



April 18, 2024

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Oregon Legislators,

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2024.

The Oregon School Activities Association is a private, non-profit membership association made up of public and private high schools across Oregon. We are a non-partisan organization, and our mission is to provide opportunities for tens of thousands of Oregon students to annually participate in interscholastic athletics and activities, from football and track, to band and choir, to speech and debate, to cheer and dance.

The OSAA, under the guidance of our member schools, creates and implements policies that comply with federal and state laws, including laws that are intended to keep our students safe and free from discrimination. Over the years, legislative directives from Oregon legislators have prompted the OSAA to adopt rules and policies that incorporate those directives. Those range from laws designed to protect athletes from concussions, to laws that require procedures for addressing harassment and intimidation at interscholastic contests.

Oregon law has long prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (ORS Chapter 659A). In 2019, the Oregon Department of Education amended its rules to provide that "sexual orientation" was defined as including "gender identity." OAR 581-021-0045(1)(c). The Oregon Legislature likewise modified the definition of "sexual orientation" to include "gender identity."

In response, just over five years ago, the OSAA worked with the Oregon Department of Education to create a policy that was consistent with these legal protections given to students related to their gender identity, to help our member schools be in compliance with all legal requirements.

As the Executive Director of OSAA, I work with our member schools and legal counsel to establish rules, policies, and guidelines that follow the legislative directives of the Oregon Legislature. With regard to the track meet described in your letter, we believe that our policy and our member schools are in compliance with all applicable laws.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Weber".

Peter Weber
Executive Director