



SASKATCHEWAN HIGH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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SHSAA School Sport - COVID-19 Update

Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) believes that they provide the administrative format for all high school sport activities on behalf of the Members (boards of education, conseils scolaire, registered independent schools, and independent First Nation schools). With that in mind, the SHSAA Executive Council met August 12, 2020 to review current information related to the Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan, School Division Re-Opening Plans, the [Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#), current [Public Health Orders](#), Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) sport specific protocols for re-opening sport, and an extensive draft document that is being designed to assist those school divisions and schools that choose to include sport as part of the school re-opening process.

It was evident throughout the Executive discussions that the safety of school sport participants is paramount as is the opportunity for school divisions, schools, administration, staff, and students to make a focused transition during the return to school process. The Executive believe that a gradual and methodical approach to re-introducing school sport is warranted to assist the entire process of re-opening schools. A gradual return to school sport will allow teacher coaches and student athletes an opportunity to gain an understanding of, and become comfortable in, the new school environment while looking forward to a re-introduction of school sport. Although there are lessons learned and skills developed by students during competition, the Executive remain focused on the educational foundation of school sport and the need to support everyone involved in returning to schools this fall. As such, the seasons of play for the fall activities have been adjusted to the following:

| Activity | Season of Play |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Golf | September 8 – September 26, 2020 |
| Cross Country | September 14 – October 17, 2020 |
| Soccer | September 14 – October 31, 2020 |
| Football | September 14 – November 14, 2020 |
| Volleyball | September 14 – November 28, 2020 |

In addition, a number of stages for re-introduction of school sport were developed for the fall activities:

| Stage | Dates | Details |
|---|------------------|---|
| Stage 1 Promotion and education of school sport preparedness | September 1 – 13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promotion and education of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Public Health Orders and Sports and Activities Guidelines • SHSAA Return to Sport document • PSO return to sport protocols • Expectations for a return to school sport • Competition modifications ➤ Determine interest in school sport participation |
| Stage 2.1 Golf training and competition | September 8 – 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Registration of golf teams and students in ExNet ➤ School and District golf qualifying competitions ➤ Provincial golf championship event |

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| Stage 2.2 Athlete and activity preparedness | September 14 - 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Establish teams, mini-leagues, and plans for future competitions ➤ Registration of Cross Country, Soccer, Football, and Volleyball teams and students in ExNet ➤ Register mini-leagues with Districts ➤ Student athlete and team training in preparation for competition |
| Stage 3 Mini-league and Cross Country competitions | September 28 – end of sport specific season of play | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Competition can occur as per guidelines and registrations |
| Stage 4 Modified playoffs and championships | TBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dependent on current Public Health Orders and Sports and Activities Guidelines in Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan |
| Stage 5 Playoffs and championships (no modifications/restrictions) | TBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dependent on current Public Health Orders and Sports and Activities Guidelines in Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan |

Under the current [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) and [Public Health Orders](#), the SHSAA will be able to sanction modified competitions in all five of the fall activities but, at this time, will not be able to provide a playoff structure leading to provincial championships in soccer, football, or volleyball. Plans for modified provincial championships in Golf and Cross Country are being prepared for further examination by health and sport experts. Detailed plans for these championships, if approved, will be included in the SHSAA’s Return to School Sport document. As changes occur in the [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) and/or [Public Health Orders](#) the Executive will revisit the various stages at which school sport is occurring.

Edits to the final SHSAA Return to School Sport document will occur over the next number of days before being released to Members and Districts. The final details of the document, should serve as a multi-sport, one stop shop for Members, and will be finalized through consultations with a number of agencies including: SHSAA Members, the Education Response Planning Team, Saskatchewan Health Authority, and the Government Business Response Team.

The Executive wish to emphasize all current [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) from the [Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#) and the current [Public Health Orders](#) but in particular draw everyone’s attention to the following:

- Tournaments and interprovincial travel are not permitted.
- Large public and private gatherings – indoors and outdoors – are prohibited. Effective June 22, 2020, indoor gatherings of up to 30 are permitted where space allows for two metres of physical distancing between participants. Outdoor gatherings of up to 30 people are still permitted with appropriate physical distancing.

The Executive continues to appreciate the patience and understanding of the Members, schools, administration, staff, and students throughout this process.

Guidelines and sport specific plans for winter activities (basketball, curling, wrestling) and spring activities (badminton and track & field) will be developed and released as the school year progresses.

Sincerely,

Lyle McKellar
Executive Director, Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association

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