



SASKATCHEWAN HIGH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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TO: SHSAA Members

DATE: March 25, 2021

RE: SHSAA Spring Seasons of Play

School sport, and sport in general, await further updates to the pandemic response as it relates to the Sports and Activities Guidelines of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. These guidelines have changed very little since mid-November when competition was banned, and sport activities became limited to small group training opportunities. The race to vaccinate and increasing concern caused by new variants have made it difficult to determine what the spring might hold. Patience will continue to be important for all of us to see our way to a future that will provide us with the opportunities we long to have.

Amid the uncertainty, it is still important to allow SHSAA Members (School Divisions and Independent School Educational Authorities) to plan for potential sport opportunities in the spring. To assist Members in planning for a potential return to school sport this spring, the SHSAA Executive Council approved the following seasons of play for sanctioned SHSAA activities during the remainder of the 2020-21 school year:

- Track & Field: April 12 – June 11
 - Although the season was originally scheduled to begin on March 29, the Executive has chosen to move the start date until after schools have returned from the Easter Break and extend an additional week in June.
- Basketball: April 12 – May 14
 - The current SHSAA Basketball season concludes on March 27. Due to the lack of opportunity for basketball in most jurisdictions around the province, the Executive is allowing an additional period of time for schools to conduct basketball programming. Please note: The current season ends March 27 and the start up for the additional season is April 12.
- Badminton: April 12 – June 4
 - Badminton is currently in-season but due to limited opportunities in most jurisdictions, the season will be extended to June 4.
- Golf: April 12 – end of 2021-22 golf season
 - This is the traditional start to the SHSAA Golf activity season.
- Soccer: May 3 – May 28
 - The Executive is hopeful outdoor activities will be provided an opportunity this spring. Although some jurisdictions were able to provide a soccer experience in the fall, this additional season provides time for schools to work with student athletes in their soccer programs.
- Volleyball: May 17 – June 18
 - Many jurisdictions were not able to offer a volleyball experience in the fall. If conditions, public health measures, and Member approval allow for indoor activity (or outside), this

“The purpose of the SHSAA is to foster educational opportunities for all students through interschool sport.”



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additional season provides time for schools to work with student athletes in their volleyball programs.

- Football: May 17 – June 18
 - Many jurisdictions were not able to offer a football experience in the fall. If conditions, public health measures, and Member approval allow for contact sport, this additional season provides time for schools to work with student athletes in their football programs.

The Executive has attempted to provide a framework reducing overlap between seasons and some of the traditional sport transitions that occur within our student-athlete (and coaches) population. When there is an overlap of seasons, students will only be allowed to participate in one activity during concurrent seasons of play. Golf and Track & Field are not included in this limitation for student participation.

What will be allowed within the seasons of play will be dependent on updates to the Sports and Activities Guidelines of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan and the decision of SHSAA Members regarding the extent that extra-curricular and school sport will be implemented this spring. None of the seasons of play will culminate in SHSAA playoffs leading to a provincial championship.

As further updates occur to the Sports and Activities Guidelines of the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan, SHSAA will be available to assist Members with suggestions for a safe and effective means of implementing the spring seasons of play.

The seasons of play have been identified with the following in mind:

1. Students provided opportunity to become engaged with the many benefits of participation in school sport activities.
2. Allow a cost-effective way to have students re-enter the sport environment.
3. Staff provided opportunity to engage with students in extra-curricular settings which enhances the daily curricular interactions at the school.
4. Schools begin to re-establish an identity with school sport generating enthusiasm and excitement for the future.
5. Provide a framework to maximize student participation in a variety of activities and maintain a level playing field between schools/programs as activities transition into the fall.

Teacher-Coaches and student-athletes will require time and consideration during the re-introduction of school sport. Teacher-Coaches continue to face challenges as they provide a safe educational environment during the school day. Student-athletes will need to develop strategies to manage time effectively and prepare themselves, mentally and physical, for participation in school sport.

Sincerely,

Lyle McKellar
Executive Director, SHSAA