



Oregon School Activities Association

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May 21, 2020

TO: OSAA Executive Board

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Board

SUBJECT: OSAA Soccer Contingency Group Meeting Summary

The OSAA Soccer Contingency Group met on May 21, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the second time. All members were present; the attendees included: SRI Patrick Duffy; Mike Blok, AD Beaverton HS (6A); Dave Hancock, AD South Eugene HS (6A); Darren Goodman, AD La Grande HS (4A); Missy Smith, AD Oregon Episcopal (3A); Monty Hawkins, Head Boys Coach – Sherwood HS (6A); Jamie Brock, Head Girls Coach – Summit HS (6A); Jaime Rivera, Head Boys Coach – Hood River Valley HS (5A); Stephanie Vanderbusch, Head Girls Coach – Phoenix HS (4A); and OSAA staff members, Kelly Foster, Brad Garrett, Kyle Stanfield, and Kris Welch.

We began with reviewing our goal to develop a set of recommendations that we can present to the OSAA Executive Board to help our 179 membership schools who sponsor soccer during these unprecedented times of uncertainty.

We went over all of the information that we know as of May 21: members schools are in moratorium-like restrictions through the end of the Association year; we clarified the Governor's Executive Order 20-20 of when schools are actually closed; depending on when a school's calendar ends and the teacher's last day is the end of the closure; we went over the Camp Guidelines and the NFHS Guidance for opening High School Athletics and Activities; and the most recent document sent out by the OSAA with the moratorium-like restrictions ending on May 25th, the end of the Association year and that on May 26th, the schools take over their responsibility to follow the Governor's mandates. It is even more important now that this group come up with some recommendations to help clarify what the membership can do over the summer. Our ability to find creative solutions to have coaches and kids back together safely is ESSENTIAL!

We then started into the focused questions segment of the meeting.

- With the new camp guidelines, do you believe it is possible to run a youth or high school soccer camp?

Most schools have some sort of youth camp during the summer to help fundraise for their programs. There were mixed opinions of if the Youth camps can still be done, there seems to be even more work involved and more financial resources needed (with more sanitary stations needed and cleaning the facility more frequently. Some facilities have the ability because of their space to actually run 2 different camps at the same time, but the real question is if their school district will allow them to have these camps. Most schools will

probably be closed until at least July 1st, when most counties will be in Phase 2 where there can be some cross over, but even then most of the people are concerned about liability (risks are unknown) and if the high school kids could be used as “counselors” or not. Most schools are in the wait and see as we gather more information and seeing what their school district will allow. As far as having the High School programs doing a team camp, the group agreed that later on in the summer as we get more information and further progression in the Phases, they could have some type of camp for their athletes.

- Hygiene protocols – What would those look like at practices? How would the safety of students be ensured?

The group was all over the board on this, some schools have “Camp Directors” (not Coaches or Athletic Directors) to help coordinate these protocols. Other schools are concerned as to who they would find to do this as Athletic Trainers are not on contract in the summer and how many different sports teams would be overwhelming for one trainer. There was some idea that there would need to be some training of the coaches on proper protocol of hygiene and also teaching the athletes also. One fantastic idea was purchasing hygiene kits (like medical kits) for each of their programs, which would have at least one infra-red thermometer(with lots of extra batteries as that drains them quickly 😊) plenty of disinfected wipes, hand sanitizers, gloves and masks for purchase if athletes would feel more comfortable wearing them). Some schools are considering having parents sign a waiver. Some will have sanitizing stations at the temperature check site and at the end of the practice as well before the athletes leave to go home. There are still lots of questions and the cost could also be an issue, how do you sanitize a turf field? How often should the equipment be sanitized during the practice?

- Starting with 10 students allowed. Specific modifications? What would that look like? Facemasks? Gloves?

Schools would be looking for guidance gloves could be a viable option, not sure about face masks, it would be difficult with the aerobic factor of soccer to make kids wear them but are willing to use them if it helps and allow them to start playing again. Coaches prior to starting practice would need to set up boundaries with the athletes about the physical distancing and the human nature to gather together for encouragement or support. There would need to be constant breaks taken to allow athletes to take their masks off to catch their breathe. This will be a HUGE learning curve, obviously instituting no headers or throw-ins. Some of the drills would be passing the ball, pattern play, rehearsal play, lots of broken-down game related drills. There would be lots of opportunity for cross-training and working on conditioning. This group believes kids are so excited to get out and start to do something that they would be willing to do anything just to be “with” their peers! Anyway around it, there would have to be clear designations as to what is allowed in Phase 1, to Phase 2, and to Phase 3, some people believe we are open for business right now, just like it was in the past, so there needs to be lots of information given.

- Pre/post practice hygiene needs? Any protocols from school district being discussed?

One of the biggest obstacles is before and after practice training when the kids show up for practice and all of the “gathering” that takes place. Making them aware of physical distancing MUST be a PRIORITY, all the way down to where kids leave their equipment bags and water bottles, making sure they don’t just drop their stuff off in a big pile like they have done for years. Monitors will have to be present reminding them as they arrive for practice, could be a great opportunity to get your seniors or captains involved in monitoring and awareness of individual’s spacing. There will need to be lots of “Pre PRE Pre”_practice with educating parents and athletes to take temperatures before they leave the house and if they have a temperature or feel sick they need to STAY HOME! In September the cold and flu season hits and people could confuse these two different illnesses, it is important, WHEN IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT! The tests are becoming more readily available

with quicker result times to see if it is the coronavirus. There are tons of fantastic resources out there from club soccer programs and other programs doing great stuff that we could use. It ends up being everyone's responsibility as if we can keep a handle on this, we will be able to start on August 17, but if we have people or groups out there not following the protocols, we all could suffer in the fall.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, May 28 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
- Thursday, June 4 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)
- Thursday, June 11 (4:00pm – 5:15pm)

We may need to add some more meetings depending on what we hear or need, if we do we will stay on Thursdays at 4:00pm. Will send out the focused questions ahead of time. Kris will email out that with the invite for the next Zoom meeting.

Thank you for everyone's willingness to be on this group and for your insight!