

OISRA Coach, Parents, Volunteer Can's and Cant's – summated from OISRA Policies.

The OISRA has been 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/>).

There are a number of can's and cant's that coaches, parents & volunteers need to be aware of. The following are items that can be basic pitfalls to new as well as long time coaches and parent reps, and it is recommended that you check them out. A more comprehensive list is in the rule book. **“Combined By-laws – OISRA Policies.”** It cannot be emphasized enough that all 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. If you are unsure of your school district requirements please contact your local Athletic Director.” **(OISRA By-laws Article III Section C)** Always have a copy of each athletes OISRA form A1 and medical release forms with you whenever you are training or racing.

It follows that you are to be aware of conditions of association mandated by the school district. If your team has its indemnity insurance provided by the Boy Scouts of America you also need be aware of their conditions. Make yourself fully aware of; **gender association** (when there must be a coach or assistant of each gender when 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?); **When as a coach will you be held responsible for the students in your care?** Rule of thumb; “from school car park to school car park”. Where and when can you release a student to a parent or somebody other than a registered coach? 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 car park”. **Check with your schools administration on these policies.**

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.

Regarding **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.

School & school districts have regulations regarding sport teams participating in uniforms that are school specific. These 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. OISRA By-laws, Article V A.1, defines the participatory season and prohibits a coach from training students outside the designated participatory season.

The process for appealing league or division executive committee decisions is set out in Article III 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 the following: (1) athlete or parent to coach (2) coach to league representative, (3) league rep to Division Executive Committee. (4) Appellant to the OISRA Executive Board, only when all other avenues exhausted. No athlete, parent, or coach should directly approach the Division Executive Committee, or the Executive Board.