play, remain aware of the inherent risk of injury that competition poses to student-athletes. Where appropriate, they shall inform event management of conditions or situations that appear unreasonably hazardous.
- h) Officials shall take reasonable steps to educate themselves in the recognition of emergency conditions that might arise during the course of a competition.
- i) Officials shall maintain an ethical approach while participating in forums, chat rooms, and all forms of social media.

- j) Officials shall serve as stewards of their sport and the officiating profession by positively representing themselves as officials and by refraining from making disparaging or derogatory comments regarding other officials, assignments, competition levels, teams, schools, or participants.
- k) Officials shall maintain the highest level of professionalism, especially in high visibility situations like tournaments or state championships where their comments and behavior both on and off the court or field may be observed by schools, teams, participants, or spectators.

Section 2. An individual official or commissioner shall not engage in the following conduct, per **OSAA Rule 2 – Officials:**

- a) Use tobacco products (including e-cigarettes), illegal drugs, cannabis, and/or alcoholic beverages, or be under the influence of illegal drugs, cannabis, and/or alcoholic beverages at an interscholastic event.
- b) Unsportsmanlike conduct at an interscholastic event. “Unsportsmanlike conduct” includes, but is not limited to, unwarranted physical contact, profane language, and/or taunting. Unwarranted physical contact initiated by an official toward a coach/player shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- c) Make a bet, gamble, or take a bribe in connection with an interscholastic event.
- d) Have been convicted of any item listed in **AOH Rule 4.1.e.**
- e) Engage in any action that, within the discretion of the local association or the OSAA Executive Board, gives rise to a concern for the safety of children due to the official’s conduct, indicates that the official cannot objectively perform the official’s duties, or otherwise is inconsistent with the OSAA’s responsibilities to its member schools, the student participants, or the parents of the participants.
- f) The OSAA Executive Director may require the official or commissioner to appear before the OSAA Executive Board and show cause why the official or commissioner should not be subject to sanctions under **OSAA Rule 5.6** for such conduct.

Section 3. Per **OSAA Executive Board Policy “Sportsmanship – Criticism of School Representatives or Officials / Judges,”** it shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if officials, judges, or commissioners make comments to the media that criticize or disparage school representatives. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the local association to which the official, judge, or commissioner belongs.

Section 4. It shall be considered unethical conduct when any individual official:

- a) Accepts any assignment to an OSAA-sanctioned contest without the approval and consent of their local association.
- b) Works an OSAA-sanctioned contest requiring certified officials while the official has not met all of the annual certification requirements required by **AOH Rule 4.**
- c) Does not comply with the regulations as required by **AOH Rule 1.**

Section 5. It shall be considered unethical conduct when any commissioner:

- a) Agrees to make assignments for a school normally serviced by another local association without first securing written permission from the other local association. Written permission does not have to be secured in an emergency situation.
- b) Allows an official to work an OSAA-sanctioned contest requiring certified officials while the official has not met all of the annual certification requirements required by **AOH Rule 4.**
- c) Does not comply with the regulations as required by **AOH Rule 1.**

Rule 7 – Procedure for Reporting Ethical or Conduct Violations

Section 1. A complaint against an official or commissioner for violating the ethics and conduct guidelines as outlined in **AOH Rule 6** shall be submitted to the OSAA Executive Director, or their designee, and to the local officials association.

Section 2. If a complaint is filed with a local association, the local association shall immediately notify the OSAA Executive Director, or their designee.

Section 3. Upon finding that an official or commissioner has violated the ethics and conduct guidelines as outlined in [AOH Rule 6](#), the local association and/or the OSAA Executive Board may impose on the official or commissioner any of the penalties set forth in [OSAA Rule 5.6](#).

Rule 8 – Official Uniform and Patch

Section 1. The required uniform for officials at OSAA-sanctioned contests is defined in the sport-specific NFHS rules book or officials manual. The uniform may be established, if undefined, or modified by sport-specific OSAA interpretations, OAOA publications, or OSAA State Rules Interpreter.

Section 2. All officials shall wear the current year's OSAA patch while officiating any OSAA-sanctioned contest. The patch shall be worn:

- a) Football, Volleyball, and Soccer – on the left pocket area of the shirt.
- b) Basketball – above the left pocket area of the shirt.
- c) Wrestling – on the left sleeve of the shirt, just below the shoulder.
- d) Cheerleading – no patch is worn.
- e) Baseball and Softball – above the left pocket area of the shirt.

Section 3. A local officials association's name, insignia, or logo may be worn on the uniform with OSAA approval. Officials may optionally wear an American flag patch on the sleeve of their uniform.

Rule 9 – Assignments to OSAA-Sanctioned Contests

Section 1. Per [OSAA Executive Board Policy "Officials – Certified Requirement,"](#)

- a) Member schools shall secure certified officials from their OSAA assigned local officials association for all interscholastic activities requiring certified officials.
 - i. Any request for an exception to this policy must receive the approval of the OSAA Executive Board.
 - ii. Exceptions shall be considered only when adherence to this policy presents a financial hardship to the school or when the officials association is unable to service the member school.
 - iii. Any out-of-state official (i.e., affiliate member official, see [AOH Rule 14](#)) used under this exception in a contest in Oregon shall represent an association whose commissioner was an attendee at the OSAA Rules Interpreters' Clinic for that year.
- b) OSAA certified officials are required for all OSAA-sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees.
 - i. OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only.
 - ii. OSAA certified officials are required in Football at all sub-varsity levels.
 - iii. Contests with participants of different levels are considered a contest at the higher of the two levels (i.e., a varsity team playing a junior varsity team is considered a varsity level contest).
- c) Schools, leagues, and tournaments are limited to using a maximum of the quantity of officials assigned to State Championship contests unless written permission to exceed that quantity is received from the OSAA Executive Director prior to the event(s).
- d) Schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local associations to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required.

Section 2. The number of officials assigned to OSAA-sanctioned contests depends on the sport and level. Refer to [AOH Appendix E](#) for additional information.

Section 3. Only sub-varsity, varsity, or playoff level certified officials may be assigned to OSAA-sanctioned contests through local associations.

Section 4. Associations must use assigning software that prohibits assigning non-certified officials to OSAA-sanctioned contests. Approved tools that meet this requirement are ArbiterSports and RefTown.

Section 5. Per **OSAA Rule 2 – Officials**, the superintendent, assistant superintendent, or high school principal has the authority to approve the selection of officials for all festivals, meets, contests, and championships serviced by the local officials association during the regular season.

Rule 10 – State Championship Officials

Section 1. To officiate any OSAA State Championship event which includes contests in the first round of playoffs through the final contest, officials shall meet each of the following requirements:

- a) Be selected by their local officials association (**AOH Rule 10.3**).
- b) Be OSAA certified (**AOH Rule 4.1**).
- c) Met the meeting attendance requirement (**AOH Rule 4.1.d**).
- d) Obtained playoff level certification (**AOH Rule 4.3.d**).
- e) Obtained OCEP Principles certification (**AOH Rule 4.4**).
- f) Completed the OSAA Interrupting and Preventing Discriminatory Acts Training (**AOH Rule 4.5**).
- g) Obtained and be currently certified in their sport-specific OCEP Playoff certification (**AOH Rule 10.2**).
- h) Have a minimum officiating experience at the varsity level (unless granted an exception by the OSAA Executive Director):
 - i. At least three years of varsity officiating experience for all sports officials, and
 - ii. At least five years of varsity soccer officiating experience to be eligible for assignment as the center referee for 6A and 5A OSAA Soccer State Championship events.
- i) Be a member of a local association that:
 - i. Services 6A or 5A classification schools during the regular season to be eligible to officiate any OSAA State Championship event involving 6A or lower classification schools, or
 - ii. Services 4A or lower classification schools during the regular season to be eligible to officiate any OSAA State Championship event involving 4A and lower classification schools.
- j) Be an official who has officiated in the year's regular season:
 - i. At least one regular season contest, for all sports, and
 - ii. At least three regular season contests in each gender and at least four regular season contests using 3-person mechanics in basketball to be eligible for OSAA Basketball State Championship events, or
 - iii. At least two regular season matches in each gender in soccer to be eligible for OSAA Soccer State Championship events.

Section 2. As part of the Officials Certification and Education Program (OCEP), officials selected to officiate any OSAA State Championship event must have obtained and be currently certified in their sport-specific OCEP Playoff certification. This section may be revised by the OAOA with approval from the OSAA Executive Director.

- a) To obtain OCEP Playoff certification, officials shall have completed an OCEP Playoff Certification Clinic, or other camp, clinic, or certifying procedure substantially equivalent and approved by the sport's OSAA State Rules Interpreter. Soccer officials initially obtain OCEP Playoff certification by completing the USSF Grassroots Referee Course.
- b) To maintain and have current OCEP Playoff certification:
 - i. Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, and Softball officials must recertify every five years as in **AOH Rule 10.2.a**.
 - ii. Wrestling officials must recertify every three years as in **AOH Rule 10.2.a**.
 - iii. Soccer officials must recertify every year (including the same year in which OCEP Playoff certification is initially obtained) by completing an annual OCEP Soccer Playoff Certification Training Course either hosted by a local association or via online training.

- iv. Cheerleading officials must recertify every year by attending the judge's training clinic hosted before the Cheerleading State Championship as in [AOH Rule 10.2.a](#).

Section 3. State championship and playoff official selections shall be made by the commissioner or local association with input from the schools serviced by that association. Officials who have been placed on probation for past ethical or conduct violations by the OSAA Executive Board, per [AOH Rule 7.3](#), are not eligible for selection during their probationary period. Local associations may impose more restrictive criteria at their discretion regarding selection procedures. Wrestling officials are selected according to the process outlined in [AOH Appendix D](#).

Section 4. Officials may be assigned to OSAA State Championship final sites in consecutive years as follows:

- a) Football, Soccer, Cheerleading, Baseball, and Softball – no limitation.
- b) Volleyball and Basketball – limit of two consecutive years at any final site, regardless of classification.
- c) Wrestling – see [AOH Appendix D](#).

Section 5. OSAA State Championship event assignments for Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, and Softball depend on the sport and round.

- a) An association assigned to cover an OSAA State Championship event is responsible for assigning officials for the contest in accordance with [AOH Rule 10](#) and local association guidelines.
- b) Any local association servicing more than 7.5% of teams sponsoring the activity shall be considered a non-local association.
- c) For the first round of contests in all sports, officials from the home team's regularly assigned local association shall provide officials.*

*Exception: In the event a contest is played at a neutral site outside of the coverage area of the designated home team's local association, the host venue's closest local association shall provide officials.

- d) For subsequent rounds after the first round, assignments are determined by sport:
 - i. Baseball – all contests in rounds prior to the semifinals (first round through the quarterfinals) shall be assigned to the home team's regularly assigned local association (with the same exception noted in [AOH Rule 10.5.c](#)). Semifinal contests shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final site contests.
 - ii. Basketball – the second round of contests shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final site contests (quarterfinals through finals and consolations).
 - iii. Football – second round and quarterfinal contests shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* For semifinal and final contests, the OSAA assigns associations based on established rotations.
 - iv. Soccer – the second round of contests through the semifinals shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final site contests.
 - v. Softball – all contests in rounds prior to the semifinals (first round through the quarterfinals) shall be assigned to the home team's regularly assigned local association (with the same exception noted in [AOH Rule 10.5.c](#)). Semifinal contests shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final site contests.
 - vi. Volleyball – the second round of contests shall be covered by officials of a non-local association assigned by the OSAA.* The OSAA assigns officials nominated by local associations to all final site contests (quarterfinals through finals and consolations).
 - vii. Wrestling – see the selection process in [AOH Appendix D](#).

****Exception: For rounds where the OSAA is to assign a non-local association, if both teams are regularly serviced by the same officials association, the OSAA may assign that local association to provide coverage regardless of the association's non-local status.***

Section 6. Cheerleading State Championship officials are nominated by their local association and assigned by the OSAA. Out-of-state, guest officials for the Cheerleading State Championship are exempt from the requirements in AOH Rule 10.1 and must be approved by the OSAA Executive Director.

Section 7. Associations may decline state playoff and tournament assignments if the commissioner notifies the OSAA. Any such notification shall be given prior to the established deadlines for submitting the names of tournament officials to the OSAA.

Section 8. The OSAA will distribute declined assignments at its discretion.

Section 9. Associations may trade an assignment with another association upon approval from the OSAA Executive Director.

Rule 11 – Fees

Section 1. The OSAA Officials Fee Schedule is available in AOH Appendix E.

Section 2. OSAA Constitution Article 9.7 establishes the OSAA Fee Review Committee (FRC).

- a) **Charge.** The FRC shall consider only items involving fees paid to individual officials, commissioners, or local associations. This includes game fees, per diem, administrative fees, commissioner fees, or any other type of service fee provided collectively called fees, and the association mileage reimbursement rate(s).

The FRC shall forward recommendations regarding regular season fees to the OSAA Delegate Assembly and shall forward recommendations regarding State Championship fees and the association mileage reimbursement rate(s) to the OSAA Executive Board.

- b) **Composition.** The FRC shall be a standing committee consisting of three representatives of the Oregon Athletic Directors Association (OADA) Executive Board, four representatives of the Oregon Athletic Officials Association (OAOA) Executive Board, one representative of the OSAA Executive Board, and the OSAA Executive Director as a nonvoting member.
- c) **Term.** The OADA and OAOA will each be responsible to define the process by which their representatives will be selected and the term lengths they will serve.
- d) **Meetings.** The FRC shall meet as requested by the OSAA Executive Board. The FRC shall determine a schedule of no fewer than three meetings, which shall allow the opportunity for public input.

Section 3. Schools and local associations may negotiate reduced fees in relation to the financial needs, availability of officials, and other factors that reflect local and district conditions.

Section 4. Any fee or supplemental charge not outlined in the approved OSAA Officials Fee Schedule must be approved by the OSAA Executive Director.

Section 5. When the OSAA determines that lodging is necessary for OSAA State Championship events, complimentary rooms will be provided based on two officials per room. If an official wishes to not share a room, there will be no reimbursement for lodging expenses. In these cases, the official is responsible for their own reservations and are not eligible for the OSAA discounted rates.

Section 6. For OSAA State Championship events, any meal reimbursement will be based on the time of the assignment and must be confirmed by the OSAA staff prior to the contest. Meal reimbursement is limited to \$10.00 for breakfast, \$13.00 for lunch, and \$20.00 for dinner. Receipts are not required for meal reimbursement.

Rule 12 – Reciprocity Formula

Section 1. Local officials associations that must use another association to provide coverage for contests involving a school that is normally serviced by the association shall reciprocate coverage in the same sports season. Associations that cannot reciprocate according to the schedule below shall forfeit the appropriate number of schools prior to the calculation of OSAA State Championship event allocations:*

Sport	Covered Contests (1 year – any level)	Covered Contests (2 years – any level)	Coverage Equivalent
Baseball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Basketball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Football	8 contests	12 contests	1 school serviced
Soccer	14 matches	21 matches	1 school serviced

Softball	24 contests	36 contests	1 school serviced
Volleyball	16 matches	24 matches	1 school serviced
Wrestling	8 matches	12 matches	1 school serviced

Section 2. The smallest unit used will be .5 schools serviced.

Section 3. Coverage provided can be at any classification and level.

*Note: Under this schedule, a 3A freshman volleyball contest is equivalent to a 4A varsity volleyball contest.

Rule 13 – Dual Membership

Section 1. Officials may have membership in multiple local officials associations in the same sport upon mutual agreement between the commissioners and executive boards of the local associations involved. The official is responsible for all local association membership dues for all associations in which they are members.

Section 2. To obtain a dual membership, the official must annually complete and submit to all involved local associations and to the OSAA the following items prior to the respective sport's season.

- The official must designate a primary local association.
- The official must create a plan for how they will meet the attendance requirements for officials certification as in AOH Rule 4.1.d.

Section 3. All OSAA State Championship assignments shall be made by the official's primary local association they identified prior to the respective sport's season.

Rule 14 – Affiliate Membership

Section 1. Affiliate associations are out-of-state officials associations that provide officiating coverage to OSAA member schools where coverage by an OSAA local officials association is otherwise limited or not possible. Affiliate associations must be recognized or chartered by a neighboring state high school association and be assigned by the OSAA to provide officiating services to OSAA member schools. Per OSAA Rule 2 – Officials, affiliate association commissioners must attend the OSAA Rules Interpreters' Clinic for that year.

Section 2. Affiliate officials are "out-of-state" officials that are registered members of an affiliate association recognized by the OSAA and who have completed the certification requirements of their affiliate association.

Section 3. To be an affiliate official recognized by the OSAA:

- The official must be at least 18 years of age (see exception in AOH Rule 4.1.a).
- The official must be a member in good standing of an affiliate association.
- The official must complete the annual OSAA online affiliate officials registration process.
- The official must pass a criminal conviction history screening (AOH Rule 4.1.e).
- The official must receive annual training from an appropriate health care professional to learn the signs, symptoms, and behaviors associated with a concussed player and how to seek proper medical attention for a player suspected of having a concussion.

Section 4. Affiliate officials who comply with this rule are not required to complete the other annual certification requirements for OSAA certified officials and may be assigned to OSAA-sanctioned contests. Affiliate member officials shall serve as independent contractors when officiating OSAA-sanctioned contests and are still required to comply with other OSAA provisions required of OSAA certified officials.

Section 5. Affiliate officials may be assigned to OSAA State Championship events and are not subject to the requirements outlined in AOH Rule 10.1 and AOH Rule 10.2.

Rule 15 – State Rules Interpreters

Section 1. The OSAA is the sole and exclusive source of binding NFHS rules interpretations for OSAA-sanctioned contests and shall appoint a State Rules Interpreter for each sport.

Section 2. The State Rules Interpreter shall be responsible for interpreting and clarifying NFHS rules, interpretations, and mechanics within their sport for use throughout the state. The State Rules Interpreter also provides

clarifications and answers to questions regarding sport rules and mechanics to help ensure NFHS guidelines are followed by officials.

Section 3. In cooperation with the OSAA and the OAOA, the State Rules Interpreter helps to determine and disseminate state-specific rule adoptions. At the annual sport-specific rules clinic, the State Rules Interpreter presents NFHS rules changes, editorial changes, and points of emphasis.

Section 4. The State Rules Interpreter shall be responsible for and oversee state-wide training for their sport in cooperation with the OSAA and the OAOA.

APPENDICES

- A. Summary of Changes to the 2026-2027 Athletic Officials Handbook
- B. Examples of Mentoring Programs
- C. Youth Officials
- D. Wrestling State Championship Selection Process
- E. Officials Fee Schedule
- F. OSAA Rules and Executive Board Policies

Summary of Changes to the 2026-2027 Athletic Officials Handbook

- A new exception was added to Rule 10.5.d for assigning associations to OSAA State Championship events. If both participating schools share the same regular officials association, the OSAA may use that local association instead of assigning a non-local association.

Examples of Mentoring Programs

Goals and Objectives of a Mentoring Program

1. To support the association, a mentorship program provides avenues to accomplish the following goals:
 - A. Develop members and help them grow as officials,
 - B. Produce effective officials through the development and use of effective mentors,
 - C. Build connections and relationships between members and the association,
 - D. Provide opportunities for new members to feel welcome while involving experienced officials, and
 - E. Promote the retention of officials.
2. Official mentoring is vitally important to the association. It helps the association retain referees. Effective officials and mentors are indispensable if the association is to grow and prosper.
3. Effective mentors are indispensable if the association's core of officials is to continue to grow. The effectiveness of mentors has a tremendous impact on members and ultimately the overall success of the association.
4. Mentoring helps new officials quickly become capable and confident as well as helps experienced officials advance. A mentorship program allows experienced officials new opportunities to continue their involvement with the association.
5. Mentoring builds both confidence and competence in mentees by allowing them to build upon their knowledge and skills more quickly than if they were learning solely on their own.
6. Mentoring is an effective tool for helping association members advance.
7. Experienced officials who already officiate at a higher level or wish to continue giving back to the sport and association can mentor officials and pass along their knowledge and experience.
8. Mentoring nurtures professional relationships between members which helps officials feel welcome and connected to the association.

Mentorship Program Structures

Mentor programs can be structured and administered in several ways. Associations should have input into how their mentoring program is set up and structured. Once established, how the mentoring program is administered can vary. The key is to have support from the association to implement, administer, and maintain the mentorship program. An individual or a group of people can help administer the association's mentorship program to provide support for the program's goals and objectives and to be responsible for the program. Regarding program oversight, some options include:

1. Designate an existing association executive board member to be solely responsible for the mentorship program by overseeing its implementation and administration.
2. Create a new officer or program administrator that is responsible for the mentorship program and operates under the supervision of the association's executive board or committee. This individual could be an executive board member, an experienced official, or a member with an interest in supporting the mentoring program.
3. Delegate a committee to run and administer the mentorship program. With a committee structure, oversight can be delegated to committee members to share the workload of the mentoring program's operation.

The structure of the mentorship program depends on several factors: the size of the association, the needs and desires of the membership, the number and availability of mentors, and the desired outcomes established by the association. Some examples of how a mentorship program can be structured include:

1. One-On-One:
 - A. A one-on-one model pairs two officials together. One mentor is paired with one mentee.
 - B. This model allows for individualized attention and focuses on one mentor to one mentee.
 - C. This requires many mentors. Typically, the number of mentees is higher than the number of available mentors.

2. One-To-Many:
 - A. In a one-to-many model, a mentor is paired with multiple mentees.
 - B. This model allows for discussions and learning to take place in small groups. These groups can be diverse with newer and experienced officials or the group can be alike in mentee's rank or experience.
 - C. This requires a few mentors. Multiple officials can be assigned to a single mentor.
3. Hybrid:
 - A. In a hybrid model, the structure of the mentorship program is a combination or amalgamation of one-on-one or one-to-many models with changes to reflect the needs of the association.
 - B. Models should be considered that best suit the availability of mentors and mentees.

Roles that Mentors Play

As John C. Crosby once said, "Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction." The mentor acts as a helping hand for new and developing officials; they play many important roles in the development of officials:

1. As a friend, the mentor must be persuasive in their comments to the mentee. The official must trust the motives as well as the judgment of the mentor and believe that the mentor gives freely of time and effort.
2. As an observer, the mentor must provide sound, simple advice and assistance that leads the mentee on the shortest path to success. The mentee must believe in the sincerity and credibility of the assistance given.
3. As a supporter, the mentor offers encouragement in unlimited supply. In this view, the official can do no wrong, but can always be encouraged to do better. This is unconditional support for the person, not for everything the person does.
4. As an advocate, the mentor is obligated to take the part of the official in all encounters. No criticism or dissent can go unchecked; no party can challenge without the proactive, positive involvement of the mentor.
5. As a choreographer, the mentor helps the new and developing official to stage the officiating process. From the opening – arrival and pre-contest – to the closing – the post-game ceremony and bookkeeping – the mentor helps the official to move with purpose and direction from one part of the process to the next. The mentor also encourages and assists the official in understanding and moving through association policies and procedures.
6. As an advisor, the mentor provides accurate, factual information that gives the mentee additional insight and understanding.
7. As a coach, the mentor offers tactical instructions that help the official to operate at the top of their game and provides the official with practical suggestions to improve performance.
8. As a role model, the mentor gives the developing official a real person to emulate. The mentor's attitudes, values, and behaviors set the example that the mentee is likely to follow.

Mentor Qualifications

Although any experienced official can be a candidate for becoming a mentor, mentors should have some or all of the following sample qualifications:

1. Be committed to the association and the philosophies of officiating.
2. Be willing to devote time and energy to the mentor program.
3. Have clear and concise verbal communication skills.
4. Learn to properly observe an official's performance.
5. Have a positive attitude when presenting information.
6. Develop an aptitude for listening and responding to an official's questions and concerns.
7. Encourage officials and understand an official's shortcomings.
8. Serve as a role model to other officials and mentors.
9. Have a strong understanding and grasp of association governance, guidelines, and operations.

Guidelines for Mentoring

When mentoring, mentors should remember these guidelines:

1. Act as a mentor in all of the roles expected of a mentor.
2. Always present a positive attitude toward officiating and toward the association.
3. Create a safe, positive environment for improvement.
4. Be available as often as needed to provide support and answer questions.
5. Observe the official as often as needed.
6. Encourage the official to continue their advancement and/or certification to higher levels of officiating.
7. As availability and policy permit, try to arrange where you as the mentor and the official you're mentoring can be assigned to the same contest.
8. Participate with the official in continuing training and social activities offered by the association.
9. Seek help from others to ensure that the needs of the official are met.
10. Report to the mentoring program administrator any special needs or problems that should be addressed for the mentee or the mentorship program overall.
11. Actively recruit others to become officials and mentors.
12. Support the official at any contest you observe. This includes positive comments to coaches, spectators, and players or refraining altogether from making comments regarding your mentee's performance.
13. Provide positive feedback to the official after all observations:
 - A. Make at least two or three positive comments.
 - B. Identify no more than two areas for improvement by the official.
 - C. Be specific in all comments made to the official using experience or specific examples of performance.
 - D. Give small, attainable, immediately improvable goals for the official.
 - E. Use positive language such as:
 - i. "You might consider trying..."
 - ii. "Other officials often find that..."
 - iii. "From my experience..."
 - iv. "It may be easier for you if you..."
 - F. Avoid phrases such as:
 - i. "You should..."
 - ii. "I always..."
 - iii. "Never..."
 - iv. "Always..."
 - G. End discussions of observations with a positive comment.
 - H. Encourage the official at all times.

Youth Officials

Local officials associations may use officials under the age of 18 with permission from the OSAA Executive Director. The OSAA will depend on the commissioner's professional judgment regarding the skill and maturity level of the underage official.

1. Youth officials, with prior approval, must meet the following certification criteria:
 - A. The youth official must satisfy the same certification requirements as all other officials.
 - B. Youth officials will not be screened for criminal conviction history.
 - C. Youth officials shall not be assigned to any OSAA-sanctioned contest, at any level, in which the official attends the school of one of the participating teams.
2. Assignments of youth officials must also conform to the following guidelines per sport:
 - A. Soccer:
 - i. A varsity level contest serviced by the diagonal system of officiating (center referee and two assistant referees) may have up to one youth assistant referee.
 - ii. A sub-varsity contest serviced by the diagonal system of officiating may have multiple youth officials assigned. An underage youth center referee may be assigned at the sub-varsity level if at least one experienced, non-youth assistant referee is also assigned to the match.
 - iii. A youth official can be assigned to a contest serviced by the dual system of officiating as long as the head referee is an experienced, non-youth official.
 - iv. A youth official cannot be used in an emergency situation to work a solo assignment at any level.
 - B. All other sports:
 - i. Youth officials are limited to sub-varsity assignments only and shall not officiate at the varsity level.

Wrestling State Championship Selection Process

Officials for the OSAA Wrestling State Championships are selected according to the following procedure.

1. Purpose

This proposal establishes a standardized statewide system for evaluating and selecting officials for the OSAA State Wrestling Championship. The intent is to ensure a fair, transparent, and consistent process that identifies and assigns the most qualified officials based on performance evaluation, accountability, and structured selection pathways.

2. Evaluation Requirements and Fees

To be considered for selection to the OSAA State Wrestling Championship, all officials must be OSAA Playoff Certified and receive an evaluation by the Evaluation Committee.

To support the operation of the Evaluation Committee, a fee of \$50 per official shall be assessed for each official submitted for evaluation. Payment may be made by either the Officials' Association or the individual official. All officials, including those receiving automatic bids, must be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee.

The final list of officials required for evaluation, along with applicable payment, must be submitted no later than January 1 of each year. Officials seeking consideration after the deadline must submit an appeal to the Evaluation Committee for review and determination of eligibility. Payments will be collected by the Sport Specific Committee.

3. Evaluation Committee Structure

The Evaluation Committee is established to develop and maintain a trained group of evaluators capable of serving as Independent Statewide Evaluators for the OSAA State Wrestling Championship.

The State Rules Interpreter (SRI) shall nominate individuals to serve on the Evaluation Committee. Commissioners are not eligible for appointment. The committee shall consist of qualified local individuals, and the SRI may utilize third-party individuals to assist with evaluator training and development.

All appointments are subject to final approval by the OSAA Assistant Executive Director for Wrestling.

The Evaluation Committee shall utilize a standardized evaluation form and scoring system to ensure fairness, objectivity, and consistency. Training funds from the Sport Specific Committee (SSC) may be used to support evaluator training and development but shall not be used for compensation of Independent State Championship Evaluators.

4. State Championship Evaluations

Independent evaluators shall be selected by the SRI, subject to final approval by the OSAA Assistant Executive Director for Wrestling.

Independent evaluators shall be responsible for determining the top 10 rated officials based on performance at the OSAA State Wrestling Championship.

The SRI shall work with the OSAA Assistant Executive Director for Wrestling to determine an appropriate stipend for Independent Evaluators.

5. Tournaments for Evaluation

Evaluations for postseason selection may be conducted at high-level tournaments and competitive dual meets. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Cascade Perry Burlison Invitational
- Coast Classic
- Oregon City Tournament
- Rose City Tournament
- Northwest Duals
- Crater Duals
- Oregon Classic
- Reser's Tournament of Champions
- Any competitive dual meet approved for evaluation purposes

The Evaluation Committee may assign evaluators to additional events as necessary to ensure comprehensive evaluation across multiple levels of competition.

6. State Selection Process

The state championship officials pool shall be selected using a three-path system:

1. The top 10 evaluated officials from the previous OSAA State Wrestling Championship shall receive automatic bids.
2. The next 10 officials shall be selected by Commissioners.
3. The final 10 officials, along with 2 alternates, shall be selected by the Evaluation Committee.

All Commissioners shall have access to official evaluation results prior to selection.

7. Evaluation Committee Authority

The Evaluation Committee shall have the authority to recommend removal of any automatically selected top 10 official who is not performing at the expected championship standard.

Removal requires a majority vote of the Evaluation Committee and final approval by the OSAA Assistant Executive Director for Wrestling.

Any removed official shall return to the eligible pool and may be considered through either the Commissioner selection process or the Evaluation Committee selection process.

8. Commissioner Selection Process

Commissioners shall meet prior to the OSAA State Wrestling Championship and may convene either in person or virtually.

Only Commissioners present shall be eligible to vote.

Commissioners shall select the next 10 officials based on evaluation results and overall performance.

Commissioners are not eligible for selection during this phase of the process.

All tie-breaking decisions shall be determined by a majority vote of Commissioners present.

9. Funding and Financial Oversight

All evaluation fees shall be used exclusively to support the evaluation process.

The Chair of the SSC shall be responsible for managing evaluation funds. All reimbursements and expenditures shall be reviewed and SRI.

The SSC shall provide a full financial report at the conclusion of each season to ensure transparency and accountability.

10. Ethical and Conduct Standards

Officials placed on probation for ethical or conduct violations by the OSAA Executive Board shall be ineligible for postseason selection during the probationary period.

Such officials shall be removed from all postseason selection consideration, including automatic bids, Commissioner selections, and Evaluation Committee selections, until probation is fully resolved.

Upon completion of probation, officials may regain eligibility through the established evaluation and selection process.

11. General Provision

This proposal applies exclusively to the OSAA State Wrestling Championship selection process and does not supersede or alter any other provisions of the OSAA Athletic Officials Handbook.

All existing OSAA requirements remain in effect.

This selection process shall be reviewed annually each spring by the Commissioners, SRI, and the SSC to evaluate effectiveness, fairness, and integrity.

Officials Fee Schedule

(2025-28, 3-year schedule)

- OSAA certified officials (sub-varsity, varsity, or playoff certified) are required for all sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees. EXCEPTION: OSAA certified officials are required for baseball and softball at the varsity level only. OSAA certified officials are required in football at all sub-varsity levels.
- Schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local officials association to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required.
- Unless included on this fee schedule, or mutually agreed by the schools serviced by the local officials association, no additional fees or charges may be assessed.
- Officials' fees for league playoff and play-in contests to determine State Championship representatives shall be paid at the regular season varsity rate for the specific sport.
- Extended contests in football and basketball are defined as those additional time periods played either before or after a sub-varsity contest; the rates listed for extended contests (25% of the sub-varsity fee for that classification) are to be added to the regular base fee for that contest's level and classification. Overtime is not an extended contest, rather an extension of the previous period; therefore, no charges shall be assessed for overtime periods in any sport.
- Commissioner and Administrative fees cover contest and schedule changes; no additional fees may be assessed.
- For activity levels that regularly require more than one official, the rate for a solo official is 150% of the regular official's base fee for that contest's level and classification.
- Dollar amounts based on the following advisory calculations/percentages are rounded to the nearest quarter; refer to the activity specific tables for actual fee amounts.

Fee Category	Level	2025-26 Top Base per Official - \$104.00	2026-27 Top Base per Official - \$108.25	2027-28 Top Base per Official - \$112.50
Football Officials Fees	Varsity	100% top base	100% top base	100% top base
	Sub-Varsity	77.5% varsity fee	80% varsity fee	80% varsity fee
Baseball, Basketball, Soccer and Softball Officials Fees	Varsity	88.88% top base	88.75% top base	88.75% top base
	Sub-Varsity	77.5% varsity fee	80% varsity fee	80% varsity fee
Volleyball and Wrestling Officials Fees	Varsity	84.44% top base	84.25% top base	84.25% top base
	Sub-Varsity	77.5% varsity fee	80% varsity fee	80% varsity fee
Commissioner Fees	> n Scheduled Home Contests	100% highest varsity fee for the activity (150% for baseball & softball)		
	≤ n Scheduled Home Contests	50% highest varsity fee for the activity (75% for baseball & softball)		
Administrative Fees	> n Scheduled Home Contests	100% highest varsity fee for the activity		
	≤ n Scheduled Home Contests	50% highest varsity fee for the activity		
State Championships Officials Fees	Sub-Round Contests	100% highest varsity fee for the activity + \$5.00		
	Championship Final Contests	100% highest varsity fee for the activity + \$10.00		
	Tournament/Final-Site Contests	100% highest varsity fee for the activity + \$10.00		

Fees by Activity:

BASEBALL		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$73.75	\$76.75	\$79.75
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$97.25	\$101.00	\$104.75
State Championships Finals Fee per Official		\$102.25	\$106.00	109.75
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$138.25	\$144.00	\$149.50
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$63.25	\$72.00	\$74.75
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$92.25	\$84.25	\$99.75
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$46.00	\$42.25	\$49.75

- Jamborees have a maximum of 6 innings, and the rate is the same as the regular base fee for that level and classification.
- At the varsity level, two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.

For all sub-varsity levels, two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned.

BASKETBALL		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$73.75	\$76.75	\$79.75
Additional Extended Contest Fee per Official		\$18.50	\$19.50	\$20.00
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$97.25	\$101.00	\$104.75
State Championships Tournament/Final-Site Fee per Official		\$102.25	\$106.00	109.75
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$46.00	\$48.00	\$49.75
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$46.00	\$48.00	\$49.75

- Jamborees have a maximum of 24 minutes, and the rate is the same as the regular base fee for that level and classification.
- At the varsity level, three officials are recommended, but at least two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.
- At the junior varsity level, at least two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.

Below the junior varsity level, two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned.

CHEERLEADING		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Official Fee per Hour		\$24.00 / hr	\$25.00 / hr	\$26.00 / hr
State Championships Fee per Official		TBD	TBD	TBD
Administrative Fee per Judge Panel		\$20.00 / panel	\$20.00 / panel	\$20.00 / panel

- Five officials are required for all sanctioned competitions at all levels.

FOOTBALL		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$104.00	\$108.25	\$112.50
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$83.25	\$86.50	\$90.00
Additional Extended Contest Fee per Official		\$20.75	\$22.00	\$22.50
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$109.00	\$113.25	\$117.50
State Championships Finals Fee per Official		\$114.00	\$118.25	\$122.50
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 2 Home Games	\$104.00	\$108.25	\$112.50
	≤ 2 Home Games	\$52.00	\$54.00	\$56.25
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 2 Home Games	\$104.00	\$108.25	\$112.50
	≤ 2 Home Games	\$52.00	\$54.00	\$56.25

- Jamborees have a maximum of 36 plays, and the rate is the same as the regular base fee for that level and classification.
- At the 6A, 5A, and 4A varsity level, five officials are required.
- At the 3A, 2A, and 1A varsity level, five officials are recommended, but at least four are required.
- For all sub-varsity levels, five officials are recommended, but at least four are required.

SOCCER		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$73.75	\$76.75	\$79.75
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$97.25	\$101.00	\$104.75
State Championships Finals Fee per Official		\$102.25	\$106.00	109.75
State Championships 4 th Official Fee		\$51.00	\$53.00	\$54.75
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 3 Home Games	\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
	≤ 3 Home Games	\$46.00	\$48.00	\$49.75
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 3 Home Games	\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
	≤ 3 Home Games	\$46.00	\$48.00	\$49.75

- Jamborees have a maximum of 60 minutes, and the rate is the same as the regular base fee for that level and classification.
- At the varsity level, three officials are recommended, but at least two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.
- At the junior varsity level, at least two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.
- Below the junior varsity level, two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned.
- Fourth official rates are approximately 50% of the State Championships Finals Fee for that classification.

SOFTBALL		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$92.25	\$96.00	\$99.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$73.75	\$76.75	\$79.75
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$97.25	\$101.00	\$104.75
State Championships Finals Fee per Official		\$102.25	\$106.00	109.75
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$138.25	\$144.00	\$149.50
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$63.25	\$72.00	\$74.75
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 6 Home Games	\$92.25	\$84.25	\$99.75
	≤ 6 Home Games	\$46.00	\$42.25	\$49.75

- Jamborees have a maximum of 6 innings, and the rate is the same as the regular base fee for that level and classification.
- At the varsity level, two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.
- For the sub-varsity levels, two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned.

VOLLEYBALL		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$70.00	\$73.00	\$75.75
Line Judge Fee per Official		\$43.75	\$45.50	\$47.50
State Championships Sub-Rounds Fee per Official		\$92.50	\$96.25	\$99.75
State Championships Tournament/Final-Site Fee per Official		\$97.50	\$101.25	\$104.75
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 4 Home Matches	\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
	≤ 4 Home Matches	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$47.50
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 4 Home Matches	\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
	≤ 4 Home Matches	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$47.50

- At the varsity and junior varsity level, two officials are required, and one official may be used in an emergency situation only.
- Below the junior varsity level, two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned.
- Line judge rates are 50% of the Varsity Fee for that classification.
- Tournaments do not count towards the number of scheduled home matches when determining Commissioner and Administrative fees. Refer to the regular season tournament fee schedule below for details on Tournament Fees.

Volleyball Regular Season Tournament Fees and Jamboree Fees

Varsity Fee per Official	\$21.88 / set	\$22.81 / set	\$23.69 / set
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official	\$19.95 / set	\$20.81 / set	\$21.59 / set

- Jamborees have a maximum of 4 sets.
- The per set officials fee rates for regular season tournaments and jamborees are approximately 25% of the Varsity Fee for that level and classification.
- A Tournament Fee (Commissioner + Administrative Fee) of 5% of total tournament set fees (not including mileage paid to officials) may be assessed.
- A Tournament Fee of an additional 5% of total tournament set fees (not including mileage paid to officials) may be assessed for the additional duties of the head official of the tournament.
- If assessed, the Tournament Fee covers changes to the scheduled tournament and no additional fees may be assessed.

WRESTLING		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Varsity Fee per Official		\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official		\$70.00	\$73.00	\$75.75
Weigh-In / Skin Check Fee per Official		\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
State Championships Fee per Official		TBD	TBD	TBD
Commissioner Fee per Schedule	> 3 Home Meets	\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
	≤ 3 Home Meets	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$47.25
Administrative Fee per Schedule	> 3 Home Meets	\$87.50	\$91.25	\$94.75
	≤ 3 Home Meets	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$47.25

- At the varsity and junior varsity level, one official is required.
- Tournaments do not count towards the number of scheduled home meets when determining Commissioner and Administrative fees. Refer to the regular season tournament fee schedules below for details on Tournament Fees.

Wrestling Regular Season Fees for Individual Bracket Tournaments

Varsity Fee per Official	\$30.50 / hr	\$31.75 / hr	\$33.00 / hr
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official	\$26.00 / hr	\$27.25 / hr	\$28.25 / hr

- Weigh-in / skin check fees for individual bracket tournaments are the same as the hourly rate as for officials at that level.
- A Tournament Fee (Commissioner + Administrative Fee) of 5% of total tournament match fees (not including mileage paid to officials) may be assessed.
- If assessed, the Tournament Fee covers changes to the scheduled tournament and no additional fees may be assessed.
- A Tournament Fee (Head Official fee) of 5% of total tournament match fees (not including mileage paid to officials) may be assessed due to all of the extra duties a head official does throughout the tournament.

Wrestling Regular Season Tournament Fees for Dual Meets

Varsity Fee per Official	\$87.50 / dual	\$91.25 / dual	\$94.75
Sub-Varsity Fee per Official	\$70.00 / dual	\$73.00 / dual	\$75.75
Weigh-In / Skin Check Fee per Official	\$20 / dual	\$20 / dual	\$20 / dual

- Dual meet tournament fees are per dual and rates are 100% of the regular base fee rate for that level and classification.
- A Tournament Fee (Commissioner + Administrative Fee) of 5% of total tournament match fees (not including mileage paid to officials) may be assessed.
- If assessed, the Tournament Fee covers changes to the scheduled tournament and no additional fees may be assessed.

Mileage All Sports:

Activity	Allocation	Mileage Rate	Minimum Fee
Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, and Wrestling	Per Official	¢72.5 / mile	\$10.00 per official
Football	Per Crew	\$1.00 / mile	\$10.00 per official

1. **PLAYOFF MILEAGE RATE (BASEBALL, SOFTBALL AND ALL PORTLAND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS)**: Associations assigned to State Championship playoff games hosted by schools they regularly service will receive mileage fees equivalent to what they receive from those schools during the regular season.
2. **MINIMUM MILEAGE PAYMENT**: Officials shall receive a minimum mileage fee for \$10 per official per site. Any official working a double-header at the same location will receive a minimum of \$10 mileage fee. Any official working two contests at different locations on the same day will receive a minimum of \$20 mileage fee.
3. **TOTAL MILEAGE**: Total number of miles charged for any contest can be negotiated between the local association and school and may be adjusted in the event of unusual circumstances if necessary upon mutual agreement of local association and school.
4. **LATE FEE POLICY**: Member schools have 45 days from the invoice date or the first contest date, whichever is later, to pay in full or a 10% late fee may be applied.

Game Fee Cancellation Policy:

1. **FOOTBALL, SOCCER, VOLLEYBALL, BASKETBALL, WRESTLING**
 - A. If a commissioner is notified at least six (6) hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, officials shall be paid no game fee, travel allowance, or per diem.
 - B. If a commissioner is not notified by a school that a contest date is changed or cancelled at least six (6) hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, officials shall each be paid a full game fee plus all per diem and travel allowances.
 - C. If a commissioner is not notified and officials are present to work a contest that was cancelled for reasons outside of the host school's control, not limited to power failures or hazardous road conditions, officials shall each be paid one half (½) game fees plus all per diem and travel allowances.
 - D. If a commissioner is not notified and the contest begins but is terminated due to factors outside of the host school's control, not limited to power failures or hazardous road conditions, officials shall each be paid the full game fee plus all per diem and travel allowances.
2. **BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL**
 - A. If a commissioner is notified at least six (6) hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, officials shall be paid no game fee, travel allowance, or per diem.
 - B. If a commissioner is not notified by a school that a contest date is changed or cancelled at least six (6) hours prior to the scheduled start of the contest, and weather is not the reason for the change or cancellation, officials shall each be paid a full game fee plus all per diem and travel allowances.
 - C. If the game is rained out after the officials arrive at the site but before the game starts, officials shall each be paid one half (½) of a game fee plus all per diem and travel allowances.
 - D. If the game is rained out but before sufficient innings are played to constitute a complete game, officials shall each be paid one half (½) of a game fee plus all per diem and travel allowances.

OSAA Rules and Executive Board Policies

The following OSAA Rules and Executive Board Policies are excerpts from the OSAA Handbook which pertain to officials and sport specific OSAA rules.

- Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control
- Adverse Weather Conditions / Area-Wide Emergency Procedures
- Air Quality Guidelines
- Charitable Causes
- Coed Teams
- Concussion Management
- Ejection Policies – Coach Ejected; Contest Forfeited
- Ejection Policies – Ejected Player or Coach
- Ejection Policies – Fines
- Ejection Policies – Multiple Ejections of Individual
- Ejection Policies – Physical Contact with Official
- Exceptions to NFHS Playing Rules
- Interrupted Contests
- Lightning Safety Guidelines
- Non-Discrimination Policy
- Officials – Background Checks
- Officials – Certified Requirement
- Officials – Host School Responsibilities
- Officials – Minimum Conflict of Interest Standards (Varsity Only)
- Score Differential Procedures
- Sportsmanship – Criticism of School Representatives or Officials / Judges
- State Championships – Adopted Ball
- State Championships – Team Size
- Unmanned Aerial Systems
- Withdrawal During a Competition

Rule 3 – Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control

- 3.1. The arrangement of all festivals, meets, contests or championships is the responsibility of the superintendent, assistant superintendent or high school principal, subject to the Regulations of the Association.
- 3.2. When a festival, meet, contest or championship is in progress, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) rules governing such activities shall apply, except for specific deviations as approved by the Executive Board.
- 3.3. **Sportsmanship Responsibility.** The high school administration, coach and other responsible officials of each member school shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that the school's coaches, players, students and spectators maintain a sportsmanlike attitude at all events so that events may be conducted without unreasonable danger or disorder. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. Discriminatory harassment and bullying behavior will not be tolerated. Discrimination is defined as (OAR 581-021-0045(1)(a) "any act that unreasonably differentiates treatment, intended or unintended, or any act that is fair in form but discriminatory in operation, either of which is based on age, disability, national origin, race, color, marital status, religion, sex, and sexual orientation." Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling; graphic and written statements, which include use of cell phones or the Internet; or other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. Examples include but are not limited to hazing, intimidation, taunting, bullying, cyberbullying, or menacing another, or engaging in behavior deemed by the member school to endanger the safety or well-being of students, employees, self, or others. Harassment does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target, or involve repeated incidents. Harassment creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent, so as to interfere with or limit the ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. This includes the use of, or engagement in, abusive verbal expression or physical conduct, especially if that conduct interferes with the performance of students, staff, event officials or sponsors of interscholastic activities.
- 3.4. **Spectator Conduct.** The following expectations regarding spectator conduct at all OSAA-sanctioned events, including regular and post season competition, are provided. Those violating or threatening to violate the following Association rules or site management spectator conduct expectations, may be ejected from the premises, issued a trespass citation, excluded from sanctioned activities temporarily or permanently and/or referred to law enforcement officials.
 - 3.4.1. All cheers, comments and actions shall be in direct support of one's team. No cheers, comments or actions shall be directed at one's opponent or at contest officials. Some examples of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to disrespecting players by name, number or position; negative cheers or chants; throwing objects on the playing surface; use of derogatory or racially explicit language; discriminatory harassment or conduct that creates a hostile environment that is disruptive to the educational environment.
 - 3.4.2. Spectators shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action.
- 3.5. **Complaint Process.** The OSAA will sanction schools whom it has found negligent in the duties of reasonably protecting those involved in interscholastic activities from derogatory or inappropriate names, insults, verbal assaults, profanity, ridicule or engaging in behavior deemed by the member school to endanger the safety or well-being of students, employees, self or others.

3.6. **Sportsmanship Violations/Penalties.** When the coaches, players, students, staff, or spectators of any member school engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, discriminatory harassing behaviors, act in a manner disruptive to the school environment, or cause disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sponsored by this Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association and the school shall be subject to penalty. Penalties may vary depending on the actions taken by the school and/or school district during and after the event as it relates to trespassing spectators involved, removing players/coaches from the team for a period of time, requiring additional education/training, etc. Upon a ruling by the Executive Director or by the Executive Board the member school may be subject to probation, mandatory appearance before the Executive Board, required plan of action, forfeitures, fines, lack of institutional control penalties, suspension of membership or expulsion from the Association as determined by the Executive Board. The Executive Director or the Executive Board may determine that no penalties are necessary when an incident has been handled appropriately and in a timely fashion by the school and/or district.

1. Q. Is the host school exclusively responsible for crowd control?
A. No. While the host school for any activity must assume a primary responsibility for the physical management of the activity, including providing for crowd control, this is a mutual responsibility. The visiting school also must take such measures as are necessary to ensure proper behavior on the part of its own students and fans.
2. Q. May home team schools display signs and/or banners at their home venues?
A. Yes, home team schools may display "permanent" signs and/or banners that are positive / supportive at their home venues. Examples are welcome signs, in-season rosters, league banners, league / state championship banners and sportsmanship banners.
3. Q. Are "run through" signs allowed?
A. Yes, so long as the message is positive/supportive.
4. Q. May visiting schools bring signs and/or banners to hang at the host school's venue?
A. No.
5. Q. May spectators have signs at events?
A. Spectators are not permitted to have signs or banners larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. "Fathead" type items are considered signs and shall not be larger than 8-1/2 x 11 inches. Spectators are required to wear shirts.
6. Q. May a spectator have an artificial noisemaker?
A. No, spectators are not permitted to have artificial noisemakers. Some examples of artificial noisemakers are Thunder Stix, cowbells, clappers and air horns.
7. Q. May a school use an artificial noisemaker at specific times during athletic events?
A. In limited cases, yes. An example of an allowable use of artificial noisemakers by a school would be the firing of a cannon or the ringing of a bell after a touchdown is scored.
8. Q. May spectators use small, handheld megaphones?
A. Yes, provided they are not electric. Only cheerleaders are allowed to use large megaphones. Neither cheerleaders nor spectators may use megaphones for banging on the floor or bleachers.
9. Q. What are some examples of cheers that do not encourage a positive atmosphere?
A. Any yell that is intended to antagonize an opponent detracts from a positive atmosphere. "Air Ball! Air Ball!" booing, "You! You! You!", or "You Got Swatted!" are examples of yells that will not encourage a positive atmosphere. Conversely, a positive atmosphere is created when fans focus on positive yells in support of their team, rather than on negative yells attacking their team's opponents. Spectators shall not turn their heads or hold up newspapers during team introductions, or jeer at cheerleaders during opposing team introductions.
10. Q. May students stand on the bottom row of the bleachers?
A. Yes, but when they sit down, they must be seated on the second row.
11. Q. May students cheer during serves in volleyball and free throws in basketball?
A. Yes, so long as they are just "making noise" and not specifically addressing a contest official or an individual player from the opposing team.
12. Q. May a school use balloons at an athletic event?
A. Yes, a host school may use balloons for decoration. However, fans may not have balloons, and balloons may not be placed by the school in any manner that would block spectator viewing.
13. Q. May a school use balloons at a state championship final site?
A. No.
14. Q. May spectators have oversized foam fingers at athletic events?
A. Yes, they are allowed so long as they are not blocking spectator viewing.

Adverse Weather Conditions / Area-Wide Emergency Procedures

There may be times in the interest of minimizing risk due to adverse weather conditions and/or a clear area-wide emergency that it becomes necessary to postpone, cancel, and/or reschedule regular season or postseason events. The intent of this policy is to outline procedures and policies to provide guidance to OSAA member schools when such conditions impact an event.

A. Regular Season Events

- 1) Administrators have the responsibility to define and communicate contingency plans in the event of adverse weather conditions and/or a clear area-wide emergency. A stepwise progression that places emphasis on minimizing risk for athletes, coaches, contest staff, spectators, and contest officials will be used to help guide decision makers on the appropriate course of action.
- 2) The following steps shall be taken:

- a) **Suspend the Event:** NFHS rules allow officials to “delay” or “suspend” any contest where factors may endanger the participants. At no time may officials “terminate” a contest between schools unless administrators or representatives from each school mutually agree to end the contest. If the participating schools involved mutually agree to end the game the contest will be considered complete. Officials should use the following guidelines when choosing to suspend a contest:

Starting Time of the Event	8am to 12pm	12:01pm to 3:30pm	3:31pm to 6pm	After 6pm
Maximum Suspension	3 hours	2 hours	1.5 hours	1 hour

- b) **Modify the Event:** NFHS rules in most sports and activities allow for modifications to timing and structure if necessary, with mutual agreement of participating schools, to address factors that may endanger the participants.
- c) **Reschedule the Event:** When situations arise involving a suspension of play and the participating schools cannot reach mutual agree on ending the contest, the following steps shall be taken:

- (1) Convene a meeting between representatives from participating teams
- (2) Review and record contest details up to the point of suspension
- (3) Review each of the following options

Option	Implication	Contest Result
Schools agree to reschedule contest during the current game week (i.e. Friday game, continues on Saturday or Sunday)	See Executive Board Policy, “Interrupted Contests” procedures for specific sport/activity	Upon conclusion result is final
Schools agree to reschedule contest during a future game week (i.e. Friday game, continued on the following Tuesday)	See Executive Board Policy, “Interrupted Contests” procedures for specific sport/activity	Upon conclusion result is final
Schools cannot reach agreement on when to reschedule contest	Contest is suspended	No result

- d) **Cancel the Event:** Cancelling the contest is not an option if the cancellation has a bearing on advancing teams(s) to the final site.

B. OSAA Final Site Events

- 1) A culminating event shall be defined as the event(s) conducted at the final site only. Early round contests and district qualifying should tournaments follow the stepwise progression listed in part A.
- 2) School personnel have the responsibility of making alternative travel plans to final sites based upon adverse weather forecasts and any other pertinent information. It shall be the responsibility of the participating school(s) to notify the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee if the school is having difficulty traveling to the final site and may not arrive in time for the scheduled event(s) due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency.

C. Championship Final Site Specifics

- 1) If a team/individual is unable to arrive at a final site for their scheduled competition due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency, that team/individual will be allowed to participate in their scheduled event provided they arrive at the site and are able to compete on the day of their scheduled event. In this situation the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee, shall adjust the schedule of the event for the purpose of allowing maximum participation for all qualified schools when these conditions are present. If the team/individual is unable to arrive to compete on the day of their event, and NFHS playing rules allow the modification, a forfeit is recorded and that team/individual shall move into the consolation bracket or be dropped from competition, whichever is applicable to the event.
- 2) When the number of teams/individuals unable to reach the final site for their scheduled event due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency exceeds 25% of those participating, the OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee, shall consider postponement or cancellation of all or part of the event. An alternative schedule shall be determined by OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee. Should the need arise for the schedule of a final site to be altered the next available date, including Sunday, will be used.
- 3) For the purpose of this policy, the TOTAL number of teams/individuals scheduled to attend the final site for that classification shall be the number used from which to obtain the percentage of those needed, regardless of the total number of classifications scheduled to attend the event.
- 4) Note: For the purpose of this policy, when the percentage used results in a number that is not a whole number, the number shall be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, if a tournament is being held for 30 teams, 25% of the total would be 7.5 which would be rounded up to 8.

D. Procedures to Follow If Contests at the Final Site Are Rescheduled

- 1) The OSAA Executive Director or OSAA staff designee has the final authority on final site contest rescheduling.
 - 2) If contests are rescheduled on the same day as originally scheduled but at a different site, the semifinal and championship contests will be scheduled at the same time or later than originally scheduled.
 - 3) Time between contests may be shortened. Example: If contests were originally scheduled at two-hour intervals, they may be rescheduled at one and one half-hour intervals.
 - 4) Individuals/teams shall be granted a minimum of 20 minutes for rest between contests.
 - 5) Whenever possible, contests played on the final day of the tournament shall be scheduled to allow individuals/teams to return to their home community that day.
 - 6) If during the last scheduled day at the final site, contests are unable to be restarted requiring postponement overnight, only those individuals/teams still in contention for the championship will continue play. Individuals/teams not in contention for the championship shall be awarded a tie for the highest placing that could have been earned if postponement had not been necessary.
- E. Ticket revenue will not be refunded in the event the schedule and/or day(s) of the event are changed due to adverse weather conditions or a clear area-wide emergency.

Air Quality Guidelines

These guidelines, created in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the cancellation, suspension and/or restarting of practices and contests based on poor air quality. **Schools should also refer to OHA's [Oregon Air Quality Activity Guide for Children and Youth](#).**

- A. **Designate Personnel:** Given the random behavior of wind and air currents, air quality may change quickly. Schools shall designate someone who will monitor the air quality prior to and during outdoor activities. While typically due to wildfires, schools need to also consider non-wildfire situations if the air quality is unhealthy.
- B. **Areas near DEQ/AirNow Reporting Stations:** The Air Quality Index (AQI) should be monitored throughout the day, and during an event, to have the best data possible to make informed decisions about conducting practices and competitions. Schools should always defer to the monitor that is the nearest physical distance to the practice or contest facility. School personnel shall review the AQI information for all regions throughout the state to determine if action is necessary (see chart below). Schools shall regularly review the AQI throughout events to assess deteriorating conditions. School personnel shall use the AirNow Fire and Smoke Map at <https://fire.airnow.gov>. This map shows larger circles with numbers for DEQ/AirNow **permanent** monitors and smaller circles with no letters or numbers for PurpleAir sensors. The EPA applies a series of quality control checks and an extended U.S.-wide correction equation before displaying the PurpleAir sensor data on the Fire and Smoke map to provide data more consistent with permanent monitors.
- C. **Areas without Air Reporting Stations:** If air monitoring equipment is not available, member schools should utilize the 5-3-1 Visibility Index to determine air quality.
 - 1) 5-3-1 Visibility Index: Making visual observations using the 5-3-1 Visibility Index is a simple way to estimate air quality and know what precautions to take. While this method can be useful, you should always use caution and avoid going outside if visibility is limited, especially if you are sensitive to smoke.
 - a) Determine the limit of your visual range by looking for distant targets or familiar landmarks such as mountains, mesas, hills, or buildings at known distances. The visual range is that point at which these targets are no longer visible. As a rule of thumb: If you can clearly see the outlines of individual trees on the horizon it is generally less than five miles away. It is highly recommended that schools use pre-determined landmarks that were established on a clear day to determine their visual range.
 - b) Ideally, the viewing of any distant targets should be made with the sun behind you. Looking into the sun or at an angle increases the ability of sunlight to reflect off of the smoke, thus making the visibility estimate less reliable.
 - c) Be aware that conditions may change rapidly and always use the more conservative of multiple metrics (AQI, 5-3-1 Visibility Index, etc.).

- D. **Act:** This chart will help determine the action needed based on the air quality in your area.

OHA Guidance/Considerations/Actions for Outdoor Activities with 1-4 Hour Duration (Reference Oregon Air Quality Activity Guide for Children and Youth for shorter or longer activity duration guidance)	
<u>MODERATE – 51-100 AQI – 5-15 Miles Visibility</u>	
<u>GUIDANCE:</u> Allow children and youth with health conditions to opt out or stay indoors. Limit the intensity of activities for these children and youth if needed. <u>ACTIONS:</u> Be aware of athletes with chronic conditions; keep rescue medications readily available and pretreat before exercise if directed by their healthcare provider. All athletes with respiratory illness, asthma, lung, or heart disease should consider abstaining from athletic events if symptoms arise based on the severity of their condition and sensitivity to smoke.	
<u>UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS – 101-150 AQI – 3-5 Miles Visibility</u>	
<u>GUIDANCE:</u> Limit to light intensity activities or a 1-hour total duration with moderate intensity. If intensity and time can't be changed, consider canceling or moving to an area with safer air quality. For children and youth with health conditions, further limit time or intensity if needed. <u>CONSIDERATIONS:</u> Factors to weigh when considering whether to cancel or move, include but are not limited to: - Can the decision be made at the time of the event, or does it need to be made well in advance? Can the event be postponed or rescheduled? Are there extenuating circumstances in determining whether the event can be held? (i.e., practice requirement for eligibility, league vs. non-league contests, postseason/state playoffs, etc.) - Is the AQI closer to 101 or 150? Is this air quality event episodic or has it resulted in prolonged exposure for multiple days? Is there excessive heat combined with poor air quality? Are smoke conditions forecasted to worsen, improve, or stay the same? Have you consulted forecasting sites such as Oregon Smoke Information Blog, FireSmoke Canada or Bluesky Modeling? - How much or to what extent can an individual's activity duration and intensity be reduced? Can rest periods and substitutions be increased to allow for lower breathing rates? - Is there an option to relocate to an area with better air quality, either indoors or a different outdoor location? - Have athletes been exposed to smoke for significant periods of time in other parts of their day, such as walking or biking to school or riding in a bus with windows open? <u>ACTIONS:</u> - Educate athletes on the symptoms of smoke exposure and encourage them to report any discomfort. Symptoms may include coughing, throat irritation, headaches, shortness of breath, fatigue, and chest pain. - Increase rest periods and substitutions to allow for lower breathing rates. Emphasize the importance of staying hydrated. - Limit individual's activity duration and intensity during practices. - Be aware of athletes with chronic conditions; keep rescue medications readily available and pretreat before exercise if directed by their healthcare provider. All athletes with respiratory illness, asthma, lung, or heart disease should consider abstaining from athletic events if symptoms arise based on the severity of their condition and sensitivity to smoke. - Consider moving practices indoors, if available. Be aware that, depending on a venue's ventilation system, indoor air quality levels can approach outdoor levels. Limit to light intensity activities if indoor PM 2.5 levels are high. - Consider creating a clean air space where sensitive individuals can go for relief from elevated levels of PM 2.5. (A clean indoor air space is a room with little to no outdoor air infiltration. HEPA air purifiers can help clean the air in these spaces). - Schools should use MERV 13 rated filters or greater in their HVAC systems if the system is capable. Supplemental use of properly sized HEPA air purifiers has also been shown to improve indoor air quality by reducing particulate matter and chemicals found in smoke.	
<u>UNHEALTHY – 151-200 AQI – 1-3 Miles Visibility</u> <u>(This guidance also applies to VERY UNHEALTHY (201-300 AQI) and HAZARDOUS (301-500 AQI))</u>	
<u>GUIDANCE:</u> Cancel outdoor activity or move to an area with safer air quality. Limit to light intensity activities indoors if indoor PM 2.5 levels are high. <u>ACTIONS:</u> - Cancel all outdoor practices and competitions. - Move practices indoors, if available. Be aware that, depending on a venue's ventilation system, indoor air quality levels can approach outdoor levels.	

- E. **Additional Resources:** Schools may also refer to OHA's fact sheet regarding School Outdoor Activities During Wildfire Events at <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/le8815h.pdf>.

- F. **Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Rules:** Schools should familiarize themselves with Oregon OSHA permanent rules adopted in Summer 2022 regarding reducing heat and wildfire smoke outdoor workplace exposure for employees. OSHA resources can be accessed here for Heat – <https://osha.oregon.gov/pages/topics/heatstress.aspx> and Wildfires <https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/topics/wildfires.aspx>.

Charitable Causes

The OSAA is supportive of charitable initiatives and has developed guidelines in regard to an athletic competition being held in the name of a charitable cause. Schools may host a contest in recognition of a charitable cause under the following conditions:

- A. Uniform color must be legal under NFHS rules. Example: Breast cancer awareness pink uniforms would not be legal in sports that require “white and dark” uniforms because pale pink is neither. Pale pink would be a legal color uniform in sports that require “LIGHT and dark” uniforms.
- B. A permanently attached commemorative patch may be worn but must adhere to NFHS rules in each specific sport.
- C. Colored game balls may not be used during competition unless they are legal under NFHS rules. They may be used during any warm-up period prior to the contest, except in softball and baseball.
- D. **Basketball Only.** Pink headbands or wristbands, not legal under NFHS basketball rules unless pink is a school color, are allowed. Note that all team members must be uniform in color of headbands or wristbands.
- E. Officials may use a colored whistle.

Coed Teams

- A. School districts are encouraged to continue to provide equal opportunity for boys and girls in all sports.
 - B. Girls may, at the discretion of the local school administration, participate with boys in any interscholastic activity if there is no girls’ team or equal opportunity for participation. If girls are permitted to participate on a team designated for boys, the team shall compete against a designated boys’ team and not against a designated girls’ team.
 - C. A girl who competes on a boys’ team during the regular season in cross country or golf has the option to either continue to participate as a member of the boys’ team at the district contest or compete as an individual at the district contest for girls in that sport provided that the school has registered for that sport with the OSAA. See Executive Board Policies, “Adding a New Sport/Activity” for more information.
 - D. If boys are permitted to participate on a team designated for girls, the team shall compete against a designated boys’ team and not against a designated girls’ team.
1. Q. May a girl participate on a baseball team even though the school offers softball?
A. Yes, if approved by the local school administration. The OSAA considers softball and baseball to be different sports.

Concussion Management

A. Member School's Responsibilities (Max's Law, ORS 336.485, OAR 581-022-0421) (Jenna's Law, ORS 417.875) (Qualified Health Care Professional, ORS 336.490)

- 1) **Suspected or Diagnosed Concussion.** Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion following an observed or suspected blow to the head or body, or who has been diagnosed with a concussion, shall not be permitted to return to that athletic contest or practice, or any other athletic contest or practice on that same day. In schools which have the services of an athletic trainer licensed by the Oregon Board of Athletic Trainers, that athletic trainer may determine that an athlete has not exhibited signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and has not suffered a concussion, and return the athlete to play. Athletic trainers may also work in consultation with a Qualified Health Care Professional (see below) in determining when an athlete is able to return to play following a concussion.
- 2) **Return to Participation.** Until an athlete who has suffered a concussion is no longer experiencing signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, and a medical release form signed by a Qualified Health Care Professional (*as defined by [ORS 336.490](#)*) is obtained, the athlete shall not be permitted to return to athletic activity. *All Oregon Qualified Healthcare Professionals, other than MD or DO, must complete the Oregon Concussion Return-To-Play Education course before signing any RTP forms.*
- 3) **Public Education Providers Only** ([ODE Return to School after a Concussion or Other Brain Injury Resources](#)) *In alignment with [HB 3007](#) and [OAR 581-021-3007](#), Oregon public education providers are required to:*
 - a) *Ensure that all students have access to a Brain Injury Management Team to assess needs, implement supports, and monitor recovery through ongoing collaboration with families.*
 - b) *Follow the [Oregon Department of Education's \(ODE\) Brain Injury Procedures](#) and use an [Immediate Temporary Accommodations Plan \(ITAP\)](#) form.*
 - c) *Implement an [ITAP](#) within 10 school days of receiving written medical documentation of a brain injury. Schools may determine accommodations while awaiting complete documentation.*
- 4) **Private Schools Only.** On an annual basis prior to participation, private schools shall require each athlete and at least one parent or legal guardian of the athlete to sign the Concussion – Private School Informed Consent form acknowledging the receipt of information regarding symptoms and warning signs of concussions. Private schools shall maintain a copy of each athlete's signed form on file for review at any time by OSAA staff.

B. Official's Responsibilities

An official shall remove an athlete from a contest when that athlete exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion due to an observed or suspected blow to the head or body. The official shall document and notify the head coach or their designee making sure that the head coach or designee understands that the athlete is being removed for exhibiting signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion as opposed to behavior, a non-concussive injury or other reasons. The official is not responsible for evaluation or management of the athlete after they are removed from play. The official does not need written permission for an athlete to return nor does the official need to verify the credentials of the Qualified Health Care Professional who has cleared the athlete to return. The responsibility of further evaluating and managing the symptomatic athlete falls upon the school and an appropriate Qualified Health Care Professional.

Ejection Policies – Coach Ejected; Contest Forfeited

If a coach is ejected from a contest and that contest is forfeited, such incident must be reported to the OSAA office by the schools involved and also by the contest officials. If a coach is ejected and the game is not forfeited, it is the school's responsibility to be certain that any such person who assumes the coaching responsibilities in such a situation meets the requirements of the OSAA and that school district.

Ejection Policies – Ejected Player or Coach

- A. If a player or coach is ejected by an official, the commissioner of officials shall notify the OSAA and the athletic director of the school of the ejected player/coach by completing the online ejection report ***within 48 hours of the completion of the contest***. Ejected coaches must leave the contest immediately and shall remain out of "sight and sound" of the team for the duration of that contest and any other school contests that day. It shall be the responsibility of the school to disallow the ejected player or coach from participating during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, regardless of whether written notification has been received by the school from the commissioner of officials. Should an ejected player participate or an ejected coach remain within "sight and sound" of the team during the period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.
- B. **Additional Requirements Regarding an Ejected Player.** In addition to the requirements previously listed in this policy, an ejected player shall be required to complete the online NFHS course, "Sportsmanship", within seven calendar days of the ejection report being finalized. Should a player fail to complete the course requirement within the time limit stipulated in this policy, the ejection suspension shall be reinstated, and the player shall be ineligible to play until the requirement has been fulfilled. Should an ejected player participate in a contest during the reinstated period of suspension specified in the Regulations that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.
- C. **Additional Requirements Regarding an Ejected Coach.** In addition to the requirements previously listed in this policy, an ejected coach shall be required to complete the online NFHS course, "Teaching and Modeling Behavior", within seven calendar days of the ***ejection report being finalized*** by the OSAA. Should a coach fail to complete the course requirement within the time limit stipulated in this policy, the ejection suspension shall be reinstated and the coach shall be ineligible to coach until the requirement has been fulfilled. Should an ejected coach remain within "sight and sound" of the team during the reinstated period of suspension specified in the Regulations, and no appeal is pending, that action shall be considered use of an ineligible participant and shall result in forfeiture of that contest and other penalties as determined by the Executive Board.
- D. **Appeal Process. The Principal or an authorized representative must appeal an ejection suspension to the OSAA Assistant Executive Director in charge of the sport within 48 hours of receiving the ejection report.** Unless the commissioner agrees that the suspension should be set aside, the appeal must be denied by the Executive Director. Unless the commissioner agrees that the suspension should be set aside, the appeal must be denied by the Executive Director as the final ruling. Implementation of the next game suspension may be postponed during the time that an appeal is pending.
- E. **Appeal Process at State Championship final sites where the officials' crew are from different local Associations. The Principal or an authorized representative must appeal an ejection suspension to the OSAA Assistant Executive Director in charge of the sport within 24 hours of receiving the ejection report.** Unless the on-site OSAA staff member agrees that the suspension should be set aside, the appeal must be denied by the Executive Director as the final ruling.

1. Q. When a player is ejected, may the player remain on the bench?
A. Yes. The player is required to sit out the remainder of the contest, but may remain on the bench.
2. Q. When a coach is ejected, must the coach leave the playing area?
A. Yes. The coach must leave the confines of the playing area and grandstands and shall be allowed no further direct or indirect contact with the team until the contest is completed. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team. “Out of sight” means the ejected coach cannot view the contest, cannot communicate with their team, and may not be anywhere in the facility where they can be seen by any participants (player, coaches, officials) until the officials have left the facility. “Out of sound” means the ejected coach cannot hear or be heard by any participants (player, coaches, officials), including all forms of direct or indirect communication, until the officials have left the facility.
3. Q. May a player sit on the bench during a period of suspension?
A. Yes, but the player must not be in uniform.
4. Q. May a coach have any contact with a team at a contest following an ejection or at the contest at which the suspension is served?
A. No. The coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team during the contest following ejection. In order to avoid direct or indirect contact, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team. Further, the coach is allowed no direct or indirect contact with the team at the contest at which the suspension is served nor is the coach permitted to attend the contest at which the suspension is served.
5. Q. May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) participate in a contest at another level during the period of suspension?
A. No.
6. Q. May a coach or participant who has been suspended at one level of competition (e.g. varsity) serve the suspension in a contest at another level?
A. No.
7. Q. When a coach or player is ejected, when and over what period of time are the ejection period and suspension period?
A. **NOTE:** If the ejection occurs in the last contest at a particular level, the suspension carries over to the next contest at any level in that sport in that season. An ejection due to use of discriminatory language and/or fighting will result in the suspension period being doubled.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Ejection Period</u>	<u>Suspension Period</u>
Baseball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Basketball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Football	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Soccer	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Softball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next contest at that level
Volleyball	Remainder of that day	Sit out through next playing date at that level
Wrestling	Follow NFHS Rules Book	Sit out through next contest at that level

8. Q. When does the period of suspension begin?
A. The suspension is served after the ejection has been served. The ejection and suspension may not be served simultaneously.
9. Q. May a coach or participant ejected from a contest serve the one-game suspension at a jamboree?
A. No, the coach or participant may not count a jamboree as a “contest” for the purpose of serving the period of suspension. The coach or participant must sit out the jamboree and the next contest at that level of competition.
10. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is a school day?
A. A suspended coach may have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during regular school hours. However, once the regular school day is over, the coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the team members/other coaches of the team, and have no contact with them until the game is over.
11. Q. May a suspended coach have contact with team members/other coaches of the team during the period of suspension on a game day that is NOT a school day?
A. The suspended coach may have no contact with team members/other coaches of the team until the game is over.
12. Q. May a suspended coach have any contact with other coaches of the team (for example, via mobile phone or wireless radio) during a game in which a suspension is being served?
A. No. The suspended coach must be “out of sight and sound” of the contest during which a suspension is served.
13. Q. If a player or coach is ejected during the last contest of the season, does the unserved suspension carry forward to a subsequent season?
A. No.
14. Q. In basketball, does the ejection of a player or coach as a result of receiving two technical fouls result in the player or coach being suspended through the next contest at that level?
A. Yes, a player or coach who is ejected as a result of receiving two technical fouls is ejected for the remainder of the day and must sit out through the next contest at that level.
15. Q. Does the contest from which a participant is suspended due to an ejection count against the individual contest limitation for the participant?
A. Yes.

16. Q. When a player or coach is ejected while acting as a spectator at a contest in the same sport in which the coach or player participates, but at which he or she is not serving as a player or a coach, does a period of suspension still apply?
A. Yes. The ejected player or coach is suspended from all participation for the same period of time as if he or she had been a participant in the contest at which the ejection occurred.
17. Q. When a player or coach is ejected in one sport, may the player or coach participate or coach in another sport during the period of suspension?
A. No.
18. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, does the OSAA ejection policy apply?
A. Yes. It is the responsibility of the school to notify the OSAA of the ejection.
19. Q. When a player or coach is ejected from an out-of-state contest, what appeals process is followed?
A. If the school of the ejected player or coach wishes to appeal to set aside the next game suspension portion of the penalty for the ejection, it is the responsibility of the school to contact the commissioner of the out-of-state officials association to obtain written information to submit to the OSAA in support of the appeal.
20. Q. May a forfeited contest that is not actually played count toward the period of suspension for a player or coach?
A. Yes, but only for a player or coach from the team that is receiving the forfeit. It would not count toward the period of suspension for a player or coach from the team forfeiting the contest.

Ejection Policies – Fines

- A. Schools shall be assessed fines for ejections within specific sports programs. Each sport (e.g., Football, Boys Basketball, Softball) shall be tracked as separate and distinct for the purpose of calculating fines. When the first participant or coach in a sport is ejected, the school that the participant or coach is representing shall be assessed a \$50 fine by the Executive Board. A second ejection in the same sport during the same season shall result in the assessment of a \$100 fine, and each ejection thereafter in that sport during that season shall result in a fine to be increased by \$50 increments for each ejection without limitation.
 - 1) **Last Contest/State Championship Playoff Contest:** The fine for an ejection in the last contest of the season or any state championship playoff contest shall be increased by \$100 over the greater of the standard fine described above or the most recent fine for that program.
 - 2) **Soccer Player:** A school with a soccer player who is disqualified because they “deliberately handle a ball to prevent it from going into the goal” or “receives two cautions (yellow cards)” shall not be subject to the fine specified in this and other OSAA ejection policies but the ejected player shall be subject to the specified suspension.
 - 3) **Discriminatory Language/Fighting:** A school with a participant (player or coach) who is disqualified due to use of discriminatory language, entering the field during a fight, leaving the team box, and/or fighting shall be subject to the fine specified in this and other OSAA ejection policies and the participant shall have their suspension period doubled.
- B. A school receiving three or more ejections in one program or five or more ejections overall during one school year shall be required to attend an OSAA sportsmanship training class prior to the following school year and submit a written Plan of Correction to the OSAA, including timelines for implementation of the Plan. A school that reaches either threshold in consecutive years shall be required to appear in-person before the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Ejection Policies – Multiple Ejections of Individual

A second ejection during the same sport season will result in a two-game suspension. A third ejection during the same sport season will result in disqualification from further participation in that sport during that sport season.

Ejection Policies – Physical Contact with Official

Inappropriate physical contact between a coach/player and an official shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct. The offending coach/player shall be immediately ejected from the contest, shall be suspended indefinitely until further notice, and may be required to satisfy other requirements as prescribed by the Executive Board. Both the athletic

director of the school of the offending coach/player and the commissioner of officials shall notify the OSAA in writing of the incident by the next workday. In addition, the school shall be fined and may receive other penalties as determined by the Executive Board, and an administrator and the coach/player shall be required to appear in-person before the Executive Board at the next scheduled meeting.

Exceptions to NFHS Playing Rules

The Executive Director may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

Heat Index

Schools shall monitor the Heat Index for their geographic area prior to practice. Outlined below are the steps that each member school shall take to implement this policy. NOTE: Indoor activities where air conditioning is available are not bound by this policy.

- A. **Subscribe.** Athletic directors and coaches shall subscribe to OSAA Heat Index Notifications at <https://www.osaa.org/heat-index>. An OSAA Heat Index Alert is generated for areas where the forecasted high temperature and relative humidity indicate a forecasted heat index that may require practice modifications. Only those areas that have a forecasted heat index of 95 or higher receive alerts. Notifications are sent daily via e-mail and/or SMS to subscribers.
- B. **Designate.** Schools shall designate someone who will take the necessary steps to determine and record the heat index for their geographic area within one hour of the start of each team's practice. This is only necessary on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert. Depending on practice schedules, it is possible that the designated person will have to record the heat index multiple times on the same day.
- C. **Calculate.** Within one hour of the start of each team's practice on days when the school receives an OSAA Heat Index Alert, the designated person shall utilize the OSAA Heat Index Calculator to determine the actual heat index.
- D. **Record.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, the designated person shall record it using the OSAA Heat Index Record or by printing out a copy to be kept at the school for inspection at the request of the OSAA. A separate record shall be kept for each fall sport at each level. Practice modifications, as necessary, shall also be recorded. If the actual heat index is less than 95, no action is needed.
- E. **Act.** If the actual heat index is 95 or higher, activity should be altered and/or eliminated using the following guidelines:
 - 1) **95° to 99° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.
 - b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Contact athletics and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - e) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - f) Water shall always be available, and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - g) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.
 - 2) **100° to 104° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Postpone practice to later in the day.
 - a) Maximum of five hours of practice.

- b) Practice length a maximum of three hours.
 - c) Mandatory three-hour recovery period between practices.
 - d) Alter uniform by removing items if possible - allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
 - e) Contact athletics and activities with additional equipment - helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - f) Reduce time of planned outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
 - g) Provide ample amounts of water.
 - h) Water shall always be available, and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - i) Watch/monitor athletes for necessary action.
- 3) **Above 104° Heat Index** – OSAA Recommendation: Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

Interrupted Contests

Following is the policy concerning interrupted athletic contests. **NOTE:** For state championship final site contests, the OSAA staff shall take jurisdiction and make any decisions rather than the schools involved.

A. Baseball.

- 1) For darkness and/or weather:
 - a) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - b) If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.
 - c) If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - d) If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent's score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - e) If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be continued if it has no bearing on state championship representation.
- 2) For other reasons, among which include light failure, sprinkler system, etc., the contest shall continue from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- 3) Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:
 - a) The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to insure that there are two copies.
 - b) The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.
 - c) The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.

- d) The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.
- B. **Basketball.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- C. **Cross Country.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply. If the contest does continue, and the interruption occurred during a race, that race shall be re-run.
- D. **Football.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless the teams agree to terminate the game with the existing score, or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- E. **Golf.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption. In accordance with the game rules, it should, if feasible, be discontinued after completion of play on a hole. If not feasible, each player shall lift his/her ball after marking the spot on which it lies. Play will resume from that spot unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- F. **Soccer.** Contest is declared official if at least one complete half of game has been played. If less than one-half of game has been played, it is declared “no contest” and is completely replayed unless two teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- G. **Softball.**
- 1) For darkness and/or weather:
 - a) If fewer than 4 and 1/2 or 5 innings have been played, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - b) If 4 and 1/2 (home team ahead) or 5 innings have been played and the score is not tied, the contest is declared an official game.
 - c) If play has gone beyond five full innings, teams have had an equal number of completed turns at bat and the score is tied, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - d) If play has gone beyond five full innings and is called when the teams have not had an equal number of completed turns at bat, the score shall be the same as it was at the end of the last completed inning, unless the home team in its half of the incomplete inning, scores a run (or runs) which equals or exceeds the opponent’s score, in which case, the final score shall be recorded when the game is called. If the score was tied at the end of the last completed inning, the contest shall continue from the point of interruption.
 - e) If the two schools mutually agree or if there is an athletic district policy, the game need not be continued if it has no bearing on state championship representation.
 - 2) For other reasons, among which include light failure, sprinkler system, etc., the contest shall continue from the point of interruption unless the teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
 - 3) Interrupted Contests Procedures. The following procedures shall be followed by the umpires and teams in these situations:
 - a) The umpires, both head coaches and both scorekeepers shall gather together to document the point of interruption on the lineup card and in the official scorebook (including inning, score, outs, runners on base, defensive charged conferences, etc.). The crew chief shall sign the lineup card and the official scorebook to ensure that there are two copies.
 - b) The crew chief should then give the signed lineup card to the home coach to be kept with the official scorebook.

- c) The umpires shall send their game report to their local assigner. If a different umpire crew is assigned, the local assigner shall send the game report details to the new crew as part of accepting the assignment.
 - d) The lineup card shall be given to the new or returning umpire crew during the pre-game when the game is to be continued from the point of interruption.
- H. **Swimming.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- I. **Tennis.** Match shall be continued from point of interruption. **NOTE:** Previous set(s), game(s), score of game and previous occupancy of courts shall hold unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.
- J. **Track and Field.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply. **NOTE:** If contest was interrupted during a running event, the event shall be repeated.
- K. **Volleyball.** Any match interrupted because of power failure or unforeseen circumstances shall be resumed from the point of interruption unless athletic district rules apply otherwise. If resumed, the score and lineup shall be the same as they were at the time of interruption.
- L. **Wrestling.** Contest shall be continued from point of interruption unless teams mutually agree otherwise or there are athletic district rules that apply.

Lightning Safety Guidelines

- A. These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder.
- B. **Proactive Planning:**
 - 1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
 - 2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safe area.
 - a) A designated safe place is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safe place for the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.
 - 3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
 - a) When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.
 - b) **Thirty-minute Rule.** Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.
 - c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
 - d) When lightning detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning detection device.

*At night under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

- 4) Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.
- 5) Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.

Non-Discrimination Policy

- A. The Oregon School Activities Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age or disability in the performance of its authorized functions, and encourages its member schools, school personnel, participants and spectators to adopt and follow the same policy.
- B. A claim of discrimination against a member school shall be brought directly to the member school of concern.
- C. Any party that believes they have been subjected to an incident involving discrimination or discriminatory harassment at an OSAA-sanctioned event, may submit a written complaint through the online complaint process proved on the OSAA website. When the coaches, players students, staff or spectators of any members school engage in discriminatory behaviors, or act in a manner disruptive to the school environment, or cause disorder or infliction of damage to persons or property in connection with any festival, meet, contest or championship sanctioned by the Association, the Executive Board may treat such acts as a violation by the school of the Rules of the Association. See Rule 3, "Contests – Sportsmanship – Crowd Control" for additional information.

Officials – Background Checks

- A. All officials who wish to be certified by the OSAA shall submit to a criminal conviction history screening that will determine whether they have engaged in any Prohibited Conduct. Any denial of certification as a result of this screening may be waived or modified by the OSAA Executive Board in individual cases if it determines in its sole discretion that there exist circumstances justifying such a waiver or modification.
- B. Cost of this background check shall be included in the cost of certification for the official.

Officials – Certified Requirement

- A. **General requirement.** Member schools shall secure certified officials from officials' associations that have been recognized and certified by the OSAA for all interscholastic activities requiring those officials. **EXCEPTION:** Any request for an exception to this policy must receive the approval of the Executive Director. Exceptions shall be considered only when adherence to this policy presents a financial hardship to the school or when the local officials' association is unable to service the member school. Any out-of-state official used under this exception in a contest in Oregon shall represent an association whose commissioner was an attendee at the OSAA Rules Interpreters' Clinic for that year.

OSAA certified officials are required for all sanctioned activities at the varsity and junior varsity levels including jamborees. **EXCEPTION:** OSAA certified officials are required in baseball and softball at the varsity level only. OSAA certified officials are required in football at all sub-varsity levels.

Schools, leagues and tournaments are limited to using a maximum of the quantity of officials assigned to State Championship contests unless written permission to exceed that quantity is received from the OSAA Executive Director prior to the event(s).

Schools have the responsibility to request permission from their local associations to use non-certified officials at sub-varsity contests where certified officials are not required.

B. Quantity requirements. See Officials Fee Schedule for additional information.

- 1) **Baseball.** Two officials are required at the varsity level. One umpire may be used in an emergency situation only. Sub-Varsity: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.” ***Three officials will be used throughout the state championships, thus schools may use three officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 2) **Basketball.** Two officials are required at the varsity and junior varsity levels. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only. JV2 and Freshman: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.” ***Three officials will be used throughout the state championships, thus schools may use three officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 3) **Cheerleading.** Five officials are required for all sanctioned competitions at all levels.
- 4) **Football.** Five officials are required at the varsity level at the 6A, 5A and 4A classifications. Five officials are recommended but at least four are required at the varsity level at the 3A, 2A and 1A classifications. Five officials are recommended but at least four are required at the junior varsity, sophomore and freshman levels at all classifications. ***Seven officials will be used in the semifinal and final state championship games where 11-player football is played, thus schools may use seven officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 5) **Soccer.** Three officials are recommended but two officials are required at the varsity level. Two officials are required at the junior varsity level. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only. ***Three officials will be used throughout the state championships, thus schools may use three officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 6) **Softball.** Two officials are required at the varsity level. One umpire may be used in an emergency situation only. Sub-Varsity: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.” ***Three officials will be used throughout the state championships, thus schools may use three officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 7) **Volleyball.** Two officials are required at the varsity and junior varsity levels. One referee may be used in an emergency situation only. JV2 and Freshman: Two officials should be assigned, but one official may be assigned at the rate of 1.33 the “per official fee.” ***Two officials will be used throughout the state championships, thus schools may use two officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***
- 8) **Wrestling.** An official is required at the varsity and junior varsity levels. ***Two officials will be used at times during the state championships, thus schools may use two officials during the regular season at the varsity level.***

Officials – Host School Responsibilities

A game manager shall be designated by the host school for all contests in sports that use certified officials. A member of the coaching staff of the home team is not eligible to serve as game manager during a varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. A coach of a sub-varsity team may act as the game manager at a sub-varsity contest at which he or she is coaching. The game manager shall wear easily recognizable identification, shall be physically present and / or readily accessible by phone and shall be responsible for:

- A. Designating reserved parking for officials as close as possible to the contest site where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- B. Designating dressing facilities for officials where available if requested by the commissioner of the Local Association providing the officials;
- C. Monitoring and responding to inappropriate crowd conduct during and after the contest; and
- D. Providing an escort to the designated dressing facilities or vehicle for officials following each contest unless that offer is declined.

Officials – Minimum Conflict of Interest Standards (Varsity Only)

- A. Local associations shall adopt a written Conflict of Interest policy to include, but not limited to, the following provisions:
 - 1) Unless the athletic directors of the schools involved in the contest and the assigning commissioner agree, no official shall be assigned to a varsity contest if:
 - a) The contest involves a school currently attended by the official's child or stepchild.
 - b) The contest involves a school at which the official or a member of their immediate family* is a current employee or coach.
 - c) An immediate family* member of the official is a team member of one of the involved teams.
 - d) The contest involves a school from which the official has graduated within the last four years.
 - e) There are other factors or relationships between the official and a participating school that, in the judgment of the commissioner or the official, might give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.
 - 2) Associations are free to adopt additional more restrictive standards if appropriate.
- B. *Definition of "immediate family" as used in this policy: Spouse, parents and grandparents, children and grandchildren (including adopted and step), brothers and sisters, mother and father-in-law, brother and sister-in-law, daughter and son-in-law.

Score Differential Procedures

The following procedures shall be followed when the score differential reaches the level outlined in this policy at all contests, regardless of classification and level.

- A. **Baseball.** If a 10-run score differential occurs at the completion of five full innings, or the completion of any inning thereafter, the game shall be terminated and considered a completed game.
- B. **Basketball.** If a 30-point score differential occurs at the start of the fourth quarter or anytime thereafter, a running clock shall be used. Once the running clock is started it shall continue until the conclusion of the game and only be stopped for the following reasons:
 - 1) An official's timeout for an injured participant or safety reasons.
 - 2) A charged team timeout.
 - 3) Disqualification of a player, coach, or fan.
 - 4) When a TV/radio timeout is granted.
 - 5) Stoppage to administer free throws.

- C. **Football.** If a 35-point score differential occurs at halftime or anytime thereafter, a running clock shall be used. The running clock shall be started with the ready-for-play signal from the official. Once the running clock is started it shall continue until the conclusion of the game and only be stopped for the following reasons:
- 1) An official's timeout for an injured participant, safety reasons or a possible first down.
 - 2) A charged timeout.
 - 3) A one-minute intermission between the third and fourth quarters and following a try, successful field goal or a safety.
 - 4) Disqualification of a player, coach, or fan.
 - 5) When a TV/radio timeout is granted.
- D. **Soccer.** If an eight-goal differential occurs at halftime or anytime thereafter, the game shall be terminated and considered a complete game.
- E. **Softball.** If a 15-run score differential occurs at the completion of three full innings or a 10-run score differential occurs at the completion of five full innings, or anytime thereafter, the game shall be terminated and considered a completed game.

Sportsmanship – Criticism of School Representatives or Officials / Judges

- A. It shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if school representatives (coaches, administrators, player or other school personnel) make comments to the media that criticize or disparage the officiating / judging of any contest. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the school that employs the school representative.
- B. It shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct if officials, judges or commissioners make comments to the media that criticize or disparage school representatives. Whether or not a violation occurred and the appropriate penalty shall be determined by the Local Association to which the official, judge or commissioner belongs.

State Championships – Adopted Ball

The OSAA shall require that the officially adopted ball for that sport be used in all state championship contests, first round through final sites.

A. State Championship Contests at Home Sites.

1) Team sports (other than football)

- a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that the game balls provided by the home team are the officially adopted balls. If the home team does not have the officially adopted ball, officials shall inquire if the visiting team has the officially adopted ball, and use them if they are available. If neither team has the officially adopted ball, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the violation by the host school to the OSAA.
- b) **Penalty.** If no officially adopted balls are available for use at an OSAA state championship contest, the host school shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

2) Football

- a) **Procedure.** Officials shall confirm that both teams use the officially adopted ball. If either team uses balls that are not the officially adopted balls, the contest shall be played, and officials shall report the school or schools in violation to the OSAA.

- b) **Penalty.** A school, which is found to have used a non-adopted ball in an OSAA state championship contest, shall be subject to fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.

- B. **State Championship Contests Administered by OSAA Staff.** Officially adopted balls shall be provided by OSAA staff administering the contests

State Championships – Team Size

- A. The following limitations shall apply to replacement players and maximum team sizes for team sport State Championship events, first round through championship final. **NOTE:** Only players in uniform are allowed to participate in pre-game warm-ups.
- B. **Penalties for excessive team size:** Suiting up, warming up, or playing too many players shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct and may be punishable by fines, forfeiture and/or other penalties as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
 - 1) **Baseball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent rounds. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 20; all other classifications – 18.
 - 2) **Basketball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 14; all other classifications – 12.
 - 3) **Football.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 60, 5A – 50; 4A – 40; 3A – 33, 2A – 33; 1A(8) – 24; 1A(6) – 18.
 - 4) **Soccer.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 24; all other classifications – 22.
 - 5) **Softball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each game. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent games. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 20; all other classifications – 18.
 - 6) **Volleyball.** Team: Replacement of players applies to each match. A player replaced on the roster may be reinstated to the roster in subsequent matches. Maximum in uniform: 6A – 16; all other classifications – 14.

Unmanned Aerial Systems

The use of unmanned aerial systems, often referred to as drones, is prohibited for any purpose by any persons at all OSAA-sanctioned events. This policy includes not only the restricted playing area of the venue(s), but also the physical confines of the entire stadium/field/arena structure. For the purposes of this policy, an unmanned aerial system is any aircraft without a human pilot onboard.

- 1. Q. When does the prohibition on unmanned aerial systems begin and end?
A. Unmanned aerial systems are prohibited from one hour prior to the contest through one hour after the contest is completed at any OSAA-sanctioned event.
- 2. Q. What is the procedure if an unmanned aerial system appears near the playing area of an OSAA-sanctioned event?
A. If the game officials observe an unmanned aerial device flying directly over the playing area, feel that a device may have the potential to harm any individual, or if the device actually lands on the playing area, the game officials have the authority to suspend play and may direct the teams to their respective sideline or locker room until such time that game management deems the situation safe. Under no circumstances should any member of the team or the game officials approach an unmanned aerial system.
- 3. Q. Can an individual use one of the devices to film their own school's practice session?

A. Yes, but individuals should refer to their local school district policies related to unmanned aerial systems and, if allowed, should exercise a high degree of care in the operation of such devices to avoid common law tort liability for injuries to players, coaches, spectators or other third parties that might result from a device crashing into a crowd. Operators should have completed “flight training” courses offered by unmanned aerial system sellers, should be required to practice extensively to ensure proficiency in using the technology, and should avoid flying any device directly over or close to crowds at any time.

Withdrawal During a Competition

- A. Removal of a team from competition prior to completion of that competition shall be considered a gross act of unsportsmanlike conduct.
- B. In such a case, the school shall forfeit the contest and an administrator and the coach responsible for the action shall appear before the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. See Executive Board Policies, “Withdrawal from State Championships” for additional information.