

October 7, 2020

What's the plan for OHSET?

I so wish I had an easy answer for this question. The truth is, I don't know. Here is what I do know...

We had an OHSET Board meeting earlier this week and it's clear the Board is strongly in favor of providing some kind of OHSET season. What that looks like depends on a variety of factors, including what COVID Phase your community is in, what your school expectations are, if crossing county lines is satisfactory to OSAA, OHA and the Governor's office. Here are some general questions we must ask ourselves...

- If we can't have district meets, do we still want to have in-person OHSET practices, so athletes can practice with their horses and teammates?
- If we can have district meets, but not state meets, would this be suitable?
- Shall we push our season out a month or two? Reduce district meets to 2 instead of 3?
- Start practice in November for those who can and let others start when they can?
- Create new district boundaries just for this year?
- Try something virtual

And so very much more. The Board and its representatives will be meeting on October 20 and 21 to develop the following:

- A timeline for decision making that takes into account the needs for planning for vendors, families, and volunteers – as well as the fluid nature of the pandemic
- Protocols for operating during COVID that may satisfy those concerned, schools, facilities, and guiding agencies in an effort to allow OHSET to move forward with in-person activities.
- When may practicing begin for teams who have permission from their schools
- What about fees, can/should we create a structure by which fees can be returned if district or state meets can't happen

And, again, a whole list of other necessary items.

Three other important things were decided at the Board meeting:

1. We **will** sell raffle tickets again this year and will start as early in November as is possible once tickets are purchased and process approved by the department of justice.
 - a. If we have a state meet and or statewide expenses related to OHSET opportunities, profit from the selling of these tickets will be split per our normal process, \$1 per ticket returned to the district where the athlete participates.

- b. If we find ourselves unable to provide a state meet or other equitable opportunity, all profit from these sales (income-cost of vacation, tickets, related postage, etc.) will be 100% returned to the district who was responsible for the sale of the tickets. As part of this process, districts are to be writing protocols now about how that returned money will be distributed. Meaning, will it stay with the district or be distributed back to teams or a hybrid process.
2. OHSET will provide our annual college scholarships in 2021; \$750 to a recipient in each of 8 districts.
3. OHSET will also provide dollars for first year scholarships; amount is yet undetermined, but will not be more than \$100 per individual – this will depend on budget availability and number of applicants.

More information on, or before, Monday, October 26.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of the letters 'C' and 'B' in a stylized, cursive font.

Candi Bothum
State Chair