

## **OISRA Policies.**

### **Ski area indemnities and waivers:**

No official of the OISRA or of its affiliated member leagues and/or teams or coach or parent representative shall sign on behalf of members of the teams affiliated to the OISRA or its leagues any indemnity or waiver that would purport to remove the rights of any individual associated with the OISRA or its associated leagues and/or teams to seek redress through the courts. (refer attorney opinion 10-15-03 on OISRA & league files)

### **Participation in OISRA sanctioned events:**

Only students enrolled in public or private high schools under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Board of Education may participate in OISRA sanctioned events.

### **Infractions of School District regulations:**

The OISRA organization enforces OISRA rules and regulations, and local school districts enforce their school district rules which do not supersede nor conflict with OISRA rules and regulations.

The OISRA is not in the business of policing School District regulations or using them to decide the outcome of the State competition.

However following the conclusion of an event should a student be involved with an issue that contravenes his or her school district's rules or regulations, it shall be the duty of the student's school to address the issue and if they decree that part of the discipline be loss of status from the OISRA State championships, the OISRA will act accordingly.

### **Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct:**

Interscholastic activities are an integral part of the educational curriculum and experience. High school activities promote the character development of participants, enhance the educational mission and promote civility in society. Therefore, student-athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activities programs and events should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty, and responsibility. These values should be established as a priority among all OISRA member high schools.

It is the responsibility of each member high school to establish their own policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct. The administrators and

athletic directors will educate students, coaches, teachers and parents about these policies and uphold these codes of conduct.

Additionally, the OISRA Coaches Code of Ethics educates OISRA coaches about these fundamental values:

### **OISRA Coaches Code of Ethics**

The function of a coach is to educate students through participation in interscholastic competition. An interscholastic program should be designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success. Each student-athlete should be treated as though he or she were the coaches own, and his or her welfare should be uppermost at all times- Accordingly, the following guidelines for coaches have been adopted by the OISRA Board of Directors.

The coach shall be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the student-athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

The coach shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student— athletes, fellow coaches, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, the OISRA organization, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of controlled substance, including alcohol and tobacco abuse. The coach shall avoid the use of controlled substances, including alcohol and tobacco products when in contact with athletes.

The coach shall be knowledgeable of the OISRA Constitution, By-laws and Race Rules, and shall teach the Race Rules to his or her team members. The coach shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

The coach shall exert his or her influence to enhance sportsmanship by parents and spectators, both directly and by working closely with sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

The coach shall respect and support contest officials. The coach shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of fellow coaches, officials or players is unethical.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student-athletes special consideration.

A coach shall not scout opponents by any means other than those adopted by the OSAA.

### **OISRA Coaches and volunteers' responsibilities.**

It is recognized that coaches are responsible for the safety of the students on their team from time the team meets in the school approved meeting point-generally the parking lot- till they return there. It is recommended that the off loading of athletes other than at the designated release point be on the written instructions of the parents or guardians of the student. This written instruction should include the name of the adult that the student is to be released to, who must be over 21 years of age if vehicular transport is involved.

### **Releasing of student identification information:**

State and Federal law requires that student information considered to be "Education Records" be confidential. School district's will confirm what information comprises "Educational Records."

The information that the OISRA and teams request, and become holders of, contains such "confidential" information.

All coaches and parent representatives are required to make certain that only the team name, the members names, their gender and age, are on any rosters provided to ski areas and other organizations commercial or non commercial. No team rosters shall include any address or electronic communication information.

Should a ski area require more than the applicants name, gender and age on their individual indemnity release-forms, it is the parent's responsibility as to what further information they provide.

Names and addresses of state participants requested by photographers. Only the names and addresses of students that have not signed the non-disclosure clause on the OISRA indemnity and application form 1A shall be made available.

This information shall be released on the written understanding that it shall not be copied or shared with any other person or persons.

There will be a charge of \$100 for the providing of this information on one use mailing labels.

Forwarding of photographs to those students who signed the non-disclosure clause shall be by the secretary of the OISRA. Cost of postage shall be born by the photographer.

Any solicitations made to coaches or parent representatives for student information that may fall within the "Educational Records" description are to be referred to the executive of the respective divisions who shall act on them in accord with this policy.

### **OISRA Coach, Parents, Volunteer Can's and Cant's**

The OISRA was approved by the State Board of Education (Nov 7, 2001) as the governing body for high school ski racing competitions in the state of Oregon. The OISRA is required to act in accord with the Oregon Administrative Rules among which are: OARS-581-021-0034 Administration of Interscholastic Activities; 581-021-0035 Appeal of Ineligibility Decisions (<http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/rules/>).

It is recommended that you review this brief summary of some of our rules and regulations that can be pitfalls. It cannot be emphasized enough that we need be aware of school district regulations that are referred to here and in our By-laws.

"It shall be the responsibility of coaches, assistants and volunteers to be fully cognizant of their need to abide by their local school district rules and regulations for being involved with students and being insured. If you are unsure of your school district rules and regulations please contact your Athletic Director. It is also the responsibility of the head coach to monitor the academic performance of all team members to insure that they remain eligible to compete in OISRA sanctioned."  
**(OISRA By-laws Article VIII Registration, page 11)**

It follows that you are to be aware of conditions of association mandated by schools and school districts, and by your team's insurance carrier. Some additional conditions to be aware of; have a copy of each athletes OISRA form A1 and medical release forms with you whenever you are training or racing, also have a first aid kit with the team; gender association (when there must be a coach or assistant of each gender present if both genders are being coached); transport and driving restrictions (just who can drive a student to a ski team function?); use of school facilities (do you have permission from the school to use its facilities if you are a club sport and does your team insurance cover you when on school district property?) When as a coach are you responsible for the students in your care? Rule of thumb; "from school parking lot to school parking lot". Where and when can you release a student to a parent or somebody other than a registered coach? Another rule of thumb, "get it in writing from a parent if you are to release a student from your care, even to a parent before you return to original point of departure-school parking lot". Check with your schools administration on these policies.

As with all high school activities, the consumption of alcohol in the vicinity of an event, or in the presence of students is not acceptable and offenders if associated with a high school team should be reported by the event organizers to that high school. Also coaches' code of ethics C2 applies.

The Oregon State Board of Education has authorized the OISRA to provide ski racing for pupils attending public high school. The inclusion of non-public high schools in the program requires the non-public schools to align with public school practices. Regarding religious observances in public high schools; the general rule is that **no** non-public high school students (coach, parent, volunteer) can proselytize or lead any student or team prayers during a team activity. If you have any questions on this take them to your school administration so that you are fully aware of what is mandated by the state and acceptable to them.

**Student eligibility:** the OISRA has accepted the Oregon Schools Activities Association rulings as set out in Rule 8. Parents and coaches need pay particular attention to 8-4 regarding monetary compensation based on athletic performance, and the limits placed on non-monetary compensation based on athletic ability. (See OISRA rulebook Appendix II.) Any questions on this need be addressed to the Executive Board of the OISRA.

Some schools & school districts have regulations regarding sport teams participating in uniforms that are school specific. These school rules must be observed and care must be taken with wearing of uniforms promoting other organizations that may be outside school & school district regulations. Students may not participate in the name of their school team nor wear school uniforms at ski racing events that are not sanctioned by the OISRA if their school does not approve.

OISRA By-laws, Article V A.1, defines the participatory season and prohibits a coach from training students outside the designated participatory season.

All teams shall have a:

Team Policy Statement that includes the following as a minimum:

- a. Requirements for team/club membership
- b. Attendance requirements for training and races and consequences for not complying.
- c. Racer seeding policy" OISRA Combine By-laws Article VIII 6. page 11 also Article IX B. pages 12-13.

The process for appealing league or division executive committee decisions is set out in Article IV B of the OISRA By-laws. The decision on the appeal by the Executive Board is binding and final, except for hardship eligibility appeals which can be appealed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As a rule of thumb communications should follow this procedure:

- (1) Athlete or parent to coach
- (2) Coach to league representative,
- (3) League rep to Division (Alpine-Nordic) Executive Committee.
- (4) Only when all other avenues are exhausted shall appeals be made to the Executive Board.
- (5) Athletes, parents, or coaches should not make direct contact with members of the Executive Board, regarding issues that the Executive may be required to rule on.

All student eligibility issues, are processed with in accord with the OISRA ELIGIBILITY FLOW CHART, Appendix 1 rule 8 page 12

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