



## Oregon School Activities Association

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March 25, 2020

To: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors and Head Coaches  
From: Peter Weber, Executive Director  
Subject: Governor Brown's Executive Order and OSAA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We are in the midst of unprecedented times in our schools, communities, state and country. Now more than ever, it's incumbent on us, the leaders of education-based activities in Oregon, to work together in support of those we serve.

That starts by heeding the Governor's "*Stay Home. Save Lives*" Executive Order which remains in effect until terminated by the Governor. We've seen effective messaging from a few school districts to their constituents via email and social media during the past few days. Critical messages to share with your communities include:

- The closure of your schools and school properties through April 28, including a prohibition on students/community member using school properties, athletic fields, and playgrounds. COVID-19 continues to live for days on some surfaces, including playground/athletic equipment and public seating areas.
- All ages are at risk of contracting COVID-19, including students. Students may be carriers before symptoms appear and could spread the virus before knowing they're infected. This could lead to a transfer of the disease to members of their family and the greater community.
- To the maximum extent possible, individuals should minimize travel and stay at their place of residence. This is intended to slow the spread of COVID-19, protect the health of all community members, and avoid overwhelming our healthcare system.
- If you need to leave your residence, maintain at least six feet from anyone not a member of your immediate household, continue practicing the promoted hygiene guidelines, and comply with guidance issued by the Oregon Health Authority.
- Encouraging physical distancing but keeping socially connected by utilizing the many digital/virtual resources available to engage with family and friends.
- School personnel are able to communicate with students per local school district guidelines. However, personnel shall discourage students from gathering in alignment with local, state, and federal guidance.

Visit <http://www.osaa.org/coronavirus> for OSAA policies, plus health and safety resources, related to COVID-19.

Included on this page are all memos and media releases from OSAA since early March, along with a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) designed to answer the most common questions we have been receiving (see Page 2 of this memo). We will continue to update the FAQs regularly.

The OSAA Executive Board has scheduled online meetings for April 1, and again on April 15, to discuss the latest developments regarding this situation and take any action they deem necessary regarding Spring practices, contests, and state championship events. The OSAA will post updated information to the website as well as send an update to all schools following each meeting.

Please contact our staff via email with any questions as we are working remotely (<http://www.osaa.org/contact>).

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the students and families in our state. Stay safe and be well.



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## Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions relating to OSAA's policies regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have a question, please contact Peter Weber at [peterw@osaa.org](mailto:peterw@osaa.org) or contact the OSAA office at (503) 682-6722.

**1. Q. May schools participate in out-of-state practices or contests/events during this suspension period?**

A. No, the suspension period for practices and contests/events applies to all OSAA member schools, regardless of where the practice or contest/event occurs.

**2. Q. May coaches hold "voluntary" or "optional" practices during this suspension period?**

A. No, coaches are not able to work directly with students during this suspension period. Coaches may not be involved in circumventing this policy.

**3. Q. May coaches communicate with students/athletes?**

A. Coaches can communicate with students in accordance with local school district policy, but not organize or participate in workouts. We encourage coaches to provide support to students during this stressful time.

**4. Q. Does this suspension period apply to public schools only?**

A. The suspension period applies to all OSAA member schools, public and private, in all OSAA-sanctioned activities.

**5. Q. How should schools correctly mark baseball and softball games during the suspension period on the OSAA website?**

A. Games should be marked as cancelled, not deleted. This keeps the game on a team's schedule in case it's able to be made up at a later date.

**6. Q. May students or coaches access school facilities during this suspension period?**

A. During this moratorium-like period, there shall be no high school facility usage by activity/athletic staff and students/teams. Field maintenance is allowed.

**7. Q. May groups of students gather to work out?**

A. While the OSAA encourages students to stay active, we discourage groups of students from getting together in alignment with local, state, and federal social distancing guidelines.

**8. Q. Will OSAA State Championships that have been cancelled be rescheduled?**

A. No, due to the numerous issues regarding rescheduling including, but not limited to, site availability, staffing, scheduling conflicts, etc., cancelled OSAA State Championships will not be rescheduled.

**9. Q. Does the suspension period apply to off-season fall and winter activities?**

A. All OSAA sports and activities fall under this guidance. There will be no practice or gatherings for any OSAA sports or activities. This includes Rule of Two, 6A/5A Pilot, and individual sports.