

Swimming Contingency Group – November 4, 2020 6:30-7:30pm

Peter Weber reviewed the purpose of the contingency groups and the continued conversations happening around the state including the new metrics to bring schools back to in-person learning models released last week. Peter also reviewed conversations happening with the Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority regarding any reconsiderations for full contact sports.

In our swimming contingency group, we began by reviewing some survey results from a facilities survey that K.T. sent out to the Athletic Directors of schools who offer high school swimming at their schools. Here is how the data broke down: (80 responses received by the contingency group meeting time)

- 94% of schools are in Comprehensive Distance Learning, which means at this time they cannot compete against another team indoors unless it is a virtual meet.
- 29% of schools reported that their swimming facility is not currently open, but it may open during Season 2.
- 12% of schools reported that their pool is not open at this time and will not open during Season 2.
- 11% of schools reported that their pool is currently open for practices but is not available for competitions.
- 24% school reported that they pool is open for both practices and competitions, with modifications.
- 6% of schools reported that their pool is open for both practices and competitions.

Along with the survey there were several comments shared by Athletic Directors regarding concerns about their facilities including the facility being available, but transportation may be difficult from their school/district to the swimming facility.

The question about practicing and/or competing outdoors was also addressed. There are some outdoor facilities, but would they be open and/or available to be able to host schools for competitions? Some coaches shared about the outdoor facilities that they know of and there was some discussion about whether or not we would be able to have more students since it was outdoors, but we would have to "hold" the students indoors due to weather, which would reduce the number of students able to be at an event. There were concerns regarding the outdoor competitions being held in the winter, but it was also shared that there are teams and schools in our state who do practice outdoors all year long.

The contingency group did discuss shortening the swim season. It was discussed that schools do not need as many competitions as are allowed in the already shortened season, that maybe lessening the number of competitions could also help with facilities limitations as well, meaning more high school programs could use the same facilities if they were shared more equitably. Concerns were discussed about overlapping seasons because there would be a loss of the number of students on swimming teams in high schools. A few shared a concern for our smaller schools being able to field both a swimming team and some other teams at the same time. It was also discussed that smaller teams may work better at the restricted facilities and for any events that are able to take place.

Some questions that came up including the financial viability of running an elongated state championship. Is the OSAA prepared and able to do something like that this year? There were concerns addressed regarding the costs and constraints of the association. It was also discussed that other states have participant fees for their state championships, however, that is not something that has been implemented in Oregon. There were concerns regarding this concept due to the inequities that could

occur amongst individual competitors or between schools. The question about programming in swimming facilities also came up. Financially that is how pools are able to sustain their facilities and programs, however, there are so many challenges with being able to bring in enough programming at this time. That could be a barrier to our schools being able to access facilities due to other programming happening at the pools they utilize.

Next meeting: Our next meeting is TBD