

Athletics Updates related to COVID

February 4 Update:

WESCO Athletics 2020-2021

- 3 sports seasons
 - Fall sports: February 22-April 3
 - Spring sports: March 29-May 8
 - Winter sports: May 3-June 12
- Sports will move to other seasons or be cancelled if required by the Department of Health or District decision
- 3 season model give athletes chance to play all of their usual sports. Does not force them to choose between sports.
- Winter moved to May-June because most winter sports are high risk and indoors
- Football:
 - Starting in first season
 - DOH guidelines state high risk outdoor sports may proceed
 - Biggest concern is athlete time spent locker rooms
 - Locker room use will be highly limited and controlled
- Volleyball:
 - Starting first season
 - DOH guidelines state moderate risk indoor sports may proceed
 - HVAC system in each gym has been calibrated to exchange all air every 10 minutes per DOH guidelines
 - HVAC system designed to handle air for hundreds of people. Teams are far smaller
 - Masks, spacing, and sanitizing will be enforced
- All games will be played against other Wesco schools. No travel outside the league.
- Planning to live stream all contests in lieu of spectators
 - May allow one game for senior parents to attend. To be determined.
 - No student spectators

New Fall Sports Guidance			
Based on new state phase program; guidance provided by the department of health			
Sport	Risk/Location	Phase 1	Phase 2
Cross Country	Low/Outdoor	Practice and compete; no spectators	Practice and compete; up to 200 people at event, including spectators
Boys Tennis	Low/Outdoor	Practice and compete; no spectators	Practice and compete; up to 200 people at event, including spectators
Girls Swimming	Low/Indoor	Four swimmers/lane; pool deck limits	Four swimmers/lane; pool deck limits
Girls Soccer	Moderate/Outdoor	Practice only; no group restrictions; no competition	Practice and compete; up to 200 people at event, including spectators
Volleyball	Moderate/Indoor	Practice in groups of 6; 500 sq.ft. Per participant	Practice and compete; 25% occupancy or 200 people whichever is lower
Football	High/Outdoor	Practice in groups of 6	Practice and compete; up to 200 people at event, including spectators

On **Monday, February 1, 2021**, the Wesco ADs voted to offer all fall high school sports beginning Monday, February 22. These sports include volleyball, cross country, girls swimming, girls soccer, boys tennis, and football. This decision comes after reviewing guidance from the state Department of Health and in consultation with the superintendents of the league. Each school still has the autonomy to choose to not participate. Everett Public schools are able to move forward with the February 22 start date.

On **Tuesday, November 17, 2020**, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) announced a revision to previously altered high school sports seasons for the 2020-2021 school year. This approved revision also allows individual leagues to modify sport season offerings to meet local community restrictions and needs.

On **Wednesday, December 16, 2020**, the Western Conference (WESCO) athletic directors approved a proposal to reconfigure the sports seasons in a manner different from the WIAA. The proposal requires approval by the WIAA executive director and local superintendents. The WESCO proposal suggests offering traditional fall sports from Monday, February 22, 2021 through Saturday, April 3, 2021. Spring sports are proposed to be offered Monday, March 29, 2021 through Saturday, May 8, 2021. Finally, traditional winter sports are proposed to be offered Monday, May 3, 2021 through Saturday, June 12, 2021. Each season provides for one week of pre-competition practices and five weeks of competition.

Three weeks before the start of each sport season, WESCO athletic directors will evaluate whether each individual sport can be offered in relation to COVID data at the time and the risk level of the sport. If a sport cannot be offered, the sport may be moved to a different season or it could be cancelled. All efforts will be made to offer traditional spring sports because that sport season was cancelled in the spring of 2020. Each WESCO superintendent may choose whether his or her teams will participate in each sport each season.

On **Wednesday, January 6, 2021**, the WIAA executive board adopted a revised schedule that is very similar to the Wesco proposal. The WIAA plan will start fall sports on Monday, February 1. Wesco will maintain the proposed February 22 start date. Additionally, Governor Inslee released new guidance for the restart of indoor and outdoor athletics. These new guidelines will be considered with all decisions and recommendations.

Updated January 20, 2021