

Athletics Updates related to COVID

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.

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