



## REGIONAL CAUCUS MEETING

SHERATON PARKWAY CONFERENCE CENTER - Richmond Room  
Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> - 3:15pm & Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> -9:00am

### AGENDA / DISCUSSION TOPICS

#### Regions

|       |   |         |  |
|-------|---|---------|--|
| North | NWOSSAA, NEOAA, NOSSA<br>Chair – Tim Lowe, NOSSA      | West    | WOSSAA, SWOSSAA, CWOSSA<br>Chair – Michele Van Barga, WOSSAA |
| South | SOSSA, GHAC, ROPSSAA<br>Chair – Rob Thompson, ROPSSAA | Central | GBSSA, LOSSA, YRAA<br>Chair – Shawn Morris, YRAA             |
| East  | EOSSAA, NCSSAA, COSSA<br>Chair – Linda de Jeu, COSSA  | Metro   | TDCAA, TDSSAA, CISAA<br>Chair – Patty Johnson TDCAA          |

***Each chair is asked to take notes so that he/she can report briefly to the Representatives' Council.***

**The following (3) topics are intended to gather feedback and information. Please be prepared to report back to the meeting on what was discussed in your region.**

### **1. OFSAA ADVOCACY**

The advocacy committee met by conference call in October and discussed the direction and strategies that could be employed when developing an advocacy plan for OFSAA moving forward. The committee suggested issues such as:

- Funding
- Coaching Education
- Supporting young coaches
- Support for athletic directors – through CIAAA

**1. When developing a frame of reference that the Advocacy Committee can focus on, and to develop strategies to move forward to advocate for specific initiatives, what key issue for high school sport should the Committee focus on? What suggestions for strategies does each caucus have?**

### **2. OFSAA TRANSGENDER POLICY**

**Currently OFSAA has a Transgender Participation Policy which is contained in the By-Laws Appendix IX which states:**

#### ***Definitions:***

**1. The following terms have these meanings in this document:**

- “Transgender” – Transgender refers to individuals who are born with the physical characteristics of one gender (male or female) but identify with the other gender.***
- “Transgender Female” – Someone who at birth had a male body, but who identifies as a female.***
- “Transgender Male” – Someone who at birth had a female body, but who identifies as a male.***
- “Gender reassignment” – A professionally-supervised program of treatment by a licensed physician, to change a person’s body to align with their gender identity, through hormone therapy and/or surgery as well as counseling.***

### **Purpose**

2. OFSAA believes in equal opportunity for all people to participate in school sport. In order to accommodate transgendered students, while at the same time balancing safety and fair competition for all students, a participation policy for eligibility has been developed for transgender students.

### **Eligibility Policy**

3. The following conditions will be used to determine a transgendered individual's eligibility to compete:

- a. Transgendered females, to compete on a girls' team, must submit documentation from the treating licensed physician to show that gender reassignment as defined in 1 d) above has been active and ongoing for at least one year.
- b. Transgendered males may participate on a male team as per OFSAA'S gender equity policy.

4. Any transgender person who is not undergoing gender reassignment will be deemed to be their birth gender for the purposes of sport eligibility. Birth gender is that which is specified on the person's birth certificate.

### **Application for Eligibility**

5. A transgender female is required to apply in order to be eligible to participate on a girls' team. The applicant will initiate the eligibility process by submitting documentation to their local athletic association which demonstrates that they have been undergoing active and ongoing gender reassignment treatments (see 1 d above) for at least one year. The local athletic association will decide each case based upon the documentation provided and may request additional information and or clarification.

OFSAA will recognize the decision of the local athletic associations.

This policy was developed a number of years ago and since that time, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and many school boards have updated their policies associated with transgender individuals.

In light of the changes initiated at the Ontario Human Rights Commission and many school boards, OFSAA's Transgender Participation Policy is need of revision. Please discuss the following questions:

1. What is the current Transgender Policy in your board and what changes are being considered in terms of participation in gender-segregated sports, inter-scholastic athletics and Health and Physical Education class activities?
2. What recommendations would your association propose to update OFSAA's Transgender Participation Policy in order to bring it in alignment with the Ontario Human Rights commission and School Board policies?

## **3. PREPARATORY PROGRAMS AND OFSAA**

OFSAA's Preparatory Team Committee met with the Transfer Committee in November to discuss the following issues:

1. **Parameters that define a 'school team'?**
  - Recognized as a school by the Ministry of Education and adheres to their policies?
  - Supervised/coached by a teacher?
  - Students eligible for local/OFSAA sport participation?
  - Other?
2. **"School" Team Scenarios**
  - a) **"Sport schools"** (e.g. Bill Crothers SS - eligible school team and ineligible Prep team).
    - Defined OFSAA rules for eligibility if they are a member school.
    - Prep team wants to participate in sanctioned events in the US but are ineligible.

- Several very small sport schools are now emerging (e.g. Prolific Prep in Sault Ste. Marie).
  - Members want the Prep team to be considered a non-school team?
  - Hockey schools (e.g. Hill Academy, non-member).
- b) Schools with 2 teams in the same sport** (e.g. Vaughan SS basketball - 1 eligible and 1 ineligible prep team)
- 1 team eligible to play in local league and eligible for OFSAA.
  - 1 team with some or all ineligible players.
  - Same school name for both teams creates confusion when applying for sanction for invitational events in US.
  - Prep teams from these schools are not eligible for sanctioned US invitational events as they are OFSAA member schools.
- c) “Non-School” Teams** (e.g. Lincoln Prep/Hamilton)
- some Boards are now making agreements with outside groups (e.g. Football North), use school name and possibly training facilities for a second team with ineligible athletes.
  - Clarkson SS has both Football North and Swim program run by outside groups.
  - Mississauga SS has Basketball program run by an outside group.
  - All students recruited to the closest school to the training facility (most are transfer students)
  - Team functions outside the school system: training, league play, coaches.
  - Not recognized by Ministry of Education as a school.
  - Do not consider themselves part of the club system; supported by OBA - club structure?
  - Athletes in most instances pay large sums of money to attend.
  - Receiving high profile exposure through television and tournaments.
  - OFSAA has no jurisdiction over these teams.

### 3. Issues and Concerns

- a) Member schools in violation of OFSAA Recruiting Policy**
- Students are actually recruited by the outside organization
- b) Sanctioning Policy for Out-of-Province Invitational Events**
- OFSAA sanction is required for OFSAA member schools attending invitational events in the US that are sanctioned by the host State and/or by NFHS.
  - Prep teams from member schools believe they can attend if they only play against other Prep schools but under our rules they are ineligible regardless of whom they play.
  - US Convenors often just want to showcase high profile athletes.
  - In some areas a US school team who plays against a non-sanctioned team may be disciplined when they return from the competition; banned from their league play.
- c) Transfer Issue**
- If a student that is ineligible for league play, plays on a school ‘Prep’ team, and then transfers to another high school the following year and applies under b(i) ‘did not play the sport’, are they eligible?
  - Outside teams are recruiting the top athletes from schools across the province, so what will be the long-term effects on our regular school programs?
  - The build-up of power house teams is the repeat of the reason for the introduction of the Transfer Policy.
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- d) Outside Leagues** (e.g. Ontario Scholastic Basketball Association)
- Some eligible school teams playing in these leagues and many ineligible Prep school teams.
  - Same coach for teams in school and outside league; drain on coaches/staff supervisors
  - Duplication of some players.
  - Effect on school leagues, tournaments? officials?

- Focus by some coaches seems to be more on ineligible team (only taking this team to US tournaments).

#### **4. Dealing with the Issues – Current Examples of Association Rules in Place**

- **TDCAA**

'If you have a 'Prep' team in your school, any player who has transferred into the school to play for the Prep team, will never be eligible to play for the school team even if the player becomes eligible after becoming a non-transfer'

- **ROPSSAA**

(i) Any athlete that has been recruited from out of their school boundary for the purpose of playing on a 'tournament only' or 'Prep/elite' team be ineligible for ROPSSAA and OFSAA competition for their entire secondary school athletic career at the school to which they have been recruited'

(ii) Once a student has transferred schools for the purpose of participating in a tournament/prep/elite team, where he/she does not compete in the school athletic program (whatever the specific title may be), defaults or stops for whatever reason and the student does not wish to return to their original school, the student will not be able to participate for a full year following the cancellation of the program.

(iii) Upon return to the home school, an athlete would have to qualify for ROPSSAA competition through the transfer and eligibility committee.

**With the increased number of preparatory programs within Ontario schools, please provide feedback to the following questions:**

- 1. What parameters define a school team?**
- 2. What effects on school teams has the introduction of a Preparatory programs created?**
- 3. How many Associations have schools with two teams, one eligible school team and one ineligible Prep team?**
- 4. How has the recruiting of athletes by non-school teams (e.g. Southwest Academy/London) affected the regular school programs?**
- 5. Do you have an Association regulation limiting the movement of students from a Prep program to an eligible school team? If, so, please describe. If not, what regulation would you create to address this issue?**