

Sports

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Percentage rule hits a nerve



In its decision on the remand of Cascade's first appeal, the OSAA Executive Board stated that it traditionally does not grant emergency placement unless a school drops between seven and 10 percent in attendance from year to year. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL

OSAA admonished at Cascade appeals hearing

Bill Poehler Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILSONVILLE – When the Executive Board of the Oregon School Activities Association voted to deny Cascade High School's petition to be placed in the 4A classification to start the 2018-2022 time block, its given rationale was it usually doesn't grant such a request unless the school's enrollment has dropped 7 to 10 percent from one year to the next.

Nowhere in the OSAA's rules is such a percentage specified.

That was the argument that resonated most with hearing's officer W. Michael Gillette in Cascade's appeal hearing April 3 at the OSAA office.

"OSAA hasn't created it as a rule, which is a problem for you," said Gillette, a retired justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. "This really bothers me. That strikes me as probably impermissible."

Cascade's adjusted enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year was 687, which was used to move it up to the Class 5A Mid-Willamette Con-

ference with Central, Corvallis, Crescent Valley, Dallas, Lebanon, North Salem, Silverton, South Albany and West Albany – and also against McKay in football – starting in the fall.

But the Turner school separated its alternative school prior to this school year and its current adjusted enrollment is 643, 3.3 percent and 22 students below the 5A classification cutoff.

In its decision on the remand of Cascade's first appeal, the OSAA Executive Board stated that it traditionally does not grant emergency placement unless a school drops between seven and 10 percent in attendance from year to year.

"It's not a rule, but that's been used any time the board has considered a move in a time block," said Jonathan Radmacher, the attorney representing the OSAA.

Cascade principal Matt Thatcher was at every meeting of the OSAA's Classification and Districting Committee and Executive Board about redistricting.

"Never at any point was that 7 to 10 percent been brought up,"

Thatcher said. "That is not a rule at all."

Traditionally emergency placement – schools moving up or down a classification based on significant changes in enrollment – was only considered in the middle of a time block.

Cascade is being asked to be placed in the classification its current size affords starting in the beginning of the new time block.

In his opinion on Cascade's first appeal, Gillette said that the OSAA's Executive Board has the capacity to move Cascade to its current 4A classification at any point.

"The only thing I can describe is the OSAA took a look at the remand and took the narrowest view of it," Cascade superintendent Darin Drill said.

During the two previous redistricting appeals to the OSAA this year, it was never made clear what authority Gillette has.

In the previous Cascade appeal, he ordered the OSAA's Executive Board to give further consideration to placing Cascade in Class 4A.

And his denial of the Salem-Keiz-

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W. Michael Gillette,
Cascade's appeal hearing officer,
regarding OSAA's alleged percentage rule

er appeal was based upon whether the OSAA followed its procedures in coming up with its new districts.

Though Gillette's role as hearing's officer had been specified, the scope of his power had never been defined as they were the first appeals of their type.

"What authority do I have here?" Gillette asked of Radmacher. "Do I have the authority to put Cascade in the different league?"

"Yes, you do have that authority," Radmacher said.

Gillette said that he will try to have an answer to Cascade's appeal this week.

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'Monster Cookie' bike ride returns to Salem

Zach Urness Salem Statesman Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Salem's most popular bike ride is back for its 42nd year.

The Monster Cookie Metric Century Bicycle Ride will be held on April 29 this year and is currently open for registration.

The 62-mile route from Capitol Mall to Champoeg State Heritage Area and back is a spring tradition not only for Salem bikers but for riders across the Northwest as well.

The ride follows low-traffic back roads from downtown Salem to Champoeg, where riders stop to eat lunch before heading back. Some people end their ride at Champoeg, making for a shorter 34-mile day.

"I think what makes it popular is that it's just a fun ride; there's food and, of course, you get as many cookies as you want," said Hersch Sangster, president of Salem Bicycle Club, the group that

puts on the ride. "It's not a race – it's about getting out and having a good time."

To pre-register for the ride at \$25, go to salembicycleclub.org. Mail-in registration applications will be available at local bike shops. There will be 'day of' ride registration at \$35. Registration opens at 8 a.m.

"This is a recreational ride and is open to all bicyclists who agree to share the road with other users by riding safely, lawfully, and courteously," a news release said. "Each participant must wear a helmet that meets CPSC requirements."

Riders leave from the Capitol on their bikes for the Monster Cookie Metric Century Bicycle Ride in 2013. This year's ride will take place on April 29.

KOBBI R. BLAIRE/STATESMAN JOURNAL

