May 18, 2020

Dear Water Polo Community:

Thank you all for your patience, support and understanding during this very difficult time. Many of you have begun reaching out to begin planning the fall season. While we understand everyone wants to plan and “needs to plan”, that’s not the way the world is right now.

We appreciate the spirit, but currently there are many mixed messages, conflicts, lack of guidance and clarity between the CDC, Governor’s office and OHA. As such, we are postponing the annual meeting until late June or early July, in hope that Phase 1 and/or 2 reopening is under way within the entire State. Hopefully, we will have some updated information from OSAA by then as well.

We need to be thoughtful in our planning, and additional clarity in the guidance should be available by then. Currently, contact sports such as water polo are planned for a Phase 3 reopening. Limitations include: 3-weeks practice prior to games; No travel outside your immediate area (not defined); and, No spectators. This is assuming your swimming pool will be open. Due to indoor air quality of swimming pools, they are the last to reopen within the recommended phases with limitations.

Furthermore, due to the population density of the Portland metro area, all three counties are required to open simultaneously in Phase 1. Each must meet the minimum requirements before they may apply for approval, and currently are in varying stages. This impacts 19 of the 41 programs within the state, and may cause further scheduling issues.

At this time, we would like to ask the following of the membership:

1. Please update your teams known coaching and administrative contact information; [CLICK LINK HERE](https://1drv.ms/x/s!AuAmP-A83ZDGiS4V6ptmvu_qbuMl?e=oVP3xy)
2. Discuss with your local pool owner their plans for reopening; potential impacts, dates, etc. Place this information in the COVID-19 Column in the Team Directory link above.

There is no doubt that our season will be impacted by COVID-19. How much, that’s to be determined. But we remain committed to doing all we can. In the meantime, our sincere hopes are that you stay healthy and can keep navigating your way through these challenging times.

Respectively,

Oregon High School Water Polo Committee