



February 1, 2021 update from Bend-La Pine Middle School Athletics/Activities:

As we are within sight of the end of the first semester of the school year, and are quickly approaching middle school athletic seasons and hybrid in-person learning, we wanted to provide an update in the development of athletics in our district. With COVID-19 presenting many challenges, Bend-La Pine Schools remain committed to providing access and opportunity for student athletes in middle schools. With our schools transitioning to hybrid in-person instruction those challenges will continue.

Bend-La Pine middle school seasons have traditionally followed our high school seasons in years past. With the OSAA adjusting high school seasons into shortened time frames at various times of the year our regular middle school athletic seasons have adjusted as well.

COVID guidelines will continue to present many challenges with many of our sport offerings. Our ability to offer full contact sports, transportation, large team sizes, events in traditional form, hybrid school schedules, weather, etc. will be affected. We will definitely place priority for competitions to be held completely within our school district, and in very creative forms. The ever-changing landscape of academics and athletics in our state and district will continue to evolve as guidance around these issues are updated. With the safety of our athletes, coaches, and families being our number one priority, we will continue to adjust accordingly to guidance around the challenges we continue to face.

### **Below are a few updates:**

#### **Pay to Play:**

Bend-La Pine Schools have suspended all pay to play fees for athletics and activities at both the middle and high school levels for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. We will not be charging fees. These fees will be reinstated fall of 2021.

#### **Spectators at events:**

Bend-La Pine will move forward in Season 2 with no spectators allowed at middle or high school events. This will be continually re-evaluated as we progress through our seasons and improvement is made with case counts and a successful return to in person instruction. The next evaluation of this will be mid-March.



**Recommendations for Non-Essential Travel:**

Oregon continues to be under a non-mandatory travel recommendation. The incidence of COVID-19 is increasing in many states and countries. Persons arriving in Oregon from other states, or residents of Oregon returning from other states or countries, could increase the risk of COVID-19 spread. In addition, travel itself can be a risk for exposure to COVID-19, particularly travel through shared conveyance such as air, bus or rail travel. Avoiding travel can reduce the risk of virus transmission and bringing the virus back to Oregon.

**To the extent possible persons arriving in Oregon from other states or countries for non-essential travel, including returning Oregon residents, and athletes traveling out of state to or from recreational sport activities, should but are not required to:**

- Practice self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival
- Limit their interactions to their immediate household

While a 14-day quarantine is the safest option to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others, those who have traveled to Oregon or back home to Oregon may consider ending quarantine early **if they have not had any symptoms**

- After 10 days, without any testing

**OR**

- After 7 days, if they have had a negative result by an antigen or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test within the 48 hours before ending quarantine.

**Residents of Oregon should, but are not required to:**

- Stay home or in their region and avoid non-essential travel to other states or countries.

We continue to move the needle in the right direction with in-person instruction and educational based athletics beginning soon, help us continue this trend.

We hope this update provides a bit more information and clarity as seasons are quickly approaching. There are still many hurdles for upcoming seasons and we will do our best to keep everyone up to date with the pertinent information. Thank you for sharing your athlete with us and if you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact your school's athletic director.

Dave Williams  
Bend-La Pine Schools Athletic Director