

## **Guidelines on Productive Gatherings for #LetThemPlay**

*Please work with Commissioner Rick Dyer and Coach Jim Bosworth when you make plans for an event and plan to contact the media. We need their titles and presence in those interviews when discussing the “Let Them Play” movement.*

- **Check your location ahead of time.** Make sure it is adequate for the size of the group with respect to desired social distancing. Check with whomever owns the property that there are no events scheduled for your desired time period.
- **If required, get a permit.** Your right to peaceably assemble is guaranteed to you, HOWEVER: If you intend to use public space (city park, fields or government buildings), or use amplification, you may need a permit from the city/county. We lose support with our friends in local government if they are “surprised” by events that need planning for our own safety. Check with the city or county Parks and Recreation department, or message Julian Cordle in the Facebook group for help with this.
- **Contact local media at least 36-72 hours before the event.** Look for radio, newspaper and television news coverage. Locate the newsroom phone numbers or news tips hotline. Invite them out and make the case that we are showing support for youth athletes, and be respectful and helpful to reporters. Whenever possible, get cell phone numbers of reporters, photographers and news editors, and share your number with them so they can find you.
- **Prepare to demonstrate good social distancing.** We are making a case that these sports and activities can happen while supporting social distancing and safe COVID-19 practices, so we have to be great examples ourselves. If possible, have extra facemasks and hand sanitizer available and visible. Do not be afraid to ask each other to wear masks and separate for good social distancing for groups outside of the same household. As much as possible, any sports activity should demonstrate extra measures of precautions.
- **It’s about the kids.** Whenever you get the chance, put kids in the spotlight with news crews for interviews. Teenagers in high school sports work well getting the message out, but all kids can do well for our message. This includes photographers for newspapers. Make sure parents are OK with their child being on TV/newspaper.
- **Stay on message.** We want to get kids back into sports and activities. We want to do this safely with minimal risk. We are concerned about the mental, physical and social health crisis we are in for our kids. We are willing to help make a safe return to sports/activities happen. We want to have a conversation about the best way to do that for our kids. Please connect the newspaper/TV/radio contacts to Rick Dyer or Jim Bosworth in the Facebook group to help with interview themselves.
- **Positive signs!** As much as possible, reference our name “Let Them Play”. When possible, include less popular sports and non-sports activities (band, music and alternate activities).
- **Distance ourselves from negative messages.** So far, the support is all positive. We cannot control who shows up however, so if we find “troublemakers” or individuals that have negative messages on display, we must distance ourselves from that or deal with it directly (if you are comfortable with that) by asking to change the message. WE NEED POSITIVE! It’s about the kids!
- **Get it out on social media during the event.** Pictures and video are great ways to do that. Share it personally and to the Facebook group. Facebook, Twitter (use hashtags #LetThemPlay and #LetThemPlayOregon) and other platforms. ***Whenever possible, capture the joy of kids playing the sports they love.***
- **Be good citizens.** Stay positive, be friendly to passersby and any city officials you run into. ***Make sure we leave the area cleaner and better than we found it!***