



Oregon High School Water Polo Committee
 PO Box 25284
 Portland, Oregon 97298

www.OregonWaterPolo.Org
 FEIN: 93-0992459 – 501(c)(3)

Official governing body of High School Water Polo in Oregon

August 15, 2020

Oregon Water Polo Community ~

As you probably already know, the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) has shifted the traditional Fall sports season to March 2021. Their new calendar provides for three distinct seasons. Each will feature a 7-week regular season, with adjustments to contest limits, followed by a culminating (championship) event. Specific plans for high school water polo will be discussed at the upcoming virtual meeting on August 20, 2020.

The Oregon High School Water Polo Executive Board has recently met and is proposing this initial framework, knowing that we must align with the guidelines issued by the state as they develop:

February 22 – May 8					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ 2 Weeks of Practice ✗ 7 Competition Weeks: 12 duals, 1 tournament ✗ Single Championship weekend ✗ Teams that do not qualify for Championships may continue to compete/practice through the conclusion of the culminating week. 					
	First Practice Date	First Contest Date	Participation Limit	Qualifying Date	Championship
Water Polo	2/22/2021	3/8/2021	12 duals; 1 tournament	May 1, 2021	May 6-8, 2021

There are a lot of details to work out and things will change between now and March. But, here are things we need to be doing right now:

1. Coaches need to assess their programs viability of participating during this new "fall" season time frame. Depending upon participation levels:
 - i. Leagues may have to combine
 - ii. Classes (6A & 5A) may have to combine
2. Coaches need to start discussing with your local pool and swim teams the availability of pools for a March to April season.
3. Start a dialog with the USAWP club teams that operate during that time of the year, and work out a compromise that best suites USAWP clubs water and High School water polo.
 - a. Perhaps High school water polo can limit any tournaments to March and clubs can limit any tournaments to April.
 - b. Coordination with OWPOA for referees



General Guidance for the 2020/2021 Year

- ✘ The out-of-season coaching limitations and rule-of-two have been waived for water polo, with the caveat that student participation cannot be required. All other OSAA/OHWPC rules and policies remain in effect currently.
- ✘ All Member Programs must follow all directives from the Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Oregon Schools Activities Association, and local school district.
- ✘ When scheduling contests, local/regional competition should be the priority.
- ✘ Event hosts must follow OHA guidance for large group gatherings, including number of teams, participants, and spectators. This will impact dual-competitions, jamborees and tournaments.

What questions do you have? We may not have answers yet, but we plan to have a "Fall" season March - April 2021. We will do the best we can, with what we have, and where we can practice/play.