

# White Buffalos sports update

The Oregon Health Authority last week updated its mask guidance for non-contact sports. Outdoor sports include cross country, track and field, tennis, swimming, cheer and dance. The current guidance allows non-contact sports to remove masks during competition.

“We are revising the current guidance on the use of masks outdoor during com-

petition,” the Health Authority said in a statement.

“The guidance will allow people to take off face covering when competing in non-contact sports outdoors, and maintaining at least six feet of distance from others, and the other virus protective protocols.”

Although the masking exception allows athletes to take off face covering dur-

ing competition, the OHA says athletes will still be required to wear masks during practice. “The exception will not apply while training and conditioning for these sports. The exception will not apply before and after competing.”

### At Madras High School

Just a reminder to spectators, while Jefferson County remains in the High

covid risk category, home competitions or traveling competitions will not be allowing traveling spectators. For home competitions, the high-risk spectator capacity for outdoor facilities is 15 percent.

For track, baseball and softball, staff will continue to monitor the number of spectators that show up to watch competitions. If the number of spectators begins to creep upwards toward the maximum capacity at 15 percent, then staff will be-

gin to administer passes to future competitions.

Staff are continuing to ask home competition spectators to be responsible about their social distancing and wearing masks when on school property. So long as our county stays in high risk, concession stands are closed.

As the high risk level changes, staff will continue to reevaluate how spectators are able to participate in MHS athletic events. Regardless of the risk level, staff intends to continue live

streaming each of our home competitions throughout the rest of the athletic seasons.

Madras High School has completed its opt-in paperwork to begin indoor athletic events the week of May 10—this will be a week of practice; competitions start the week of May 16.

Season 4 sports include basketball, swimming and wrestling. These indoor sports require heavy guidelines and required waiver forms similar to those required of football.

# Despite drought, good water supply predicted for Columbia River

Drought plagues much of the West, but officials predict abundant water supplies this year for the Columbia River System.

Nick Bond, climatologist, said the Columbia system is in much better shape than, for instance, the Klamath Basin at the Oregon-California border.

According to an April report, snowpack in the Upper Columbia River Basin is 108-percent of normal for this time of year.

The water level at The Dalles Dam also looks good, according to Joye Redfield-Wilder, of the Washington State Department of Ecol-

ogy. That’s an important indicator for water allocations.

Bond said while it might seem strange that the Columbia River is getting more water while other areas are getting less, it makes sense according to current climate change models, which predict lower latitudes will experience increasing drought while higher latitudes will experience more extreme winter snowfalls.

He expects this trend to continue. “If anything, while other places are getting drier, the Columbia River overall may be getting more water in the future than in historical times,” he said.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is recruiting for a **Fishery Technician III**, Temporary, Full-time. There are three positions available. Location is Portland, The Dalles or Hood River. Starting salary range: \$41,893.00. Closing date: **May 19**. Employment application and full job announcement located [critfc.org](http://critfc.org)

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