

Athletics Administrative Report

Date: 1-19-2021

I have some better news for the BOE as far as sports are concerned. It is still heartbreaking for our athletes, coaches, and parents. The roller coaster of emotions has not been an enjoyable ride. Currently, we are not able to hold full contact practices or have any games for basketball and wrestling. This is due to the physical distancing protocol in effect from the MDHHS. The TCC member schools have met multiple times and have made all the necessary changes to the winter schedules for the league at this point. The winter schedule has been changed 4 times already with more changes to come. We are waiting for guidance from Governor Whitmer's office along with support to move forward from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with indoor, close contact sports. Our coaches have stayed in close contact with the athletes with communications and physically distanced practices. Our swim teams can start their practices on Tuesday, January 19th. Both Middle School and High School teams will start competition next week! We cannot wait to see our Eagles compete!

I have some answers to the multiple questions I posed last month.

1. Will middle school sports continue where they left off? *The Middle school boys' basketball teams were rescheduled to finish their season starting Feb. 1st with 4 additional games. The girls middle school basketball season will start on Feb. 3rd ending March 6th. The middle school wrestling season will last 5 weeks starting with competitions on 2-15 and ending 3-15. The middle school swim team started practice on 1/19 and will end their season on 2/11 with 4 scheduled swim meets.*
2. Will the high school sports that are allowed have fewer contest? *At this time, dates of competition were not reduced, however, it is impossible to secure all allowable dates within the time frame of the season start and end dates. For example, basketball is allowed 20 games, but you cannot play more than 5 games in a 14-day time frame from Feb 4th-March 21st.*
3. Will the schools that are allowing us to use their facilities for swim season continue to allow us if they are not moving forward with their seasons? Full Virtual/Remote learning with no students on campus? *We have been blessed with very kind and understanding neighboring schools who are letting us use their pool facilities while our pool is still under construction. I have worked closely with the administrators at Dundee Community Schools and Monroe High School to ensure our athletes have a place to practice for this year. I am grateful for the wonderful working relationships I have formed with local ADs. They were happy to help us out!*
4. Will the MDHHS allow indoor, close contact sports such as wrestling and basketball? *Currently, the answer is still no.*

5. Will the delay in winter sports affect the start of the spring sports season? *Currently, the answer is no. The winter season and spring season will overlap by a few weeks, but the start of spring will not be delayed (as of this board update 1/19/21-things can change)*
6. How will the TCC determine a championship in sponsored sports if there is limited number of games and teams have COVID-19 outbreaks? *We were able to vote on a percentage of league games played. Already this week, 2 schools have canceled workouts and the students are back to virtual learning due to COVID-19 outbreaks (Sand Creek and Morenci)*
7. How can we keep our student-athletes engaged and safe while we are on pause? *Our coaches are simply amazing. The kids are back and ready to go!*
8. How can we ensure that student-athletes are not participating in activities outside of the safety protocols of the MHSAA (wearing masks while participating in sports) at local gyms and facilities that do not follow safety guidelines? (This one is very frustrating to me) *We have learned that several facilities are allowing student athletes to use their facility to play basketball unmasked. When I speak to all my coaches, I ask that they do not support such facilities and discourage our athletes from participating in risky behavior with contact sports, unmasked.*

We are hearing that spectators will be limited to 100 total per event. That is 50 each school. More information will follow based on MDHHS as we get closer to games.

We are very excited to get our winter seasons up and running! Our athletic department and coaches appreciate the support and encouragement from the Board of Education. It has been a rough year for so many.