



## Oregon School Activities Association

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June 19, 2019

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Kris Welch, Assistant Executive Director;  
Kyle Stanfield, Assistant Executive Director;  
Gibby Reynolds, IT Systems Administrator

SUBJECT: OSAA Rankings Committee Update – June 17, 2019

The OSAA Rankings Committee met on June 17 at the OSAA Office for the third and final time this school year to continue its review of the rankings, and the Spring 2018-19 season.

Following this final meeting, the Committee will forward its final recommendations to the OSAA Executive Board for consideration at the Board’s Summer Workshop, July 22-24, 2019.

The Committee began reviewing Spring 2019 brackets and rankings, and final 8 sites for each classification. Following this review, the Committee examined rankings scenarios and correlation studies of current and former systems, along with several other data for accuracy of the rankings and minor tweaks if needed. There was no public testimony.

**Correlation Studies:** Correlation studies are produced by OSAA staff and serve as one way to gauge the “accuracy” of the system. What counts as “accurate” regarding a rankings system is certainly open to interpretation, but Committee members believe there is value associated with this information, especially when looking at making possible changes.

| <u>School Year</u> | <u>Activity</u>  | <u>Regular Season</u> |   |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 18-19              | Football         | 90.31%                | <i>Using the final frozen rankings, correlation studies analyze the % of contests where the better ranked team in a classification won, going backwards through the regular season. A contest where that happens is considered “accurate”. In 2018-19 Girls Basketball, the current system was 87.85% “accurate” going back through the regular season.</i> |
| 18-19              | Boys Soccer      | 85.81%                |   |
| 18-19              | Girls Soccer     | 87.65%                |   |
| 18-19              | Volleyball       | 89.25%                |   |
| 18-19              | Girls Basketball | 87.85%                |   |
| 18-19              | Boys Basketball  | 85.92%                |   |
| 18-19              | Softball         | 85.79%                |   |
| 18-19              | Baseball         | 82.05%                |   |

### 6A League Champions and 1A League Champions hosting 1<sup>st</sup> Round Playoff

6A Athletic Director and committee member Pete Lukich (Sunset HS) reported that the 6A discussed and voted to not change its current set up (must be in the top 16 to host a first-round game as a league champion).

The 1A classification sent out a survey asking if the policy should change to make league champions be in the top 12 instead of the top 16 to host a first round game but due to a lack of participation in the survey and the lack of agreement from those that did vote (55% to 45%), the Committee did not believe there was not enough information to make a change at this time. ***The Committee is not recommending a change to the current policy on criteria for League Champions to host a 1<sup>st</sup> Round Playoff contest.***

### Should a preseason cancellation be counted as a forfeiture?

The Committee members discussed this issue and with too many outside variables involved with travel and decision making, the Committee does not believe it could recommend a preseason contest be counted as a forfeit. The Committee hopes that school would do everything within their powers to honor non-league schedules. ***The Committee is not recommending a preseason cancellation to be counted as a forfeiture.***

### **Replacing rankable contests that are forfeited even after the deadline**

Committee members discussed this issue and while there seems to be some unfortunate situations that take place during a season, this could start allowing more manipulations of schedules and take a step back from progress the Committee has made over the years. ***The Committee is not recommending a school be given the opportunity to pick up a contest and count it in the rankings after the deadline.***

### **Benefiting schools who play schools of a higher classification**

The OSAA calculated simulations where a team's weighted winning percentage was boosted if their opponent was in a higher classification. A team's RPI calculation is based on their schedule's perspective and weights with a boost of 20% or 40% would not affect opponents. In the two simulations, a 20% and a 40% boost were applied respectively. Using this method, a team that played a higher classification opponent would see a boost to their RPI rating while their opponents would not be affected or penalized. In both simulations, the overall effect was a slight increase in RPI ratings. Those increases were not unique and applied to any team that competed against a higher classification team. In most instances, the boost was canceled out because teams would play multiple upper classification teams, and a boost from a win would cancel out with a boost from a loss.

In looking through all nine team sports, the simulations showed a handful of teams may swap places in the rankings or move no more than 3 ranks up or down. The majority of movement was at the 3A, 2A, and 1A classification. The Committee feels that the ranking system is designed to compare schools within their own classification. Adding a boost for playing up would not significantly change the current rankings system while also creating the incorrect perception that playing up would be the best option to maximize scheduling. ***The Committee is not recommending using a boost to benefit schools who play higher classification schools.***

### **Rankings Freeze and Play-in Dates Summary:**

The Committee discussed the Rankings Freeze and Play-in Dates for the 2019 -20 school year, which are included in this update and will take these dates to the OSAA Executive Board for adoption.

### **Schedule Manipulation Policies**

The Committee believes that adding dates to each season after which contests won't be counted in the rankings has helped to alleviate, but not eliminate, the issue of schedule manipulation. ***The Committee is recommending new deadlines for each 2019-20 season to address schedule manipulation (see below).***

- 1) **Contests vs. Teams More Than One Classification Away.** In the RPI system, results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (***Fall – Sept. 18; Winter – Dec. 24; Spring – Apr. 8***) vs. a team more than one classification away shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: bracketed contests at tournaments are not affected by this policy.
- 2) **Contests Added After a Certain Date.** Results from contests added to a team's schedule after a certain date each season (***Fall – Oct. 2; Winter – Jan. 15; Spring – Apr. 15***) shall not be included in the rankings. NOTE: Contests not affected by this policy include bracketed contests at tournaments, league tiebreakers, and district/league tournaments. Schools may apply for an exception to OSAA Staff in extenuating circumstances.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

The Committee set the dates for next year: Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>; Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.

All written communication received will be forwarded to all members of the Rankings Committee for their review. Please send emails to Kyle Stanfield ([kyles@osaa.org](mailto:kyles@osaa.org)) or Kris Welch ([krisw@osaa.org](mailto:krisw@osaa.org)) at the OSAA if you have any questions.