

Return to School Sport – FAQ (as of August 31, 2020)

The Return to School Sport FAQ is a living document which is updated regularly. Restrictions to help the spread of COVID-19 (provided by the Government of Saskatchewan [Public Health Orders](#), [Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan](#), [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#), [Saskatchewan Safe Schools Plan](#), [School Division Re-Opening plans](#), and sport specific return to play documents) are fluid and therefore adjustments to the SHSAA Return to School Sport document and FAQ will be made accordingly.

Contents

Why is the SHSAA providing guidelines for school sport during a pandemic?	2
Why has the start date for fall activities been delayed?	2
Why are there no interschool games until October 5th (Soccer), October 13th (Football), and October 19th (Volleyball)?	2
What is the maximum number of people that can participate at any one time?	2
What is the maximum number of people that we can have in our Mini-League?	2
What are the geographical considerations for the creation of a mini-league?	2
How do I register my teams, participating students, and coaches?	3
With Provincial Championships not being held in Golf, Cross-Country, Soccer, Football, and Volleyball, what will happen with the Provincial Host rotations?	3
Multi-Sport athletes	3
Why is Football limited to 6 aside and Soccer limited to 7 aside?	4
Regarding mini-leagues, who picks the teams I play against?	4
SHSAA schools have battled declining numbers of coaches, officials, and volunteers; some of the guidelines point to the need for more of these people. How is this going to be manageable and feasible?	4
I have a lot of questions about transportation....	4
Sanitization	5
Community coaches	5
Joint Sponsorship	5
Student Transfer Eligibility	5
Distance Learning Students	5
Tournaments and Inter-Provincial sanctioning	5
Spectators	5

Why is the SHSAA providing guidelines for school sport during a pandemic?

- The Government of Saskatchewan and Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO) have declared that extra-curricular at school can proceed while abiding by the current [Public Health Orders](#) and [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#). The SHSAA is providing parameters to promote consistency and safe implementation (seasons of play, stages of sport development, interpretations of Government documents) for schools/school divisions that choose to offer extra-curricular.

Why has the start date for fall activities been delayed?

- As a partner in the Education Sector, the SHSAA Executive Council want to cooperate with all partners to ensure a safe and effective transition into the new education environment that awaits students and staff. Delaying the start of the fall activities keeps SHSAA sanctioned activities as a viable option in the return to school process.
- The delayed start is offset by the fact that no schools will be eliminated through a playoff process during the season of play so all schools have the opportunity to remain engaged in competition until the last day for the season of play.

Why are there no interschool games until October 5th (Soccer), October 13th (Football), and October 19th (Volleyball)?

- Many students will not be returning to school (sport) in the same state (physically and mentally) that is typical at the start of a school year. Many have not been active for 6 months and will require time to train (both physically and mentally) prior to competition:
 - one of the guidelines to return to sport is to reduce the chance of injury during COVID-19; training prior to competition will assist in the reduction of injury.
 - See link: <https://sirc.ca/blog/psychological-implications-of-returning-to-sport/>

What is the maximum number of people that can participate at any one time?

- The current [Public Health Orders](#) limits public gatherings to 30 people; therefore, the number of players, coaches, officials, and volunteers needs to remain at 30 or less people during an event.

What is the maximum number of people that we can have in our Mini-League?

- The Government of Saskatchewan [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) limit the number of participants in a mini-league at 50; this includes players and coaches as well as any officials and volunteers that are not able to physically distance (2 meters).

What are the geographical considerations for the creation of a mini-league?

- The SHSAA has asked for clarification on a number of items related to the [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) published in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. Although the guidelines are applicable to, and can be interpreted for, club and community sport, the SHSAA has asked how they can be safely and effectively applied to school sport situations. This section will be updated when a response is received from the [Business Response Team](#).

How do I register my teams, participating students, and coaches?

- Schools conducting activity programs must register teams in the ExNet.
- Registration of teams and students in ExNet
 - E-3 Team Registration – Due October 2, 2020
 - E-5 Registration – Outdoor Activities (Cross Country, Football, Volleyball)
 - Due October 7 or prior to first competition
 - E-5 Registration – Indoor Activities (Volleyball)
 - Due October 21 or prior to first competition
- Schools may create more than one team per activity but all teams must be registered in the database in the following manner:
 - Utilize “Uniform Number” of E-5 to identify team of each student (ie. All students in team 1 would be assigned uniform number 1 for the sake of registration).
 - Additional Coach Information is used to list the coach of each team.
 - Multiple coaches may be required in a school to maximize opportunities for student athletes to be involved with an identifiable team (i.e. multiple teams per activity in a single school).
 - Coaching development supports can be facilitated to increase the coaching capacity at a school.

With Provincial Championships not being held in Golf, Cross-Country, Soccer, Football, and Volleyball, what will happen with the Provincial Host rotations?

- The Executive Council will make decisions regarding the provincial hosting rotations. There are two options available:
 - Maintain the current published hosting rotations for upcoming years.
 - This will be unfortunate for those that have lost an opportunity to host due to the pandemic but,
 - this will allow future hosts that were anticipating to host in a specific year the chance to continue their planning.
 - Adjust the provincial hosting rotations by one year in order to give those hosts who lost an opportunity due to the pandemic a chance to host in the upcoming year.
 - If a host chooses not to host in the upcoming year, the championship would be declared open and bids would be submitted to the Executive for their consideration.

Multi-Sport athletes

- SHSAA promotes multi-sport participation by student athletes through organizing seasons of play (fall, winter, spring).
- In order to reduce the number of contacts a student might have outside the curricular school day; the Executive passed a motion that adjusted the opportunities for student participation during the fall seasons of play: A student will be allowed to participate in one fall activity during concurrent seasons of play.
- Should one season of play conclude, students, at the discretion of their school, may join an active season of play
- Winter and spring activity participation is not currently impacted by the Executive decision for fall activities.
- Schools that create mini-leagues in multiple activities involving the same 50-person cohort may provide multiple sport opportunities for students.

Why is Football limited to 6 aside and Soccer limited to 7 aside?

- The current [Public Health Orders](#) limits public gatherings to 30 people; therefore, the number of players, coaches, officials, and volunteers needs to remain at 30 or less people.
- The Government of Saskatchewan [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#) limit the number of participants in a mini-league at 50; this includes players and coaches as well as any officials and volunteers that are not able to physically distance (2 meters).
- The recommendations to limit Football to 6 aside and Soccer to 7 aside allows more teams (students) to participate in a mini-league.
 - Schools will need to be creative in their approach to how the activity is conducted in order to maximize student opportunities and participation under the current [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#).
 - Individuals must realize that during the pandemic, there will be an opportunity for sport and competition but it is going to be much different and much simpler than what was the past “normal”.

Regarding mini-leagues, who picks the teams I play against?

- As in other years, schools can determine how they will construct their season of play but in the fall of 2020, the school will need to do so following the [Sports and Activities Guidelines](#).
 - School Divisions may impose restrictions on inter-school participation.
 - Whether the individual SHSAA Districts are involved in creating the mini-leagues or not, all mini-leagues will need to be registered with the District.
 - The District, in turn, will forward the mini-league information to the SHSAA office.

SHSAA schools have battled declining numbers of coaches, officials, and volunteers; some of the guidelines point to the need for more of these people. How is this going to be manageable and feasible?

- Competition restricted to a local geographical area is an opportunity to encourage more people to get involved in a coaching or officiating capacity in order to fulfill the need locally.
 - Much of the competitive opportunities that will exist can be viewed as recreational in nature as there will be no playoffs or championships available.
 - This will encourage a reduced emphasis on outcome and more focus on development
- A concerted effort by schools that are planning to offer teams will need to be made to recruit local individuals to coach and/or officiate.
- Coaching/Officiating PD support is available from the SHSAA through the District.

I have a lot of questions about transportation....

- Travel to and from a practice/event should follow guidelines set out by the sponsoring school or school division but it is recommended that:
 - each individual should attempt to provide their own transportation (i.e. parent transportation).
 - participants need to arrive in ‘uniform’ and ready to participate.

Sanitization

- Sanitization products and protocols will need to be provided by the school division and school hosting the event.
 - Visiting participants are encouraged to bring their own items for personal hygiene and sanitization
- Sanitization of the facility and equipment should occur between each group use and during planned breaks at a training session or competition.

Community coaches

- Application/approval will continue as per SHSAA Bylaws/Policies.
- School and School Division approval may be more stringent with mandates to reduce the number of people that enter the school facilities during the pandemic.

Joint Sponsorship

- All current joint sponsorships are suspended. Further clarification, including possible reinstatement of the joint sponsorship agreements, will be provided for SHSAA Members following a reply by the [Business Response Team](#) to SHSAA inquiries submitted August 18, 2020.
- Regardless, School Division and school approval may be more stringent with mandates to reduce the number of people that enter the school facilities and due to travel constraints.

Student Transfer Eligibility

- Since the availability of school sport opportunities may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the transfer of athletic eligibility for students will be carefully scrutinized and investigated to ensure that the motivation for school transfer is not related to participation in school sport. All transfer requests, including those that reference Parts 1 and 2 of Establishing Eligibility, will require substantial documentation to be submitted by the receiving school to demonstrate the reason for transfer meets the criteria of the Bylaw Eligibility to Represent School Teams. SHSAA member schools are reminded that students transferring from out of province must follow the SHSAA Transfer Policy prior to being allowed to participate in SHSAA school sport.

Distance Learning Students

- Some students may be choosing on-line educational delivery rather than attending during the school day.
 - School Divisions will determine if they will offer extra-curricular opportunities to those students not attending the physical school.
 - Should participation be allowed, the student will represent the school they are currently registered with in ExNet
 - For other distance learning situations, schools should complete form E-18 for submission to SHSAA office.

Tournaments and Inter-Provincial sanctioning

- Tournaments are not currently allowed
- Inter-provincial competition is not currently allowed

Spectators

- Spectators are discouraged from attending school sport events
- Schools are encouraged to provide live-streaming of school sport events