



Oregon School Activities Association

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June 24, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director
Kelly Foster, Associate Executive Director

SUBJECT: Update from the Petition to Play Down Task Force – June 24, 2019

The Petition to Play Down Task Force met at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville on Monday, June 24, 2019 for the fourth time to review the Play Down policy, potential changes and the data that had been collected to help in the review process. The Task Force was put together by the OSAA Executive Board after the most recent Classification and Districting Committee concluded. The OSAA Executive Board felt that a discussion and review of the current policy and how it may be improved warranted creation of a Task Force. The goal of this meeting was to review the progress and report back to the Executive Board at their Summer Worksho to update the progress of the Task Force

The OSAA staff briefly went over the correspondence since the last meeting. The staff refreshed the Task Force on its goals and charge and the group got to work on the agenda.

Staff members Kris Welch and Kelly Foster went through the following documents with the Task Force:

- A) Previous document on helping to determine criteria for a “Dominant Activity.”
- B) Correspondence, including a policy from Indiana, to spark some discussion.

The Task Force reviewed the data which led to discussion on the following topics:

- A) Developing criteria/definition of what constitutes a dominant team sport activity in the context of the Petition to Play Down policy.
 1. After great discussion the Task Force settled on a points-based system to best define a dominant team sport activity based on state playoff success.
 - a) Defined, if a team reaches a quarterfinal playoff contest = one point; if a team reaches a semifinal playoff contest = four points; and if a team reaches the playoff championship final = six points. A team earning eight points or more in the previous 3-year period would be considered a dominant team sport activity.
 - b) If a school with a dominant team sport activity that is granted a Petition to Play Down, the dominant activity would remain at the school’s original classification while its remaining programs would compete at the lower classification.

Items still under consideration include:

- Should data from a school’s dominant activity be included or omitted when evaluating a school’s original Petition to Play Down?
 - Should data from a school’s dominant activity be included or omitted when re-evaluating whether a school that has been playing down should be allowed to continue playing down?
- B) The Task Force also discussed implementing a two-year review to examine any team sports programs that become dominant following a move down to a lower classification.

1. After discussion, the Task Force decided that there should be a two-year review for every school who met the qualifications to play down. Note: it was determined, based on a review of historical school data, that this would be a rare occurrence. Any potential scheduling challenges would be manageable as determinations would occur following each season rather than at the end of the school year.
 2. The two-year review would also involve a points-based system based on state playoff success for the school's first two years playing down. In this system, if a team reaches a semifinal playoff contest = four points; and if a team reaches the playoff championship final = six points. A team earning ten points or more in the 2-year period would be considered a dominant team sport activity and would return to its original classification for the remaining two years of the time block. Other programs in the school would remain at the lower classification for the remainder of the time block.
- C) The Task Force tabled discussion on the current criteria for playing down until next year. There was discussion of counting three of the four criteria and determining additional data if a school does not meet all four. There was also discussion on potentially changing the percentages of the current four criteria.
- D) The Task Force is recommending the following topics to the Executive Board for review at their July Summer Workshop;**
1. **During the Petition to Play Down process** – The definition of a dominant activity using a points-based system based on state playoff success. In this system, if a team reaches a quarterfinal playoff contest = one point; if a team reaches a semifinal playoff contest = four points; and if a team reaches the playoff championship final = six points. A team earning eight points in the previous 3-year period would be considered a dominant team sport activity and shall continue playing at their original classification while the remaining programs at the school would compete at the lower classification.
 2. **Two-Year Review During the Time Block** – The two-year review would also involve a points-based system based on state playoff success. In this system, if a team reaches a semifinal playoff contest = four points; and if a team reaches the playoff championship final = six points. A team earning ten points in the 2-year period would be considered a dominant team sport activity and would return to its original classification for the remaining two years of the time block. Other programs in the school would remain at the lower classification for the remainder of the time block.
- E) Additional information the Task Force is requesting from the membership:
1. Input on additional criteria that should be considered for schools who meet three out of the four criteria for the Petition to Play Down, but not all four.
 2. Input on whether there should be changes to the percentages outlined in the current criteria.

The Task Force invites feedback from member schools on the Petition to Play Down policy and any areas they should address. The next meeting for the Petition to Play Down Task Force is Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 9:00am.

The OSAA staff will provide a Task Force update to all superintendents, principals, and athletic directors following each meeting. The Task Force roster, charge, and any additional information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/task-forces>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA (Kelly Foster kellyf@osaa.org, or Kris Welch krisw@osaa.org). Any communication received by the OSAA staff will be shared with all Task Force members for review and discussion.

The Task Force appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Kelly Foster kellyf@osaa.org or Kris Welch krisw@osaa.org at the OSAA if you have any questions.