

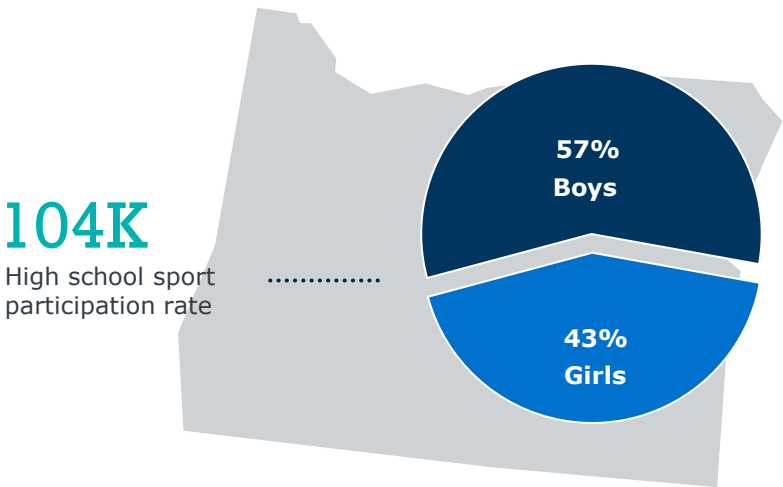
High School Sports Participation State Profile

State Profile: Oregon

Boys Account for Most High School Sport Participation

As of 2023-2024, the high school sports participation rate was 104,506 in Oregon. Mirroring the national trend, boys accounted for more than half of participation.

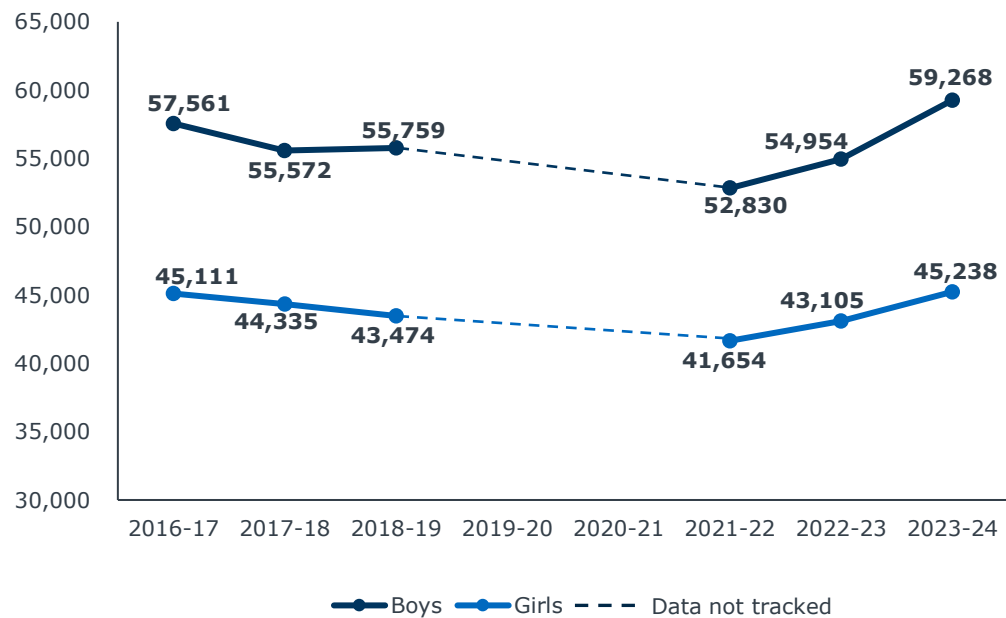
High School Sport Participation, Share of Girls v. Boys, 2023-24
n=104,506 (total participation)



Gap Between Boys, Girls Expands After Pandemic

Participation in high school sports is growing among boys and girls over the last eight years. Following the pandemic, the growth rate was faster among boys, increasing the gap in participation.

Change in Participation Rates, 2016-17 to 2023-24



Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

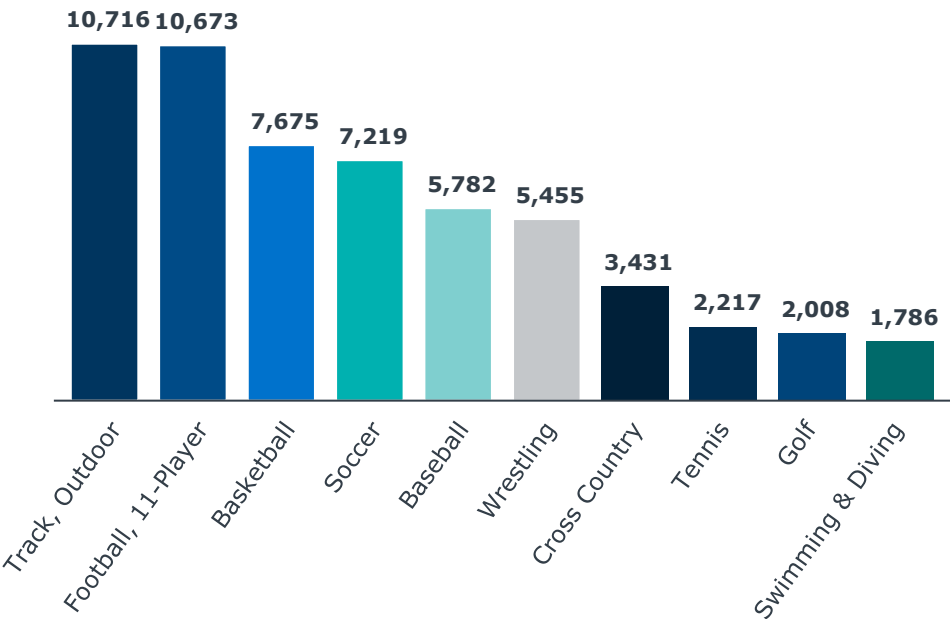
Top Boys' and Girls' Sports

Track Surpasses Football

Unlike most states, track and field was the biggest boys' sport as of 2023-2024. In contrast, the remaining top sports closely mirrored national trends.

Top 10 Boys' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024

n = 59,268 (boys' participation rate)

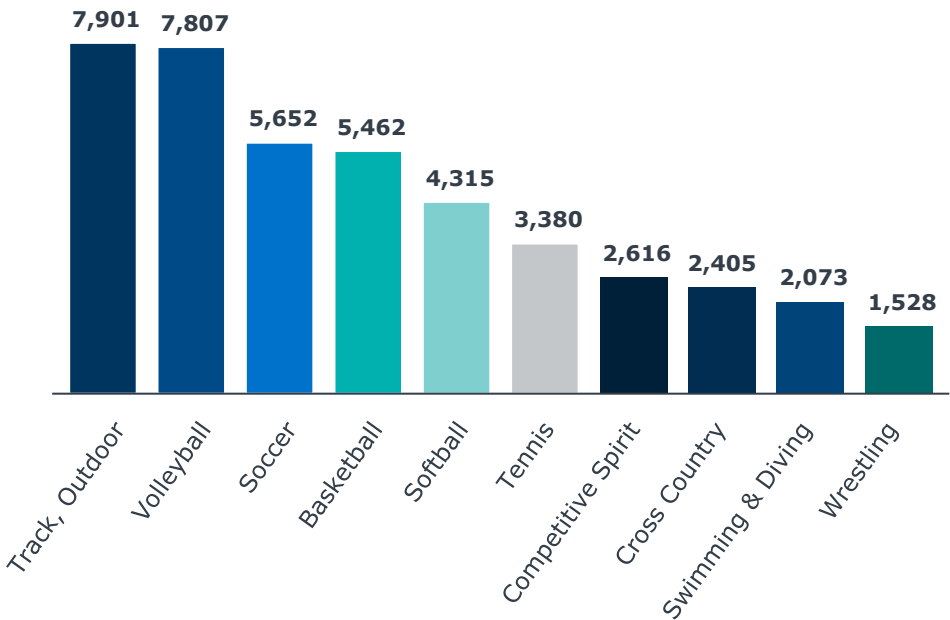


Wrestling Breaks Into Top 10 Sports

The top girls' sports in Oregon largely reflect national trends. The biggest deviation is wrestling, which was the 10th largest sport in the state and not in the top 10 nationally.

Top 10 Girls' Sports by Participation Rate, 2023-2024

n =45,238 (girls' participation rate)



Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Boys

Areas of Consistent Growth

Four sports grew both in the last year and across the last eight years. This trend may signal emerging and/or sustainable recruitment areas. They included:

- Golf
- Outdoor Track & Field
- Soccer
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight years among two sports.

- Football, 11-Player
- Swimming & Diving

Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of these declines may be attributed to growing specialization.

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Track & Field, Outdoor	10,716	9%	6%
Football, 11-Player	10,673	-0.4%	-12%
Basketball	7,675	1%	-1%
Soccer	7,219	6%	12%
Baseball	5,782	1%	-2%
Wrestling	5,455	84%	22%
Cross Country	3,431	0.2%	-14%
Tennis	2,217	1%	-2%
Golf	2,008	12%	31%
Swimming & Diving	1,786	-6%	-8%
Football, 9-player	882	-2%	N/A
Football, 6-player	760	75%	N/A
Football, 8-player	511	3%	-37%
Competitive Spirit	105	11%	-33%
Dance/Drill	48	153%	-47%

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

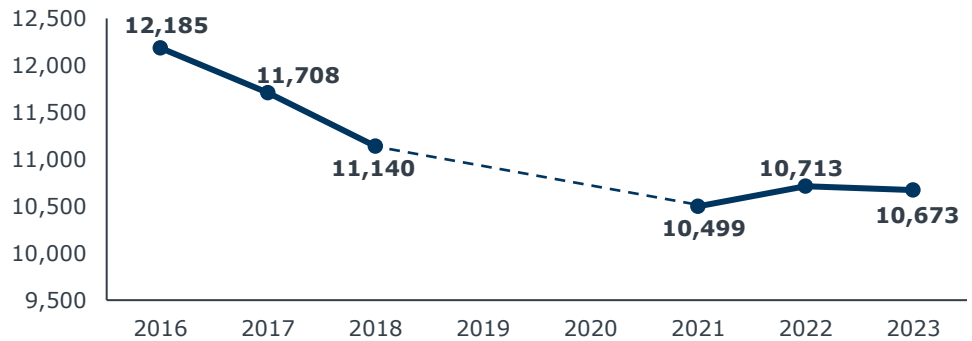
Boys

Biggest Sport

Football Still Down From Pre-Pandemic Decline

Participation in football decreased every year but one between 2016 and 2023, for a total decline of 12%.

Change in Boys' Football Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

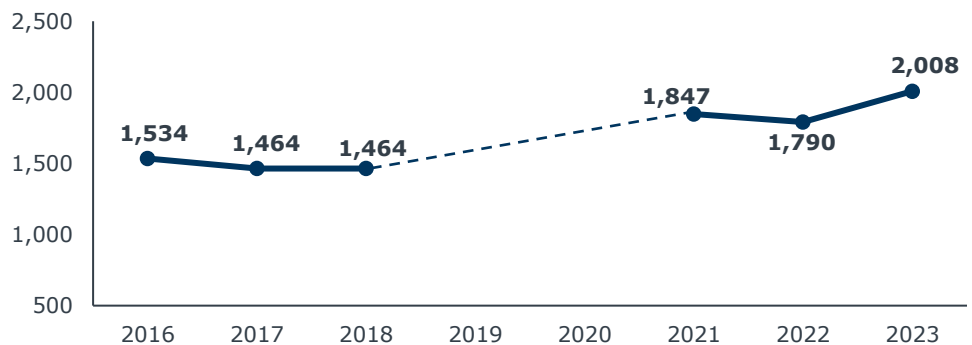


Fastest Growth

Golf Starts Growing After The Pandemic

Golf participation increased 31% between 2016 and 2023. All growth occurred after the pandemic.

Change in Boys' Golf Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

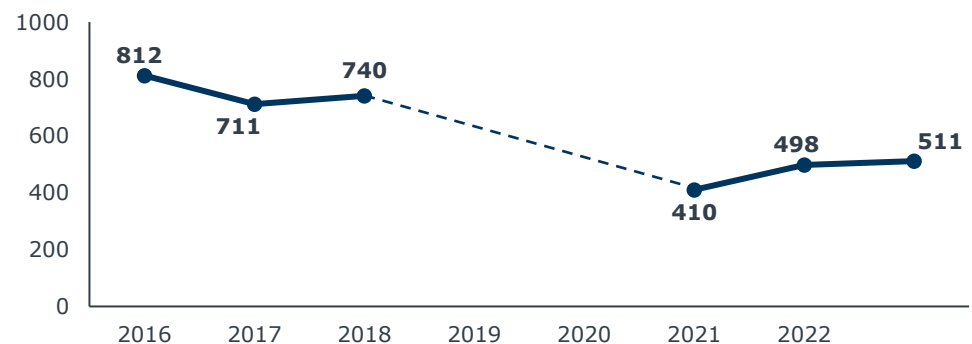


Largest Decline¹

Basketball Participation Stagnant After Sharp Drop

Participation in 8-player football decreased 37% between 2016 and 2023.

Change in Boys' 8-Player Football Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24



1) Excludes sports with fewer than 100 participants

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Short- and Long-Term Changes in Participation

Girls

Areas of Consistent Growth

Seven sports grew both in the last year and across the last eight years. This trend may signal emerging and/or sustainable recruitment areas. They included:

- Baseball
- Golf
- Outdoor Track & Field
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

Areas of Steady Decline

In comparison, participation fell in the last year and across the last eight years among four sports.

- Basketball
- Dance/Drill
- Football, 11-Player
- Swimming & Diving

Because the participation rate double counts multi-sport athletes, it is possible some of these declines may be attributed to growing specialization.

Sport	2023-2024 Participation	Change, 2022-23 to 2023-24	Change, 2016-17 to 2023-24
Track & Field, Outdoor	7,901	13%	4%
Volleyball	7,807	2%	10%
Soccer	5,652	5%	3%
Basketball	5,462	-0.5%	-8%
Softball	4,315	1%	-9%
Tennis	3,380	7%	10%
Competitive Spirit	2,616	0%	0.2%
Cross Country	2,405	5%	-24%
Swimming & Diving	2,073	-5%	-17%
Wrestling	1,528	72%	339%
Golf	1,114	6%	11%
Dance/Drill	970	-7%	-34%
Baseball	14	75%	250%
Football, 11-Player	1	-99%	-97%

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Biggest, Fastest Growth, Largest Decline

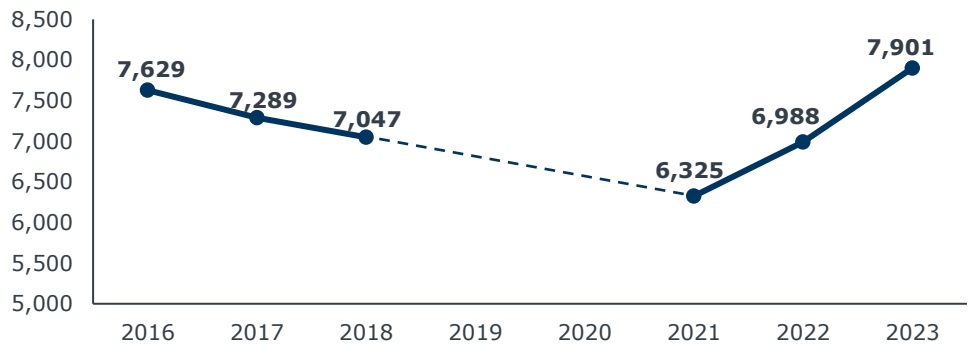
Girls

Biggest Sport

Track Recovers from Pandemic-Era Declines

Participation in track is up 4% since 2016, despite declining every year until 2021.

Change in Girls' Outdoor Track Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

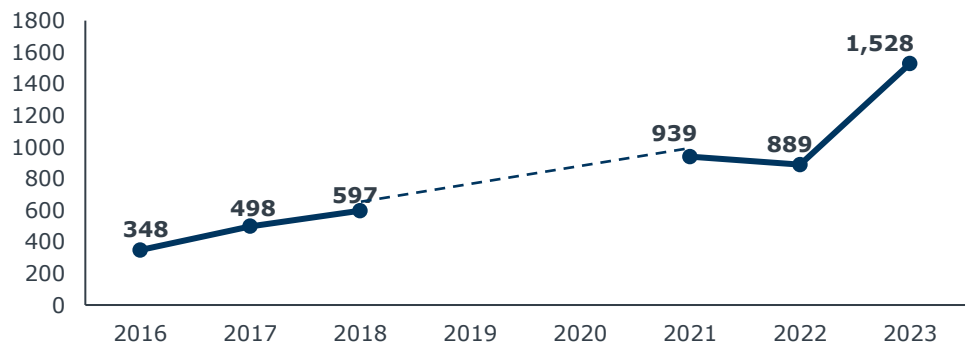


Fastest Growth

Wrestling Growing Fast Among Girls

Participation in wrestling increased 339% between 2016 and 2023, bring into the top 1-sports by 2023.

Change in Girls' Wrestling Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24

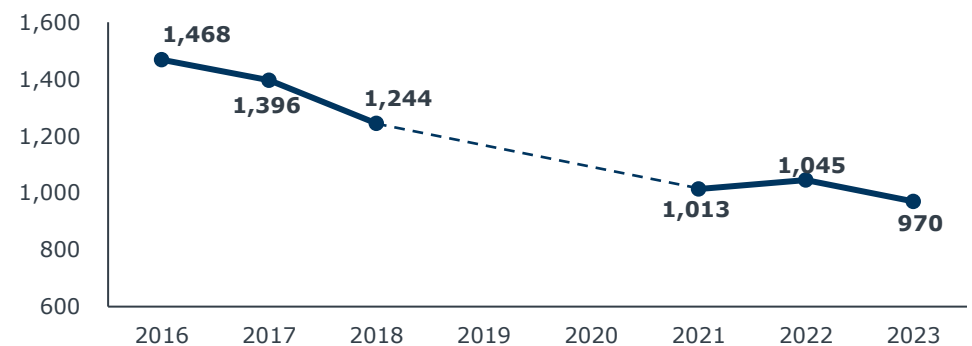


Largest Decline¹

Steady Decline in Dance

Participation in dance/drill fell every year but one between 2016 and 2023, for a total decline of 34%.

Change in Girls' Dance/Drill Participation, 2016-17 to 2023-24



1) Excludes sports with fewer than 100 participants

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation of State High School Association data.

Appendix: About the Data

Data in this report come from the National Federation of State High School Association's "[High School Athletics Participation Survey](#)."

Limitations of the Data

- The numbers cited in this report reflect the "participation rate." An individual who participated in two sports is counted twice, three sports – three times and so on.
- Participation rates are not adjusted for population changes.
- Most states exclude data from independent schools, unless they are part of the state league, which varies by state and sport.
- Data do not include club sport participation.
- Some states did not report data for all years included in the report. Meanwhile, others appear to have reported duplicate data in a few cases. These cases are called out in the report when applicable.

Definitions

"Adapted" refers to sports that are modified (e.g., rules, equipment) for special-needs students.

"Unified" refers to sports that are open to special-needs students but aren't adapted to meet their needs.

Appendix: National High School Sports Participation

2023-2024 Top 10 Sports in USA by Participation

Top Boys' Sports

1. Football – 11-Player	1,031,508
2. Track and Field – Outdoor	625,333
3. Basketball	536,668
4. Baseball	471,701
5. Soccer	467,483
6. Wrestling	291,874
7. Cross Country	239,874
8. Tennis	157,835
9. Golf	155,174
10. Swimming and Diving	116,799
Total Boys' Participation	4,638,785

Top Girls' Sports

1. Track and Field – Outdoor	506,015
2. Volleyball	479,125
3. Soccer	383,895
4. Basketball	367,284
5. Softball – Fast Pitch	345,451
6. Tennis	195,766
7. Cross Country	192,969
8. Competitive Spirit	181,023
9. Swimming and Diving	138,174
10. Lacrosse	101,204
Total Girls' Participation	3,423,517

Source: EAB analysis of National Federation
of State High School Association data.