

January 5, 2020

**Oregon High School
Equestrian Teams, Inc.**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Athletes, Coaches, their Families, Vendors, and Interested Parties

FROM: Oregon High School Equestrian Teams
Candi Bothum, State Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CB", is written over the printed name "Candi Bothum, State Chair".

Hello Everyone – Welcome to 2021...

As many know, the OHSET State Board met last night to make a determination about a 2021, May State Championship. In brief, we will not be holding a state championship or PNWIC this year. I know we said we would wait until February to make a final decision about a potential June State Championship, but we need to allow people to plan, if there is opportunity for competition, it will be at the more local level.

This decision was made with significant thought, consideration and finally much disappointment. Nobody, more than your State Board, wants the State Championship to happen. AND, we have to maintain our relationships with schools, follow Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidelines, and be responsible to keep athletes, volunteers and their families as safe as possible. All of this helps to ensure a strong future for OHSET. Frankly, I have to keep reminding myself – this pandemic is a temporary situation – lives as we know them will return and we'll be so very excited to be at the State Championship and PNWIC – for graduating seniors the level of frustration and dissatisfaction will likely be more severe; we are so very sorry to all.

This all brings about additional questions...

- Districts will continue to have the autonomy to make district meet decisions; when and where to have meets, is it responsible, can they afford it with the athletes who participate, does it meet OHA guidelines, what is the fee structure if teams just practice together, have a chance to compete, etc.. Want a say? Attend your district meetings.
- College Scholarships will be available, but you will need to be a registered and active athlete – whatever that means in your area.

- First Year Scholarships will be available if you get the opportunity to compete.
 - Apply now, if you are a registered athlete. If you compete it will be applied to fees incurred. If you do not register this year and you register next year for the first time, you will be eligible to apply then.
- Raffle Tickets should still be sold – all proceeds (minus the cost of the vacation, tickets, and related postage) will be returned to the District. Your district has, by now, developed a written policy how those dollars will be utilized; whether dollars benefit district or teams. Please sell tickets, we'll need these dollars to keep moving forward and be sure we can continue to provide OHSET at a reasonable cost. As always, if you take tickets, you are responsible for their value. Consider: drop off and pick up sites, sell via social media, Venmo can be your friend.
- AYHC Symposium is still happening this year – it's a virtual format, and we have budgeted dollars for athletes to participate. Registered athletes can apply for funds to participate in the conference.
- You may practice as a team; depending on what your Governor/OHA "designation is" (information below), **and** your school's approval: outdoors (Could be covered, but must have 75% of the sides open) (Extreme designation), Indoor if you are in High (or lower) designation, but VERY limited numbers. For team meetings, I suggest Microsoft Teams or ZOOM... for other team activities, follow your local and OHA guidelines.

Yes, I know this stinks and it stinks LARGE! But maybe, just maybe by May or June, we'll be able to meet the Lower Risk category by a majority of teams and some kind of a district event can be held. I encourage you to try and keep teams going in some way... creative fundraisers, selling raffle tickets, a few practicing at a time, just hangin' out via ZOOM or outside, etc. I know it feels a bit empty when the high level of competition isn't available, but if you practice at home, create good relationships with your coach and teammates, just think how much fun next year's events will be.

The metrics below hold for 2 weeks minimum and can't go down more than one level every two weeks, and with numbers on the rise, especially in urban areas, we just can't see a way to make this all work in our time frame. However, a few districts may be able to make it work – hopefully, this gives opportunity for that to happen. If you look at the requirements, you'll notice even under the lowest metric, we would struggle to hold the state meet – and if the urban areas are still in Extreme or High risk, we could not have them travel to a state meet location; right now, state contests just don't make sense within the boundaries that we must adhere.

Here are the current relative metrics that are creating the most challenge for us:

Activities	Lower Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Extreme Risk
Indoors Recreation & Fitness (includes gyms, indoor K-12 Sports, indoor collegiate sports, fitness organizations, indoor recreational sports, indoor pools)	Capacity: Maximum 50% occupancy	Capacity: Maximum 50% occupancy or 100 people total, whichever is smaller	Capacity: Maximum 25% occupancy or 50 people total whichever is smaller	Prohibited
Outdoor Recreation & Fitness (includes outdoor gyms, outdoor fitness organizations, outdoor K-12 Sports, outdoor collegiate sports, outdoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, outdoor parks and hiking trails**, outdoor campgrounds**)	Maximum 300 people	Maximum 150 people	Maximum 75 people	Maximum 50 people

