



February 2021 Board Report

Drug testing

As of February 7, one hundred thirty-four (134) students have been randomly tested so far this school year. All except two have been negative.

Communications/Twitter

Our athletic department Twitter account (@OregonHawks) has 1,163 followers as of February 9. Last year at this time, there were 1,155. We have 316 followers of "gooregonhawks" on Instagram. We are also using OCUSD Facebook frequently to communicate quickly changing athletic related information.

Status/Recent Activity

The Illinois High School sports world changed significantly on Wednesday, January 28, when the IHSA announced a schedule for athletic seasons for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. This was possible due to the Illinois Dept. of Public Health adjusting their protocols for youth sports in Illinois.

Using these guidelines as a starting point, at a meeting on January 31, the Big Northern Conference established start/finish dates for high school practice and games as follows :

Boys/Girls Bowling – Was already underway. Season will end March 6.

Boys/Girls Basketball – Practice began immediately. First games Feb 6 & 8. Season ends March 9.

Competitive Cheer – Practice underway. First virtual meet Feb 14. Season ends March 6.

Football – Practice starts Wed. March 10. First game March 26/27. Five games total, ending April 23/24.

Boys Soccer – Practice begins Mon. March 8. First game March 16. Season ends April 16/17.

Volleyball - Practice begins Mon. March 8. First game March 17. Season ends April 23/24.

Baseball – Practice begins Mon. April 19. First game April 27. Season ends June 19.

Softball - Practice begins Mon. April 19. First game April 27. Season ends June 19.

Boys/Girls Track - Practice begins Mon. April 19. First meet TBA. Season ends June 19.

Girls Soccer - Practice begins Mon. April 19. First game April 27. Season ends June 19.

Wrestling - Practice begins Mon. April 19. First meet TBA. Season ends June 19.

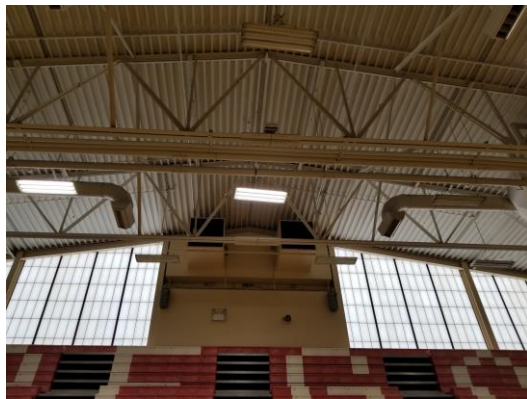
The initial IHSA season schedule had several overlaps where another season would begin before a prior season ended. The conference felt that this would create difficulties for most schools since we have numerous multi-sport athletes. In addition, most schools have coaches who coach multiple sports and being able to coach two sports simultaneously would be difficult, if not impossible. As a result, the conference adjusted several start dates to minimize this overlap. An example of this is that the Big Northern starting football practice one week later and playing one less game in order to allow the basketball season to complete. There are adjustments for the other transitions as well.

It should be noted that if BNC schools feel that they have sufficient numbers to start the Baseball/Softball seasons a week or so earlier, then they would be permitted to do so. However, all

conference games will start at the same time. OHS may be in position to start softball practice prior to April 19 due to anticipated higher than normal turnout in this sport.

We are currently operating under IDPH guidelines that state no more than 50 spectators can be in a facility to watch an event. As a result, the Big Northern Conference decided to limit attendance to home families only. No spectators from visiting schools will be allowed into a facility.

At Oregon High School, we are distributing a limited number of passes to families of participants so that they can attend home events. New this year is the livestreaming of home events. During the COVID pause, the athletic department purchased a camera from Hudl that was mounted into the rafters of the Blackhawk Center. This camera can remotely follow the action for basketball and volleyball games. Coaches can also use it to record practice. Within the past week, an additional camera was ordered for the DLR Jr. High Gym for the remainder of this year. Using these cameras, the tech department will livestream many events over YouTube for OHS & DLR.



A huge thanks to both our Maintenance Dept. (Bill Nesemeier) and the Tech Dept. (Shawn Gadow) for helping to get this service up and running.

Also, on January 31, the Route 72 Jr. High Conference met to establish season dates. Junior high seasons will be:

JH Boys Basketball – Feb. 1- Feb. 25
JH Girls Basketball – March 1- March 25
JH Wrestling – March 1 - March 25
JH Volleyball - April 5 - April 27.
JH Track - April 28 – May 20

Finally, the Athletic Dept. received several inquiries about whether or not activity participation fees would be collected this year at the full amount, prorated, or not charged. We will be collecting the full \$75.00 per sport (HS)/ \$50.00 (JH) fee but will not be charging admission to home families for passes or “tickets” to the events.

The pre-participation drug test requirement that was waived last fall for golf and cross country is also still being waived.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Lawton