

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

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1929 NE Walnut Dr.  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541-419-6350  
[cbothum@ohset.com](mailto:cbothum@ohset.com)

[www.OHSET.com](http://www.OHSET.com)



October 23, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Associated with OHSET

FROM: Candi Bothum, State Chair & the State Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CB", written over the printed name of Candi Bothum.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this memorandum completely and thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate very difficult times for OHSET and its many athletes, volunteers, contractors, and vendors.

As you may be aware, we had a couple of meetings this week in order to develop COVID protocols, decision making time lines, and how to best proceed. Several things were decided, developed, and discussed. Here's what I know at this time:

1. **The OHSET Season will begin on December 1, 2020** (NOT November 1). This decision was made in an effort to bring the time frames closer together for schools who are able to practice versus those who are not.
2. **Districts are developing fee schedules** which should be flexible enough to pay general and meet related expenses once meet decisions can be confirmed. These schedules will be in writing and available soon. Remember, no one practices with out registration – in all cases, this will require some kind of minimum non-refundable fee.
3. **There will be NO state fee for 2020.** Whether we are able to provide a State Meet or not is undetermined at this time. Either way, Coastal and raffle sales have put us in a position to not have to charge a fee for this year – districts will consider this when developing their 2020.2021 fee structure.
4. **OHSET will continue to follow the lead of schools, Oregon Health Authorities, OSAA and local governance regarding COVID.** At this time, OSAA states NO indoor competitions until youth are allowed to be in some kind of in-person learning. Right now, the OHA and the Governor's office is taking another look at back to school guidelines. In brief, whatever your team decides, it **MUST** be approved by your school and follow all statewide COVID guidelines.
5. **Co-ops and Combined opportunities are NOT a way around your school's protocols.** If your school says no to practice, you may not combine with a team that allows practice in order to have practice opportunities. You will need to practice at home/barn on your own.

The **timeline for making decisions** the State Board is responsible for is as follows:

1. Districts have scheduled meets and will have the autonomy to develop their own time-line about meet decisions if it's allowed by the local governance and schools. This will be based on how many schools can participate, COVID guidelines, budget, and the ability to follow all COVID protocols and guidelines. OHSET guidelines will be required in order to mitigate exposure and keep everyone safe and comfortable.
2. Please hold two potential dates for the State Meet. On or near **January 5, 2021**, we will decide if the state meet will be held in May (6-9). If YES we will proceed, If NO, we will push the date by cancelling PNWIC and utilizing those dates (sort of); June 16-19, 2021.
3. On or around **February 5**, we will determine if a state meet is feasible at all, if NO, the June event will be cancelled. If YES, we will proceed in the planning process and hope no statewide changes require a cancellation.

It is possible, even likely, many districts will only have two district meets; whatever happens locally, we will work out how to select state meet qualifiers. Already, some decisions have been made to allow flexibility in deadlines and other potential challenges. We are developing a document that will include any rule exceptions for this season and it will be placed on our website before the season begins.

Bottom line is, we want athletes to be horseback, practicing with their team, as of December 1. We also know this won't be possible in all communities. We want competitions to resume, regionally first and statewide if possible. **AND** it's important for us to obey and respect the rules and guidelines of those whom we represent and the experts whom we have entrusted in our statewide decision making. Whether we agree or not, we will respect and follow their guidance.

OHSET COVID Guidelines are currently being sent to schools and facilities to be sure they meet their needs. Once approved, we will share on the website and with all teams and families.

All questions should be directed to your district leadership. If they don't have answers, they know the path to take so we can make well-informed decisions.