



May 6, 2018

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Football Coaches

FROM: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

SUBJECT: OSAA Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee Update

The Football Ad Hoc Committee conducted its fifth public meeting on April 30, 2018 at the OSAA Office in Wilsonville. Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the OSAA Executive Board for review and potential adoption.

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting nor anyone attending with intent to provide public testimony. The group convened into a work session to review additional items that have not been addressed to this point. During the work session OSAA staff provided an update on 6-man football pilot, implications of the Cascade HS ruling on recommendations, and the proposed NFHS rules experiment with the 40-sec clock.

The following is a summary of current recommendations related to a variety of topics that have not been previously addressed by the group:

1. Allowing variations in game formats (i.e. 1, 2, or 3 quarter games) at the sub-varsity level to provide needed flexibility for some programs when creating sub-varsity participation opportunities. No player may exceed participation in more than 4 quarters per day. Any combination of quarters against opponents is allowable (e.g. 1 quarter against Team A and 3 quarters against Team B, etc....)
2. Allowing the following NFHS kicking rules deviations at the sub-varsity level by mutual agreement of the participating schools prior to the coin flip. Failure to have mutual agreement prior to the coin flip results in the game being played by NFHS rules. Once an option is selected it can't be modified during the game for any reason. The committee would recommend that the modifications are discussed and agreed upon by Athletic Directors and coaches well before game time, preferably in the week leading up to the game.
 1. Kickoff Modifications
 - Teams can mutually agree not to use kickoffs:
 - Receiving team has the option to start 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line after their opponents score.
 - In the 4th quarter only, if the kicking team is behind, they may choose to place the ball 4th and 10 from their own 40-yard line instead of taking the kick. If successful in reaching a first down the possession continues. If unsuccessful they turn over possession at the succeeding spot.
 - Team can mutually agree to use kickoffs with the following modifications:
 - In the first 3 quarters the receiving team has the option to receive the kick or to start 1st and 10 at their 35-yard line after their opponents score.

- In the 4th quarter the kicking team has the option to kick the ball or to allow their opponent to start 1st and 10 from their own 35-yard line.
2. Punt Modifications
 - Teams can mutually agree to not punt the ball at any point during the game
 - Receiving team has the option to start 1st and 10 at the succeeding spot 35-yards from the line of scrimmage.
 - Teams can mutually agree to punt the ball but “rushing” the punter is not allowed
 - Player receiving the ball may not advance it. Ball is dead at the succeeding spot.
 3. Required Coaching Certification
 - USA Football has modified the delivery model of the Heads-Up Certification program that will require the OSAA to adjust current requirements. The Committee continues to support having a Player Safety Coach at each school but feels that the PSC should only have to recertify every other year and be exempt from completing the required online courses. All other coaches would be required to complete all online courses every other year. All coaches, including the PSC, are required by Oregon law to complete concussion education every year and this cannot be waived.
 4. 3A Football – Request for modification of adopted allocations
 - The Committee supports a request from the 3A classification to modify the current recommended allocations of SD1 – 6 teams, SD2 – 6 teams, and SD3 – 3 teams plus 1 via rankings. The 3A has split SD1 and SD 2 into two separate divisions and wants to guarantee that the champion in each division will receive a home game if they are ranked in the Top 16. The total number of qualifiers will remain the same.
 5. Minimum number of rankable contests
 - The number of contests being conducted outside of the traditional 11-player or 8-player game is increasing and are not rankable under OSAA policy. The addition of the 6-player game will most likely add to this growing trend. The group reached consensus that for a team to host a playoff game they should be required to have six rankable contests during the season. If a team qualifies and does not have six rankable games, they would be moved to the lowest seed possible in the bracket.
 6. Privatization of Football
 - An increasing number of private entities are encroaching on the game across the country. This trend only exacerbates the divide between the haves and the have nots beyond creating general controversy between member schools who have players participating in these “developmental” opportunities. The group recommends, if possible, creating rule code that would prohibit high school coaches from being involved in private coaching of athletes from schools other than their own.
 7. Youth Representation on the Ad Hoc Committee
 - The group recommends that the OSAA consider adding youth football representation to the Ad Hoc Committee in the future. Developing a connection with youth football administrators and allowing that sector to have a voice at the table will be important as we move forward.
 8. 4A League Alignments (Cascade Appeal)
 - Cascade will be going back into 4A-3 and that will give that league 7 teams leaving 4A-1 with 5 and 4A-2 with 6. The group does support equalizing the number of teams amongst these three leagues.

The Committee tabled discussion regarding developing the criteria that would be used to determine how a school who has played down, be moved back up. The group felt it was important to get additional data before making final decisions related to this topic and therefore want to wait until the completion of the 2018 season before making any type of recommendation. There is agreement within the group that this criterion may include evaluation of the following over the two-year period:

- Colley winning percentage
- League finish
- Playoff appearances
- Participation numbers
- Enrollment figures

The Committee was presented with participation data from the previous 10 years. There is consensus that the decline in participation since the 2008-09 school year can be attributed to a variety of factors that are outside of the group's control but there is a desire to address specific issues that are contributing to fewer number of students participating in the game. Specifically, the structure of youth football around that state and the ability of those leagues to retain players and promote participation beyond the 8th grade. The attached position statement is intended to clearly define expectations for youth football leagues and should serve as a framework for building youth football leagues in the future.

The OSAA staff will provide a Committee update, like this one, to all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, and football coaches following each meeting. The Committee roster, charge, and any additional committee information is available at <http://www.osaa.org/governance/committees>.

Written suggestions and proposals should be emailed to the OSAA at bradg@osaa.org. Any communication received by the OSAA will be shared with all committee members for review and discussion.

The next public meeting of the Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee is TBD. The general format for the meeting will be for the Committee to receive public testimony followed by a closed work session. The Committee appreciates your support and encourages your participation in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact Brad Garrett (bradg@osaa.org) at the OSAA if you have any questions.



OSAA Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee Consensus Youth Football Position Statement

Preamble:

The OSAA recognizes and appreciates the efforts of youth football coaches and administrators throughout the state of Oregon. Providing a Football experience prior to high school is optimal for the development of the total player. How that experience is delivered and the philosophy behind the introduction of age appropriate skill development is at the core of any quality program. Based on this all members of the OSAA Ad Hoc Football Advisory Committee agree on the following core principles that should be part of any youth football program.

Principles:

- Youth football should start in mid-August and conclude by first weekend of November of each year. No youth program should have a longer season than a high school program.
- No youth football pre-season practice should exceed more than two hours in length with a maximum of four practices per week – teams should never practice twice in the same day. In-season practice sessions should be reduced to a maximum of 3 per week.
- All youth practices should focus on developmentally appropriate activities that emphasize motor and foundational skills. All players should learn and be allowed to play every position on the field prior to grade 7.
- Youth football students may participate in three days of full contact each week, excluding games. A maximum of 90 minutes of Full Contact combined is allowed during these three days. Full contact is defined as follows:
 - Thud – Drill is run at assigned speed through the moment of contact, no predetermined “winner.” Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet and a quick whistle ends the drill. This applies to simulations and drills involving any number of players.
 - Live Action – Drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground. This applies to simulations and drills involving any number of players.
- Youth football should be viewed at as a Developmental league and not a Championship league. Given this, all teams should be limited to a maximum of 8 games, including any type of culminating event(s).
- No youth player should participate in the 11-player game until grade 7. USA Football’s Rookie Tackle should be played in grades 5 and 6. Flag Football should be played in grades K-4.
- All youth coaches should be Heads Up certified annually and have successfully completed a background check prior to assuming any coaching responsibilities.
- Youth programs using school district facilities should be able to provide adequate insurance coverage to reduce the potential for increased liability.

- Fees required for participation should be minimized as much as possible. Costs for required equipment and officials should be outlined for all participants. Supplemental equipment costs should be eliminated.