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Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Board of Directors; Amy Doherty; Bob Madison; Craig Perry; Erich Martens; Jason Nickleby; Jody Redman; John Millea; Laura Mackenthun; Lisa Lissimore; Rich Matter; Tim Leighton
Cc: rogeraronsonlaw@gmail.com; Kevin Beck
Subject: Return to Participation Document
Attachments: 20 - 8.4 BOD Return to Participation Information.docx



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To: Board of Directors
From: Erich Martens, Executive Director
Date: August 4, 2020
RE: Return to Participation Considerations and Potential Action

Given that Governor Walz issued an Executive Order 20-82 declaring that the return to learning would be a localized decision which would align with the current statistical situation and mitigation measures available in each district, the Minnesota Department of Education has provided the specific plan for returning to learning for the 2020-2021 school year, the Minnesota Department of Health has established Guidance for Youth Sports, the MSHSL Return to Participation Task Force has created multiple options for returning to participation, lead physicians from the MSHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee have reviewed these options and have supplied feedback, the full Board of Directors has reviewed the prepared options, and the Executive Committee of the MSHSL Board of Directors has reviewed all of the information presented at this time, the following are key considerations that should be included in any actions taken by the Board of Directors.

The MSHSL Board of Directors, in recognizing the risks that are associated with both fine arts and athletic opportunities as well as the benefits that participation in these same activities provides, should only consider a plan to move forward with the initiation of fall sports at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, with the following requirements as a minimum:

- All aspects of athletics including meetings, practices, competitions, transportation, and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health's Guidance on Youth Sports, and must include the required actions identified in the Governor's Executive Orders.
- Schools that choose to offer fall athletics (including cross country, soccer, girls swim and dive, and girls tennis) may begin practice on Monday, August 17th. For schools that are required by localized metrics to be in a distance learning mode, practices are limited to virtual contact only.
- Due to the high levels of risk involved in the sports of Football and Girls Volleyball, these sports will be delayed until a spring season. This will require the further development of flexed seasons through the winter and spring to provide opportunities for participation in multiple activities with minimal overlap of seasons.

- Return to Participation for Adapted Soccer will be addressed through collaborative planning with the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association and the MSHSL.
- Return to participation for all MSHSL Category II activities will be determined through activity specific planning and will be in alignment with the Return to Learning Plan provided by MDE.
- The first week of practice should focus on implementing effective protocols and routines for pre-participation screenings, effective social distancing, compliance with all health recommendations, establishment of pod limits of 25 or less, and additional actions that mitigate the spread of disease and enhance safety of students and coaches.
- Athletic programs must follow the identified protocols for students or coaches who have tested positive, are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 diagnosis, or have had exposure to an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The first day of competition is the later date of Monday, August 24th or the first possible date of competition as identified in the 500 series of MSHSL Bylaws per each activity.
- Interscholastic scrimmages will not be allowed.
- The number of teams will be limited to no more than 3 teams at any one meet or competition.
- Season length will be reduced to 80% or less of the limit identified in Bylaw 501.
- The number of competitions will be reduced to 70% or less of the limit identified in Bylaw 501.
- Competitions must be held with local opponents, defined as teams within a conference, district or section, or are identified as local by school administration.
- Competitions held with opponents from other states are required to meet the following:
 - Full compliance with all requirements of the MSHSL and MDH,
 - Opponents from other states may not exceed a distance greater than 75 miles from the Minnesota member school.

In addition to the information provided here, the MSHSL will provide additional sport specific guidance for each fall sport that will further identify any modifications and recommendations for both practice and competition in each sport.