



Oregon School Activities Association
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June 25, 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 June 25, 2020 via a Zoom meeting for the fifth time. Most members were present.

We began with quickly 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 June 25: 31 of the 36 counties are now in Phase 2; we went over the OSAA Phase 2 Guidelines; we reviewed the Contingency page on the OSAA website showing all of the important documents and where the minutes of each meeting is being housed; some schools now have taken over 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 talked about the SMAC suggestions:

No multiple practices in a day: No real concerns with this.

Requiring 9 days of practice prior to the first contest/jamboree:

The Group was fine with that new requirement. The athletes are probably more active than we think they are. Worried that we would probably have to move the 1st date of contests to accommodate this new requirement.

We then started into the focused questions segment of the meeting, with the document attached.

As for the transportation, parents may have to help out with this and also rearrange schedules for local play only. May have to look at the 6A playoff structure to only qualify 16 teams instead of 32 to allow for more regular season contests. Allow teams who do not qualify for the playoffs to continue playing matches by extending out the cut-off date.

The future meeting dates:

- Thursday, July 30 (4:00pm – 5:15pm) following the Executive Board Retreat

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!

Soccer Contingency Planning Framework

Required Acclimation Period (Regardless of Start Date)

Soccer no standardized period is recommended because in past practices, soccer has never had one nor needed one. Tryouts/practices have always begun on the first day of the Association year and have allowed soccer players to compete 10 days later in a jamboree style format or regular match format.

Significant Dates, Benchmarks, and Considerations

Benchmark: OSAA Executive Board decision on whether to “flip” sport seasons

Date: July 20, 2020

Considerations: Table below summarizes a variety of input on this topic

Pros	Cons
1) Spring sports are not considered "contact sports" in comparison to the Fall sports of Football and Soccer.	1) Does not guarantee that Baseball and Softball will play a “normal” season. Potential that they would lose 2 seasons.
2) All spring sports are competed at outdoor venues unlike in the Fall with Volleyball being an indoor sport.	2) Impact on multiple sport coaches and athletes at all Classification levels.
3) Typically, crowds for contests are smaller for our Spring Sports compared to crowds for Fall Sports.	3) Weather complications more prevalent during the Championships (Nov rain compared to June rain)
4) With the prospect of travel restrictions or unreasonable busing options due to spacing between passengers on a bus, we would be able to schedule out of classification contests versus schools in our county for the non-contact sports offered in the Spring. This is not necessarily an option for the contact sports offered in the Fall. For example, I can schedule baseball and softball versus a smaller school in my county but could not necessarily do this in football or soccer.	4) Contributes to the fragmentation already occurring throughout the sports continuum.
5) Locker Room / Shower Facilities are not commonly offered to opposing teams and/or are not necessary for home teams during the Spring sport season. The Fall sport season commonly offers Locker Room / Shower Facilities to both home and visiting teams and would largely be considered necessary for the Fall sport of Football.	5) Potential negative impact on coaches and athletes because of pre-existing conflicts?
	6) Potential scheduling issues given AD’s are on vacation and would have to reconstitute in some way to create the new statewide schedule.

Soccer Contingency Planning Framework

Benchmark: OSAA First Practice Date

Date: August 17

Considerations:

Soccer practice should be able to begin given that physical distancing if required can be maintained in practice situations. Game like situations may have to be avoided as physical distancing is much more challenging in competition situations.

Date: August 27

Benchmark: OSAA First Contest Date

Considerations:

If we can practice, we can compete so advancing to this benchmark is dependent upon meeting the Aug 17 benchmark. Obviously if we must move the Aug 17 date later into the calendar for any reason, then this benchmark would move accordingly.

If we fail to meet this benchmark there is consensus that the regular season could be delayed up to but not beyond September 28. Competitions would need to begin by September 28 allow four weeks of regular season play. With a minimum of 8 matches, that would be 2 matches a week. All qualifying events would need to be conducted by this date in order to conduct the Championships on the scheduled date. Essentially, there is a consensus that all **Soccer** will need at least 10 matches to provide some data and ability to develop a post season bracket.

Questions:

- Travel guidelines may be restrictive – does this create any issues that can't be overcome?
- Match play- Gatherings? Including state championships. 1

Benchmark: Soccer Cut-off Dates

Date: Oct 27 and 31

Considerations: Change to state championship format-

Questions: What if leagues have some teams who cannot compete? Do we have a modified league?

Benchmark: Soccer Championships

Date: Nov 7 Quarterfinals hosted at home sites

Date: November 10 Semi-Finals hosted at home sites

Date: November 14 Finals hosted at Neutral Site/State Championship Site

Considerations: Home schools host responsibilities, spectators, streaming

Questions:

- Implications related to moving this date later in the calendar.
 - Do we slide the entire calendar to accommodate the move? If not, does overlapping the Fall and Winter create significant issues, especially for smaller schools?