



## **Spring Sports Operational Plan**

### **Executive Summary:**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return spring sports to intercollegiate athletic competition for the 2021 spring semester. This plan, requested by the SUNYAC Presidents, comes as the result of a comprehensive review of spring sports by the conference office, its 10 athletic directors and a collection of key institutional representatives over an extensive period of time.

The spring sports sponsored by the SUNYAC and under consideration for return under this plan are as follows:

- Baseball
- Lacrosse (Men's)
- Lacrosse (Women's)
- Softball
- Tennis (Women's)
- Track & Field - Outdoor (Men's & Women's)

The first part of the planning process was created by forming six individual sport committees to address the unique needs of the spring sports being considered for resumption. More than 50 institutional athletic administrators, conference staff members, head coaches, sports information directors, certified athletic trainers and assignors of officials served on these committees. They were tasked to pool their vast experience to develop plans that incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State, and the Department of Health.

Members represented the following areas of expertise on each committee:

- The SUNYAC Governing Body and Conference Office
- Head Coaches
- Assignors of Officials
- SUNYAC Championship Committee
- SUNYAC Finance Committee
- SUNYAC Education & Professional Development Committee
- SUNYAC SID Council
- Certified Athletic Trainer Council

The second part of this process involved identifying all the major components necessary for a safe return to competition and providing a detailed analysis of each area. These component pieces and links to their more detailed, addendum documents, are as follows:

### **Conference Schedules**

- East-West divisional in nature roughly using Interstate 81 as the dividing line
- Constructed to reflect a reduction in travel and need for hotel accommodations
- Part of a carefully constructed master schedule that has established no more than one home conference event per day, reducing the impact on staff administering the contest and the number of off-campus individuals entering the campus at any given time
- Maintains flexibility if the need arises to reschedule contests
- The policy of non-conference scheduling remains at the discretion of the individual institution

Schedules for the following sports can be found at the end of the document:

- Master Home Date Schedule (No more than 1 conference contest scheduled on a campus per day)
- Baseball
- Lacrosse (Men's)
- Lacrosse (Women's)
- Softball
- Tennis (Women's)
- Track & Field (Men's & Women's) - The SUNYAC does not sponsor a track & field conference schedule; the SUNYAC sponsors a two-day track & field championship

### **Championships**

- The SUNYAC will conduct team championships at the conclusion of each conference sport (Details are explained in each sport-specific document)
- In planning for the spring conference championships, the SUNYAC has taken advantage of an anomaly in the NCAA Championship schedule this year to spread its championships over four weekends (Typically, all SUNYAC spring sport championships are conducted during the same weekend)
- In addition, women's tennis which yearly conducts its tennis championship indoors, will move its championship to an outdoor facility at Cortland and conduct the championship in one day – reducing costs of renting a facility as well as risk to indoor virus exposure
- The SUNYAC Track & Field Championships also will move to Cortland this year allowing institutions to benefit from reduced travel by competing at the most centrally-located venue in the conference.

### **Testing & Travel**

All of the SUNYAC spring sports, with the exception of women's tennis and outdoor track & field, are categorized as Intermediate Transmission Risk sports according to the NCAA's *Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition*, Second Edition (Pages 20-21). Women's tennis and outdoor track & field are categorized as Low Transmission Risk sports.

The decision by the SUNY System to test all students and campus personnel on a weekly basis strongly enhances the ability to conduct intercollegiate athletics safely and actually exceeds the testing recommendations by the NCAA. On Page 25 of the *Resocialization* document, the NCAA recommends the following:

- **Intermediate Risk Sports** - Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted
- **Low Risk Sports** - Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted
- **Travel** - If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions
- **Officials Testing** – Testing for officials is not recommended by the NCAA if they are masked and practice social distancing. The exception is umpires for baseball and softball who must be tested and masked (Pages 27-30)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

Although there are some sport-specific nuances for travel, the following overarching general procedures will be employed:

- The SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
  - Testing twice per week to account for changes and variances in schedules is recommended
  - Or, as an alternative, strategically testing twice per week to accommodate travel schedules is strongly recommended
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
  - Institutions will ensure that contracted or campus-owned vehicles are cleaned to department of health guidelines
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed
  - If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The contest will be immediately halted

### **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel

- Conference Office Personnel
- Assignors or Observers of Officials/Officials/Meet Managers/Timing Services
- Professional Scouts
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Game Protocol**

- All student-athletes must be masked until they enter the competition
  - Each individual sport plan defines the term *enter the competition*
- All coaches, officials and administrators must be masked
- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the start of their scheduled contest
- No handshakes
- No pre- or post-contest interaction with the opposing teams
- Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
- No group celebrations
- Only essential personnel are permitted in the competition area

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles

## **Facilities**

Each institution will submit a facility plan for the spring sports they sponsor in the SUNYAC. The conference office will post these plans on its website as a resource. The information will include, but is not limited to:

- Declaration that there is no locker room access for teams nor officials
- Plan for access to restrooms
- Availability of at least one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station for each team (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.



## **Baseball Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return baseball to competition during the 2021 spring semester. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Baseball Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State, and the Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Chair:** Jerry Fisk, Director of Athletics (Fredonia)
- **Baseball Coaches Committee Vice-Chair:** Thomas Seay, Head Coach (New Paltz)
- **Assignor of Officials:** Alex Skandalis
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Susan Hoffman, Associate Athletic Director (Brockport)
- **Finance Committee Representative:** Eric Summers, Associate Athletic Director (Oswego)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** Tracey Ranieri, Director of Athletics (Oneonta)
- **SID Council Representative:** Fran Elia, SID (Cortland)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Jason Pachter (Plattsburgh)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The 2021 Baseball Schedule was constructed to reduce travel, eliminate the need for overnight accommodations, cut expenses, and mitigate virus exposure. The schedule consists of the following principles:

- Two Divisions
  - **West Division** – Brockport, Fredonia, Oswego
  - **East Division** – Cortland, New Paltz, Oneonta, Plattsburgh

- Each team will play eight (8) conference doubleheaders for a total of 16 games mostly within its division
- A series of cross-divisional doubleheaders based on geography also will be contested
- All doubleheaders will be a 9-inning/7-inning format
- No other conference contests are scheduled that day for a campus when the team is playing at home
- **Schedule** begins **Tuesday, March 30**, and ends **Saturday, May 8**
- All changes in schedules, including those related to weather and positive Covid-19 delays, will be addressed through the SUNYAC Schedule Change Form and will follow the previously established procedure employed by the conference
- Non-conference contests are at the discretion of the institution

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Baseball Championship will consist of two Best-of-3 Semifinal Series that will be held **Saturday, May 15** and **Sunday, May 16 (if necessary)**. The Best-of-3 Championship Series will be held **Friday, May 21**, and **Saturday, May 22 (if necessary)**. The format will be as follows:

- The division winners, plus the next two teams with the best records, will advance to the championship
- #1 seeds will host the Best-of-3 Semifinal Series
  - If the next two teams are both #2 seeds in their divisions, then the teams will crossover
  - If three teams come from one division, then the teams will be seeded by record with the division winners occupying the first two seeds
- Semifinal winners will advance to the SUNYAC Championship
- The highest remaining seed will host the Championship Series
- Teams must complete 66% (11 of 16 games) of their conference schedule prior to the scheduled start of the conference championship tournament to be eligible
- If teams complete a different number of contests and meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, standings and seeding will be determined by conference winning percentage
- If teams do not complete their schedule but complete the same number of contests, meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, and are tied, standings and seeding will be determined by implementing the tiebreaker criteria
- Baseball Tiebreakers (for 2021 only)
  1. Tiebreaking Procedures - In the event of a tie in the standings, the following format will be used in descending order to determine seeding:
    - a. Standard application of tiebreakers
      - As each criterion is applied, teams will be separated from the top and the application of the criteria will begin again from the top if there are tied teams remaining
      - Division Champions shall be determined first
      - If top 2 teams in each division are the playoff teams, then playoff format defaults to #2 seeds crossing over to play #1 seeds
      - If more than 2 teams come from one Division:
        - Division Champion with the highest winning percentage shall be the #1 Seed
        - Division Champion with the lowest winning percentage shall be the #2 Seed

- When determining seeding for #3 and #4 seeds and all teams are within the same division:
  - Refer to: Two Teams (Determining Division Champion) criteria
  - Refer to: Three or More Teams (Determining Division Champion) criteria
- b. Two Teams (Determining Division Champion)
  - Head-to-head
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. common opponents within the division beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
    - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
  - Least number of runs allowed among tied teams in conference games
  - Least number of runs allowed in all conference games
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. all common conference opponents
  - Road winning percentage vs. divisional opponents
  - Road winning percentage in all conference games
  - Coin toss conducted by the conference office
- c. Three or More Teams (Determining Division Champion)
  - Head-to-head record among tied teams
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. common opponents beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
    - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
  - Least number of runs allowed among tied teams in conference games
  - Least number of runs allowed in all conference games.
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. all common conference opponents
  - Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
  - Road winning percentage vs. divisional opponents
  - Road winning percentage in all conference games
  - Coin toss conducted by the conference office

### **Determining #3 & #4 Seeds**

1. Two Teams (Interdivisional #3 & #4 Seeds)
  - *When teams are in same division, use Two Teams (Determining Division Champion)*
  - Head-to-head
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. common conference opponents
  - Least number of runs allowed among tied teams in conference games
  - Least number of runs allowed in all conference games
  - Road winning percentage vs. common conference opponents
  - Road winning percentage in all conference games
  - Coin toss conducted by the conference office
2. Three or More Teams (Interdivisional #3 & #4 Seeds)

- *When all teams are in same division, use Three or More Teams (Determining Division Champion)*
- *If a team is separated from the multi-team tiebreaker and the remaining teams all are located in the same division, use either the Two Teams or the Three or More Teams (Determining a Champion) criteria*
- Head-to-head record among tied teams
- Record (winning percentage) vs. common conference opponents
- Least number of runs allowed among tied teams in conference games
- Least number of runs allowed in all conference games
- Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
- Road winning percentage vs. common conference opponents
- Road winning percentage in all conference games
- Coin toss conducted by the conference office

### **Determining Overall #1 Seed and/or Championship Host**

1. Higher Seed will host championship regardless of Winning Percentage
2. If seeds are tied or overall #1 seed needs to be determined
  - Winning Percentage
  - Head-to-head
  - Record (winning percentage) vs. common conference opponents
  - Least number of runs allowed among tied teams in conference games
  - Least number of runs allowed in all conference games
  - Road winning percentage vs. common conference opponents
  - Road winning percentage in all conference games
  - Record vs. Teams .500 and above
  - Record vs. Teams Below .500
  - Coin toss conducted by the conference office

### **Testing & Travel**

Baseball is categorized as an Intermediate Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 21).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Intermediate Risk Sports (Page 25) include the following:

- Regular and postseason — Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%- 50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
- Testing for home plate umpires is required; testing for base umpires is not required as long as they remain masked and social distance (Page 27)



- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
- Testing twice per week to account for changes and variances in schedule is recommended
- Strategically testing twice per week to accommodate travel schedules is strongly recommended
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed
  - If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The contest will be immediately halted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Coordinator of Umpires/Umpires
- Professional Scouts
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Pre-Game Protocol**

The following pre-game protocols will be followed:

- All players, coaches, umpires and administrators must be masked
- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the first game
- One (1) hour pre-game preparation

- No on-field batting practice
- Team A hits in cages/Team B takes the field for throwing and defensive work
- After 25 minutes the teams switch
- No handshakes
- National Anthem – Teams will spread out in front of dugout/defense will take the field
- Introductions – Starters will be introduced while play begins - no formal lineup on the field
- Equipment
  - Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
  - Players will avoid the sharing of equipment
  - Players will avoid touching opponents' equipment
- One representative from SID staff will be designated to collect lineup cards from both coaches 30 minutes before the game at a location away from the student-athletes
- Pregame plate meeting led by the crew chief with the two head coaches will be conducted 10-feet apart while masked with no handshakes
- Site administrators should meet umpires and provide a secure area for umpires to conduct their pregame meeting

## **In-Game Protocol**

The following in-game protocols will be followed:

- No group celebrations
- Only essential personnel are permitted in the dugouts
- Players on the field, as well as batters and baserunners, are not mandated to wear a mask
- Mound visits by a coach should be conducted while social distancing and wearing a mask
  - Players who will participate in mound visits must be masked
  - It is recommended players put masks in their back pocket while on the field
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus
- Players should socially distance while in the dugout
- Food is permitted in the dugout under the following conditions:
  - Items must be prepackaged and individually wrapped
  - Items must be consumed outside of the dugout
  - No sharing of food or beverages
  - No sunflower seeds
  - Gum is permitted as long as chewing occurs while masked

## **Post-Game Protocol**

The following post-match protocol will be followed

- No post-match handshakes or interaction with the opposing team
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email
- Coaches are expected to encourage players to pick up their equipment and place all trash in the designated receptacles

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing)
  - The certified athletic trainer for the host institution will be designated as the point of contact for the site supervisor for the home team
  - The head coach of the visiting team will designate a point of contact for the site supervisor

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and should include the baseball complex. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility or portable restrooms
- A minimum of one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station in each dugout (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- Field preparation plans before the first game and between the games of the doubleheader
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Umpiring**

The SUNYAC contracts with an assignor of umpires to staff all member-institution games. A designated representative from each institution as well as the conference office will be in daily contact with the assignor to ensure the availability of umpires and that NCAA, conference and institutional protocols are followed.

Because umpires rotate from behind the plate to the bases after each game, all umpires will need to provide documentation that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 and are not experiencing any unexplained symptoms. In addition, umpires will be expected to:

- Follow the guidelines provided by their assigning organization
- Wear masks at all times
- Physical distance from players, coaches, spectators, and other officials
- Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility
- Bring their own bottled water or marked water bottles

### **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and institutions are expected to be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with each other, as well as the conference office, no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled contest
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather



## **Men's Lacrosse Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return men's lacrosse to competition during the 2021 spring semester. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Men's Lacrosse Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State and the Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Chair:** Melissa LaMere, Assistant Athletic Director (Plattsburgh)
- **Men's Lacrosse Coaches Committee Representative:** Drew Bezek, Head Coach (Oswego)
- **Assignor of Officials:** Steve Miller
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Ryan Hooper, Associate Athletic Director (Oneonta)
- **Finance Committee Representative:** Mark Misiak, Director of Athletics (Potsdam)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** Courtney Wormuth, Associate Athletic Director (Cortland)
- **SID Council Representative:** Gil Burgmaster, SID (Brockport)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Angelo Zegarelli (Geneseo)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The 2021 Men's Lacrosse Schedule was constructed to reduce travel, eliminate the need for overnight accommodations, cut expenses, and mitigate virus exposure. The schedule consists of the following principles:

- Two Divisions
  - **West Division** – Brockport, Cortland, Geneseo, Oswego
  - **East Division** – New Paltz, Oneonta, Plattsburgh, Potsdam

- Each team will play six (6) conference games within its division in a home-and-home, double round-robin format
- No other conference contests are scheduled that day for a campus when the team is playing at home
- **Schedule** begins **Friday, March 26**, and ends **Friday, April 30**
- All games are scheduled once per week on Fridays
- All changes in schedules, including those related to weather and positive Covid-19 delays, will be addressed through the SUNYAC Schedule Change Form and will follow the previously established procedure employed by the conference
- Non-conference contests are at the discretion of the institution

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Men's Lacrosse Championship will begin on **Tuesday, May 4**, with a Semifinal Round followed by the Championship Game on **Friday, May 7**. The format will be as follows:

- Top 2 Teams in each division will advance to the championship
- #1 seeds will host the #2 seeds from the opposite division in the semifinals
- Semifinal winners will advance to the SUNYAC Championship
- The highest remaining seed will host the Championship
  - If the seeds are equal, the West Division will host the Championship Game based on the five-year championship formula (West leads 4-1)
- Championship Eligibility
  - Teams must complete 66% (4 games) of their conference schedule prior to the scheduled start of the conference championship tournament to be eligible
  - If teams complete a different number of contests and meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, standings and seeding will be determined by conference winning percentage
  - If teams do not complete their schedule but complete the same number of contests, meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, and are tied, standings and seeding will be determined by implementing the tiebreaker criteria
- Tiebreaking Procedures (for 2021 only) - In the event of a tie in the standings, the following format will be used in descending order to determine seeding:
  - Standard application of tiebreakers
    - As each criterion is applied, teams will be separated from the top and the application of the criteria will begin again from the top if there are tied teams remaining
  - Two or More Teams
    - Head-to-head record among tied teams
    - Goal differential among tied teams in conference games against each other with a maximum of six (6) goals per game.
    - Record vs. common conference opponent beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish. In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered.
    - Goal differential in conference games
    - Least goals allowed among tied teams in head-to-head conference games
    - Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
    - Road winning percentage in all conference games among tied teams

- Coin toss (conducted by conference office)

## **Testing & Travel**

Men's Lacrosse is categorized as an Intermediate Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 21).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Intermediate Risk Sports (Page 25) include the following:

- Regular and postseason — Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%- 50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
- Testing is not required for officials who wear masks and who follow social distancing protocols (Page 29)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
- Testing twice per week to account for changes and variances in schedule is recommended
- Strategically testing twice per week to accommodate travel schedules is strongly recommended
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed
  - If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The contest will be immediately halted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Coordinator of Umpires/Umpires
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Pre-Game Protocol**

The following pre-game protocols will be followed:

- All players, coaches, officials and administrators must be masked
- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the game
- Teams shall follow the NCAA Pre-Game Warmup protocol but must remain separated by at least 10 yards on the field (below the 45)
- No handshakes
- National Anthem – Teams will spread out along the sideline
- Introductions – Starters will be introduced while play begins
- Equipment
  - Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
  - Players will avoid the sharing of equipment
  - Players will avoid touching opponents' equipment
- Lineups will be provided 30 minutes before start time by texting a photo of the lineup card to a designated representative from the SID staff
- Site administrators should meet officials and provide a secure area for officials to conduct their pregame meeting
- No coaches' certification cards should be handed to coaches – all checks must be done verbally with six-foot distancing
- Players are not permitted to approach the officials or to request stick checks
- Head coaches are the only members of the staff who may interact with the officials

## **In-Game Protocol**

The following in-game protocols will be followed:

- No group celebrations
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the sidelines
- Players must be masked until they enter the game
- Players are not required to be masked while in the game
- Players should practice social distancing on the sideline
- Players should social distance while in the penalty area
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus
- Food is permitted on the sideline under the following conditions:
  - Items must be prepackaged and individually wrapped
  - Items must be consumed while social distancing
  - No sharing of food or beverages



- No sunflower seeds

## **Post-Game Protocol**

The following post-match protocol will be followed

- No post-match handshakes or interaction with the opposing team
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email
- Coaches are expected to encourage players to pick up their equipment and place all trash in the designated receptacles

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- Visiting teams are encouraged to travel with a Certified Athletic Trainer
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing)
  - The certified athletic trainers for both institutions will be designated as the point of contacts for the site supervisor
  - If the visiting team does not bring a certified athletic trainer, then the head coach will designate a point of contact for the site supervisor

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and should include the men's lacrosse complex. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility or portable restrooms
- A minimum of one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station located in each team area (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Officiating**

The SUNYAC contracts with an assignor of officials to staff all member-institution games. A designated representative from each institution as well as the conference office will be in daily contact with the assignor to ensure the availability of officials and that NCAA, conference and institutional protocols are followed. In addition:

- Officials must mask and practice social distancing while refereeing the game
- A game may start or be completed with two (2) officials
- Officials must bring their own bottled water or marked water bottles

## **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and institutions are expected to be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with each other, as well as the conference office, no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled contest
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather



## **Women's Lacrosse Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return women's lacrosse to competition during the 2021 spring semester. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Women's Lacrosse Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State, and Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Chair:** Daphne Thompson, SWA (Oneonta)
- **Women's Lacrosse Coaches Committee Representative:** Stephen Wagner, Head Coach (Brockport)
- **Assignor of Officials:** Mara Wager
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Tom Cranfield, Senior Associate Athletic Director (Cortland)
- **Finance Committee Representative:** Tom Koller, Officer in Charge of Athletics (Buffalo State)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** Jessica Seren, Interim Assistant Athletic Director (Geneseo)
- **SID Council Representative:** Brian Savard, SID (Plattsburgh)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Mike Pitts (Potsdam)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The 2021 Women's Lacrosse Schedule was constructed to reduce travel, eliminate the need for overnight accommodations, cut expenses, and mitigate virus exposure. The schedule consists of the following principles:

- Two Divisions
  - **West Division** – Brockport, Buffalo State, Fredonia, Geneseo, Oswego

- **East Division** – Cortland, New Paltz, Oneonta, Plattsburgh, Potsdam
- Each team will play eight (8) conference games within its division in a home-and-home, double round-robin format
- No other conference contests are scheduled for a campus that day when the team is playing at home
- **Schedule** begins **Saturday, March 20**, and ends **Saturday, April 24**
- All changes in schedules, including those related to weather and positive Covid-19 delays, will be addressed through the SUNYAC Schedule Change Form and will follow the previously established procedure employed by the conference
- Non-conference contests are at the discretion of the institution

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Women's Lacrosse Championship will begin on **Thursday, April 29**, with a Semifinal Round followed by the Championship Game on **Sunday, May 2**. The format will be as follows:

- Top 2 Teams in each division will advance to the championship
- #1 seeds will host the #2 seeds from the opposite division in the semifinals
- Semifinal winners will advance to the SUNYAC Championship
- The highest remaining seed will host the Championship
  - If the seeds are equal, the East Division will host the Championship Game based on the five-year championship formula (East leads 4-1)
- Teams must complete 66% (6 of 8 games) of their conference schedule prior to the scheduled start of the conference championship tournament to be eligible
- If teams complete a different number of contests and meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, standings and seeding will be determined by conference winning percentage
- If teams do not complete their schedule but complete the same number of contests, meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, and are tied, standings and seeding will be determined by implementing the tiebreaker criteria
- Tiebreaking Procedures - In the event of a tie in the standings, the following format will be used in descending order to determine seeding:
  - Standard application of tiebreakers
    - As each criterion is applied, teams will be separated from the top and the application of the criteria will begin again from the top if there are tied teams remaining
  - Two or More Teams
    - Head-to-head record among tied teams
    - Record vs. common opponents beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
      - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
    - Goal differential among tied teams in conference games against each other with a maximum of six (6) goals per game
    - Least goals allowed among tied teams in head-to-head conference games

- Total goals scored by each tied team in conference games against each other with a maximum of six (6) goals countable per game
- Goal differential in conference games
- Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
- Road winning percentage in all conference games among tied teams
- Coin toss (conducted by conference office)

## **Testing & Travel**

Women's Lacrosse is categorized as an Intermediate Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 20).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Intermediate Risk Sports (Page 25) include the following:

- Regular and postseason — Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%- 50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
- Testing is not required for officials who wear masks and who follow social distancing protocols (Page 29)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
- Testing twice per week to account for changes and variances in schedule is recommended
- Strategically testing twice per week to accommodate travel schedules is strongly recommended
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed

- If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
  - The contest will be immediately halted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Coordinator of officials/Officials
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Pre-Game Protocol**

The following pre-game protocols will be followed:

- All players, coaches, officials and administrators must be masked
- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the game
- No handshakes
- Introduction/National Anthem
  - Teams will spread out along the sideline
  - Starters will take their position on the field where they will be introduced
  - National Anthem will be played
- Equipment
  - Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
  - Players will avoid the sharing of equipment
  - Players will avoid touching opponents' equipment
- Lineups will be provided 30 minutes before start time by texting a photo of the lineup card to a designated representative from the SID staff
- Site administrators should meet officials and provide a secure area for officials to conduct their pregame meeting
- NCAA Waivers for 2021
  - **Substitution Box - Waiver to Rule 1, Sections 10-11**
    - The substitution box shall be split into two areas, each 1 yard away from the 50-yard line
    - The substitution box for each team will extend 1 yard into the team's bench area and into the space referred to previously as the penalty area
    - Players who have been issued a card will serve their penalty at the rear of their team's individual substitution box
    - The new substitution boxes must be marked by temporary spray paint, cones or pylons
  - **Team Bench - Waiver to Rule 1, Section 12**
    - The team bench area for each team will extend outward 10 additional yards toward the goal line extended

- **Stick Check - Waiver to Rule 2, Sections 6 and 7**
  - When the clock is at 0:00, teams must lay **all sticks** on the field and within the team bench area, at the 45-yard line closest to their team bench.
  - Officials will select 8 sticks per team to conduct a full inspection
  - The sticks will be examined at the table
- **Pre-Game Meeting (Head Coaches) - Waiver to Rule 3.2**
  - The pregame head coaches meeting that takes place with 10 minutes showing on the pregame clock will be limited to the head official and one head coach per team
  - As a reminder, at this meeting, the head coach for each team will verbally certify to the head official that all equipment is legal under the rules and meets the applicable standards required by the rules, including goalkeeper helmets, chest protectors, and other goalkeeper personal equipment, mouthpieces, eye protection, balls, and all other personal equipment
- **Pre-Game Meeting (Captains) - Waiver to Rule 3.6**
  - The pregame meeting that takes place between captains and officials with 5 minutes showing on the pregame clock will be limited to the head official and one captain per team

## **In-Game Protocol**

The following in-game protocols will be followed:

- Head coaches are the only members of the staff who may interact with the officials
- No group celebrations
- Only essential personnel are permitted on the sidelines
- Players must be masked until they enter the game
- Players should practice social distancing on the sideline
- Players should social distance while in the penalty area
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus

## **Post-Game Protocol**

The following post-match protocol will be followed

- No post-match handshakes or interaction with the opposing team
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email
- Coaches are expected to encourage players to pick up their equipment and place all trash in the designated receptacles

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- Visiting teams are encouraged to travel with a Certified Athletic Trainer

- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing)
  - The certified athletic trainer for the host institutions will be designated as the point of contact for the site supervisor
  - The head coach of the visiting team will designate a point of contact for the site supervisor

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and should include the men's lacrosse complex. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility or portable restrooms
- A minimum of one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station located in each team area (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Officiating**

The SUNYAC contracts with an assignor of officials to staff all member-institution games. A designated representative from each institution as well as the conference office will be in daily contact with the assignor to ensure the availability of officials and that NCAA, conference and institutional protocols are followed. In addition:

- Officials must mask and practice social distancing while refereeing the game
- Officials must bring their own bottled water or marked water bottles
- Prior to Game Day:
  - The Assignor should inform the officiating crew about COVID protocols required by the Host Institution/Conference



- This notification should be made to officials prior to game day
  - The Host Institution should inform the officiating crew information about arrival and meeting space, prior to game day.
- Communication with Officials Prior to Game Day and the Process for an Official to Report Sickness on or Before Game Day:
  - Officials should complete temperature checks the night before a game and the morning of a game
  - If an official gets sick, has symptoms, or has direct contact with a person with COVID, they should contact their assignor immediately; this will allow for the assignor to identify a replacement for the official
  - Officials may not ask players, coaches or team personnel to wear masks if it is not required by the school or conference
- Pre-game
  - Social distancing should be in place during the Captain's Meeting (with masks)
  - Social Distancing should be in place during the Coaches Meeting (with masks)
  - No handshakes should take place in either meeting.
- Post-game
  - Contact tracing post-game should be completed in the case anyone present tests positive and is in direct contact with a player, coach, team personnel or an official
  - If a team member, coach or official contracts COVID after the game all parties should be notified
  - Officials should be notified via the assignor who will be notified by the conference or the host institution
- Observations
  - CWLOA Observations will be done in person and through video streaming
  - Post-game Observation Conference will be completed via a ZOOM meeting within 48 hours of the game
  - Coaches and Officials will receive a communication about each Observation that has been completed

## **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and institutions are expected to be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with each other, as well as the conference office, no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled contest
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather (i.e., lightning, cold)



## **Softball Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return softball to competition during the 2021 spring semester. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Softball Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State and the Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Chair:** George Gagnier, Assistant Athletic Director (Geneseo)
- **Softball Coaches Committee Chair:** Bree Ferchen, Head Coach (Potsdam)
- **Assignor of Officials:** Kathie Graf
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Jeff Ventura, Associate Athletic Director (Buffalo State)
- **Finance Committee Representative:** Matt Giufre, Interim Director of Athletics (New Paltz)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** Dani Drews, Assistant Athletic Director (Brockport)
- **SID Council Representative:** Jerry Reilly, SID (Fredonia)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Bob O'Malley (Cortland)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The 2021 Softball Schedule was constructed to reduce travel, eliminate the need for overnight accommodations, cut expenses, and mitigate virus exposure. The schedule consists of the following principles:

- Two 5-Team Divisions
  - **West Division** – Brockport, Buffalo State, Fredonia, Geneseo, Oswego
  - **East Division** – Cortland, New Paltz, Oneonta, Plattsburgh, Potsdam

- Each team will play eight (8) conference doubleheaders for a total of 16 games within its division in a home-and-home, double round-robin format
- No other conference contests are scheduled that day for a campus when the team is playing at home
- **Schedule** begins **Thursday, April 1**, and ends **Saturday, May 1**
- All changes in schedules, including those related to weather and positive Covid-19 delays, will be addressed through the SUNYAC Schedule Change Form and will follow the previously established procedure employed by the conference
- Non-conference contests are at the discretion of the institution

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Softball Championship will begin on **Saturday, May 8**, with a Semifinal Series followed by a Championship Series on **Saturday, May 15**. The format will be as follows:

- Top 2 Teams in each division will advance to the championship
- #1 seeds will host the #2 seeds from the opposite division in a Best-of-3 Semifinal Series
- Semifinal winners will advance to the SUNYAC Championship
- The highest remaining seed will host the Championship Series
  - If the seeds are equal, the East Division will host the Championship Series based on the five-year championship formula (East leads 4-1)
- Teams must complete 66% (11 of 16 games) of their conference schedule prior to the scheduled start of the conference championship tournament to be eligible
- If teams complete a different number of contests and meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, standings and seeding will be determined by conference winning percentage
- If teams do not complete their schedule but complete the same number of contests, meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, and are tied, standings and seeding will be determined by implementing the tiebreaker criteria
- Tiebreaking Procedures - In the event of a tie in the standings, the following format will be used in descending order to determine seeding:
  - Standard application of tiebreakers
    - As each criterion is applied, teams will be separated from the top and the application of the criteria will begin again from the top if there are tied teams remaining
  - Two Teams
    - Head-to-head
    - Points earned vs. common conference opponents beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
      - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
    - Winning percentage vs. all common opponents
    - Run differential in conference games among tied teams (Maximum 8 runs per game)
    - Run differential in all conference games among tied teams (Maximum 8 runs per game)
    - Road winning percentage in all conference games among tied teams
    - Coin toss conducted by the conference
  - Three or More Teams
    - Head-to-head record among tied teams

- Points earned vs. common opponents beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
  - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
- Winning percentage vs. all common opponents
- Run differential in conference games among tied teams (Maximum 8 runs per game)
- Run differential in all conference games among tied teams (Maximum 8 runs per game)
- Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
- Road winning percentage in all conference games among tied teams
- Coin toss conducted by the conference

## **Testing & Travel**

Softball is categorized as an Intermediate Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 21).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Intermediate Risk Sports (Page 25) include the following:

- Regular and postseason — Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%- 50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
- Testing for home plate umpires is required; testing for base umpires is not required as long as they remain masked and social distance (Page 30)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
- Testing twice per week to account for changes and variances in schedule is recommended
- Strategically testing twice per week to accommodate travel schedules is strongly recommended
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus

- If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
  - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
  - The contest will be postponed
- If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
  - The contest will be immediately halted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Coordinator of Umpires/Umpires
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Pre-Game Protocol**

The following pre-game protocols will be followed:

- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the first game
- One (1) hour pre-game preparation
  - No on-field batting practice
  - Team A hits in cages/Team B takes the field for throwing and defensive work
  - After 25 minutes the teams switch
  - All teams have outdoor batting cages except Buffalo State
  - Buffalo State will submit a plan with its facility plan to address this specific situation
- No handshakes
- All players, coaches, officials and administrators will be masked
- National Anthem – Teams will spread out in front of dugout/defense will take the field
- Introductions – Starters will be introduced while play begins - no formal lineup on the field
- Equipment
  - Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
  - Players will avoid the sharing of equipment
  - Players will avoid touching opponents' equipment
- One representative from SID staff will be designated to collect lineup cards from both coaches 30 minutes before the game at a location away from the student-athletes
- Pregame plate meeting led by the crew chief with the two head coaches will be conducted 10-feet apart while masked with no handshakes

## **In-Game Protocol**

The following in-game protocols will be followed:

- No group celebrations
- Only essential personnel are permitted in the dugouts
- Players on the field, as well as batters and baserunners, are not mandated to wear a mask

- Mound visits by a coach should be conducted while social distancing and wearing a mask
  - Players who will participate in mound visits must be masked
  - It is recommended players put masks in their back pocket while on the field
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus
- Players should socially distance while in the dugout
- Food is permitted in the dugout under the following conditions:
  - Items must be prepackaged and individually wrapped
  - Items must be consumed outside of the dugout
  - No sharing of food or beverages
  - No sunflower seeds
  - Gum is permitted as long as chewing occurs while masked

## **Post-Game Protocol**

The following post-match protocol will be followed

- No post-match handshakes or interaction with the opposing team
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email
- Coaches are expected to encourage players to pick up their equipment and place all trash in the designated receptacles

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing)
  - The certified athletic trainer for the host institution will be designated as the point of contact for the site supervisor for the home team
  - The head coach of the visiting team will designate a point of contact for the site supervisor

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and should include the softball complex. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility or portable restrooms
- A minimum of one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station in each dugout (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- Field preparation plans before the first game and between the games of the doubleheader
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Umpiring**

The SUNYAC contracts with an assignor of umpires to staff all member-institution games. A designated representative from each institution as well as the conference office will be in daily contact with the assignor to ensure the availability of umpires and that NCAA, conference and institutional protocols are followed.

Because umpires rotate from behind the plate to the bases after each game, all umpires will need to provide documentation that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 and are not experiencing any unexplained symptoms. In addition, umpires will be expected to:

- Wear masks at all times
- Physical distance from players, coaches, spectators, and other officials
- Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility
- Bring their own bottled water or marked water bottles

## **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and institutions are expected to be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with each other, as well as the conference office, no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled contest
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather



## **Women's Tennis Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely return women's tennis to competition during the 2021 spring semester. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Women's Tennis Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State and the Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Athletic Directors Liaison:** Mike Mooney, Director of Athletics/Head Coach (Geneseo)
- **Women's Tennis Coaches Committee Chair:** Rob Bruley, Head Coach (New Paltz)
- **Assignor of Officials:** David Hanzes
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Cheryl Cole, Assistant Athletic Director (Plattsburgh)
- **Finance Committee Representative:** Erick Hart, Director of Athletics (Brockport)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** JJ Antoine, Assistant Athletic Director (Oswego)
- **Sports Information Director Council Representative:** Dan Surdam, Associate SID (Cortland)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Brandon Makres (Oneonta)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The 2021 Women's Tennis Schedule was constructed to reduce travel, eliminate the need for overnight accommodations, cut expenses, and mitigate virus exposure. The schedule consists of the following principles:

- Two 4-Team Divisions
  - **West Division** – Brockport, Fredonia, Geneseo, Oswego
  - **East Division** – Cortland, New Paltz, Oneonta, Plattsburgh



- Each team will play six (6) conference matches within its division in a home-and-home, double round-robin format
- No other conference contests are scheduled that day for a campus when the team is playing at home
- **Schedule** begins **Thursday, April 15**, and ends **Sunday, May 2**
- No individual exhibition matches are permitted
- All changes in schedules, including those related to weather and positive Covid-19 delays, will be addressed through the SUNYAC Schedule Change Form and will follow the previously established procedure employed by the conference
- Non-conference contests are at the discretion of the institution

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Women's Tennis Championship has been moved to a one-day, outdoor event that will be hosted by Cortland on **Thursday, May 6**. The format will be as follows:

- Top 2 Teams in each division will advance to the championship
- #1 seeds will play the #2 seeds from the opposite division in the Semifinals
- Semifinal winners will advance to the SUNYAC Championship
- Teams must complete 66% (4 of 6 matches) of their conference schedule prior to the scheduled start of the conference championship tournament to be eligible
- If teams complete a different number of contests and meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, standings and seeding will be determined by conference winning percentage
- If teams do not complete their schedule but complete the same number of contests, meet the 66% minimum for eligibility, and are tied, standings and seeding will be determined by implementing the tiebreaker criteria
- Tiebreaking Procedures - In the event of a tie in the standings, the following format will be used in descending order to determine seeding (As each criterion is applied, teams will be separated from the top and the application of the criteria will begin again from the top if there are tied teams remaining)
  - Head to Head
  - Most matches won head to head
  - Most games won head to head
  - Record vs. common opponent beginning with the top of the standings and comparing in descending order of finish
    - In the case of tied teams, the combined record vs. the tied teams will be considered
  - Road winning percentage in conference games among tied teams
  - Road winning percentage in all conference games among tied teams
  - Coin toss conducted by the conference office

## **Testing & Travel**

Women's Tennis is categorized as a Low Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 21).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Low Risk Sports (Page 24) include the following:

- Regular and postseason - Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competition
- Testing is not required for officials as long as they remain masked and social distance (Page 30)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing meets the recommendations of the NCAA
- 55-seat buses ensure physical distancing for women's tennis teams due to the small roster size
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- Travel party members will be assigned seats for the duration of the trip
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility
  - Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed
  - If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The contest will be immediately halted
- Indoor courts are not permitted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Officials
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Pre-Match Protocol**

The following pre-match protocols will be followed:

- Teams should arrive no sooner than 60 minutes before match time
- No handshakes
- Teams will bring their own equipment, including balls for warmup
  - Equipment will not be shared nor should it be touched by teammates or opponents
- Home team head coach will provide socially distanced introductions by calling out the court assignments at the start of the match

## **In-Match Protocol**

The following in-match protocol will be followed:

- No group celebrations
- Players must be masked before and after their match and anytime they leave the court
- Players must physical distance from their opponents, spectators, and the officials as much as possible
- Players must not shake hands with opponents before or after their match
- Players must place their tennis bags and change ends on opposite sides of the tennis court
- Players will be provided with one (1) can of new tennis balls
- Players from the home team shall be the only individuals to touch the scoring device
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus
- Players not competing must socially distance outside of the playing area
- All permitted personnel must be masked

## **Post-Match Protocol**

The following post-match protocol will be followed

- No post-match handshakes
- Players should touch the top end of the racquets at the end of the match to signify its conclusion
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email
- Coaches are expected to encourage players to pick up their tennis balls and belongings after their match

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers will be in contact with their counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the contest start time to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of one (1) Certified Athletic Trainer will be on site
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access

- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing) - The head coach for each team will be designated as the point of contact for the site supervisor

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and should include tennis courts. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility, portable restrooms or adjacent parking for buses
- A minimum of one (1) touchless hand-sanitizing station (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Officiating**

The SUNYAC employs officials for the conference championship. When an official is present, the official will follow the following guidelines:

- Wear face covering at all times
- Use gloves and/or hand sanitizer when touching any items (single sticks, balls, adjusting the net, touching chairs & scoring devices)
- Physical distance from players, coaches, spectators, and other officials
- Remind players to physical distance during the match
- Do not touch or pick any balls during the match, return to the players by kicking the ball to the players to avoid contact
- Check with the host facility ahead of time for any protocols that may apply at that facility
- Encourage players to clearly announce the score before each point, game, and set
- Encourage players to pick up their balls and their belongings after their match
- Bring their own bottled water

## **Sports Information**

Coaches from both teams are required to take a picture of their scorebook and text it to their institution's sports information director no later than **30** minutes after the completion of the match

### **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and institutions are expected to be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with each other, as well as the conference office, no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled contest
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather



## **Outdoor Track & Field Operational Plan**

### **Overview**

The State University of New York Athletic Conference has developed a proposal to safely conduct the 2021 Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The plan was created by tasking the members of the Track & Field Operational Planning Committee to pool their vast athletic administrative experience and incorporate the applicable guidelines and recommendations of the NCAA, the SUNY System, New York State and the Department of Health.

This committee consists of the following members who represent a variety of constituency groups within the structure of the SUNYAC:

- **Chair & Finance Committee Representative:** Mike Howard, Director of Athletics (Plattsburgh)
- **Coaches Committee Representative:** Steve Patrick, Head Coach (Cortland)
- **Assignor of Officials:** Tom Mooney
- **Championship Committee Representative:** Jeff Ventura, Associate Athletic Director (Buffalo State)
- **All Atlantic Region Track and Field Championship Conference President:** Chris Popovici, Head Coach (Geneseo)
- **Timing Company Representative:** Pat Leone (Leone Timing)
- **Education & Professional Development Representative (Student-Athlete Interest):** Angela Pucciarelli Rice, Assistant Athletic Director/SWA (Fredonia); Sarah Cartmill, Head Women's Basketball Coach (Fredonia)
- **SID Council Representative:** Gil Burgmaster, SID (Brockport)
- **Certified Athletic Trainer Representative:** Erin Chapman (Brockport)
- **Commissioner:** Tom DiCamillo
- **Associate Commissioner:** Megan Cross

### **Schedule**

The SUNYAC does not sponsor an outdoor track & field conference schedule. Instead, institutions develop their own non-conference schedules based on the availability of meets, geography and the philosophy of their track & field program. The 2021 SUNYAC master schedule for spring sports does allow for institutions to host home meets by providing opportunities to set up these events when no other

home contests are scheduled. This aligns with the prevailing philosophy of no more than one home conference contest scheduled per day on a campus.

## **Championship**

The 2021 SUNYAC Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships have been moved to Cortland in an effort to centralize the championship and reduce travel costs. The Championships will take place on **Friday, May 7**, and **Saturday, May 8**. The location provides the best opportunity to reduce costs and travel. The format will continue to evolve as the guidance from the NCAA becomes available; however, some basic adjustments to the SUNYAC Championship will likely include, but are not limited to:

- A limit of 12 individuals per event, with no wildcard entries
- No adjustment to qualifying standards, with the exception of discussion regarding the maximum number of entrants per institution (and possibly scoring procedures)
- The schedule being adjusted to allow for teams traveling from greater distances
- More specific COVID-19 protocols aligning with the NCAA recommendations once those guidelines become available

## **Testing & Travel**

Outdoor Track & Field is categorized as a Low Transmission Risk sport according to the NCAA's Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Page 21).

Travel & Testing Strategies for Low Risk Sports (Page 24) include the following:

- Regular and postseason - Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competition
- Testing is not required for officials as long as they remain masked and social distance (Page 29)
- It is to be noted that the NCAA Sports Science Institute lead by Chief Medical Officer Dr. Brian Hainline has stated that *"there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition."*

The following procedures for testing and travel will be employed:

- SUNY System weekly testing exceeds the recommendations of the NCAA
- 50% of bus capacity employing assigned alternate seating for the entire travel party
  - Sample 56-seat bus seating chart
- Institutions will ensure that buses will be deep cleaned prior to boarding in accordance with the New York State Department of Health regulations
- All travel party members must be masked while on the bus
- No eating permitted while on the bus
- Drinking is permitted by using a straw through the side of the mask or by removing the mask briefly to take quick drinks
- All members of the travel party will complete the Daily Symptom Tracker in accordance with that institution's policy prior to boarding the bus
- Temperature checks will be performed:
  - Upon home team's arrival to athletic facility

- Prior to visiting team members boarding the bus
- Institutions must supply the conference office with their plan for addressing individuals who become symptomatic while on their campus
  - If a member of the travel party becomes ill while en route to the contest, then the institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The transportation vehicle immediately will return to its home institution
    - The contest will be postponed
  - If a member of the travel party or the host institution's permitted personnel becomes ill during the contest, then the host institution's protocol for symptomatic individuals will take effect
    - The contest will be immediately halted

## **Permitted Personnel at Venue**

The following list defines individuals who may be granted access to the facility during an athletic contest. These individuals must follow the policies and protocols established by the host institutions. This list includes, but is not limited to, the following individuals:

- Designated Essential Home Team Personnel
- Designated Essential Visiting Team Personnel
- Conference Office Personnel
- Meet Manager
- Officials
- All Representatives of the Timing Company
- Media Representatives including writers, photographers, videographers, social media reporters

## **Athletic Training Services**

Limited athletic training services will be provided by the host institution. Certified Athletic Trainers from visiting institutions will be in contact with their Cortland counterparts no later than 24 hours in advance of the start of the championship to ensure student-athlete health and safety needs are addressed. The following information details the availability of services and expectations:

- A minimum of two (2) Certified Athletic Trainers will be on site
- A satellite athletic training alternative at the competition site will be used for the treatment of student-athletes
  - A minimum of two (2) treatment tables must be available
  - The site will be cleaned in accordance to current medical standards between treatment of individuals
- No athletic training room access
- No modalities available
- Team preparation must be completed before departure or needs must be communicated to the host institution no later than 24 hours before the start of the contest
  - In lieu of taping, institutions are encouraged to purchase appropriate braces for their student-athletes
- Host institutions will supply water/ice chests
  - Individuals must bring their own marked water bottles
  - Teams should **NOT** expect the availability of paper cups
- Visiting team injuries will be triaged and stabilized **or** referred to ER by the home team AT before bus departure.
  - All injuries will be documented and communicated with the teams ATC via phone/email



## **Meet Protocol**

Track & field competitions differ greatly from traditional team sports because they consist of multi-day, prolonged events spread throughout a large venue. Unlike a team sport such as lacrosse or baseball, track & field is a series of small group events where institutions may have just one to a few athletes competing at a time.

The SUNYAC has an extremely detailed championship structure that currently aligns with the NCAA Championship guidelines. The event itself will be modified to align with any recommendations and changes relative to COVID-19 planning once the NCAA has made the information available.

For now, the SUNYAC is focusing on the following modifications and practices for the 2021 Championships:

- Teams should arrive no sooner than 90 minutes before the first scheduled event
- A designated area shall be established for each team where athletes shall remain until preparing for their individual competition
- All permitted personnel must be masked at all times
- **Pandemic Protocol enforcement** (i.e., proper mask wearing) - The head coach for each team will be designated as the point of contact for the site supervisor
- No handshakes
- No group celebrations
- No locker room access
- Teams will bring their own equipment
  - Equipment will not be shared nor should it be touched by teammates or opponents
  - Equipment will not be impounded
- Athletes must be masked at all times until they begin their warmup for their event
- Athletes must socially distance from their opponents, spectators, and the officials as much as possible
  - Individual event modifications may be made to help enforce social distancing protocols between competitors at the venue (e.g. cones placed 6-feet apart for athletes waiting for a turn on the runway or to enter the throwing circle)
- Only athletes preparing to compete are permitted in the competition area
- **Ejections** – student-athletes from the visiting team will be escorted to the team bus

## **Facilities**

The conference office will collect plans for facilities being used for spring sports. These plans will be posted on the conference website as a resource and will include Cortland's plan for track & field. In addition, the following facility items are expected to be addressed:

- No locker room access for teams nor officials
- Access to restrooms that may include access to a facility, portable restrooms or adjacent parking for buses
- Multiple touchless hand-sanitizing stations (student-athletes are encouraged to also bring their own individual bottle)
- All trash must be placed in designated receptacles

## **Fan Attendance**

In accordance with the current policies in New York State, fans will not be permitted to attend contests at this time. Fan attendance will be reevaluated periodically as the pandemic environment improves. The conference expects the department of athletics to ensure the enforcement of the no-fan policy within the confines of its athletic facilities.

## **Officiating**

The SUNYAC employs officials for the conference championship. When an official is present, the official will follow these guidelines at a minimum:

- Wear a mask at all times
- Social distance from players, coaches, spectators, and other officials
- Remind athletes to social distance during the competition
- Bring their own bottled water or containers marked with their name

## **Weather-Related Issues**

The conference office and the host institution will be proactive in assessing potential weather-related issues to reduce unnecessary travel and expense, and to ensure safety:

- Each institution will provide the conference office with a contact who oversees schedules
- Institutional contacts are expected to be in communication with the host institution and the conference no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the meet
- Buses must be parked in proximity of the athletic facility to serve as safe harbor for extreme weather

# **Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Updated)**

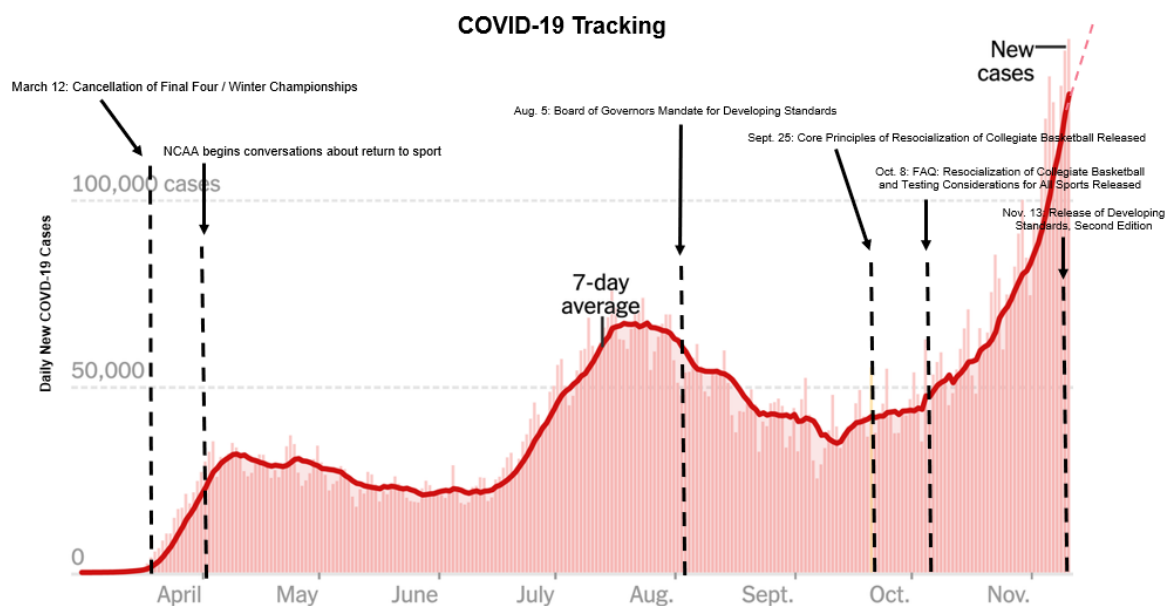
Original release: November 13, 2020

Updated: December 15, 2020

This document (Updated Second Edition) incorporates certain updates to the previously published Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition. Relevant changes are highlighted in yellow throughout and are intended to reflect the most current learning about the prevention, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19. This document should be considered the most current starting reference point for student-athletes in fall, winter and spring sports practice and competition. This document is the sixth NCAA publication regarding resocialization of collegiate sport:

1. [Core Principles](#) of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport (May 1, 2020).
2. Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: [Action Plan Considerations](#) (May 28, 2020).
3. Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: [Developing Standards](#) for Practice and Competition (July 16, 2020, updated Aug. 14, 2020).
4. Core Principles of [Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball](#) (Sept. 25, 2020).
5. Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: [Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition](#) (Nov. 13, 2020).
6. Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Updated Second Edition (Dec. 11, 2020).

These documents were published at important points in time with respect to knowledge of COVID-19 and student-athlete practice and competition timelines. This Updated Second Edition document is written at another important time: As the figure below indicates, the United States **has entered** a third wave of COVID-19 spread, with some predicting a “dark winter” of rampant COVID-19 societal spread.



The information in this **Updated** Second Edition was developed in consultation with the [NCAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group](#), the [American Medical Society for Sports Medicine COVID-19 Working Group](#) and the [Autonomy 5 Medical Advisory Group](#) and takes into consideration available recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The federal government has not yet published uniform federal guidance related to certain activities that occur within college athletics. However, through continued review and evaluation of available research data, anecdotal evidence and related analysis and discussion, these advisory groups have identified certain practices that should be highlighted for more focused consideration by member schools. While the materials encourage consideration of various factors and actions, they do not speak to every possible scenario, and in no event should members fall below national or public health standards set by their local communities.

As with prior NCAA publications, these materials are meant to be consistent with guidance published by the federal government and its health agencies and reflect the relevant scientific and medical information available at the time of print. These materials should not be used as a substitute for medical or legal advice. Rather, they are intended as a resource to provide guidance for member schools to use in coordination with applicable government and related institutional policies and guidelines, and they remain subject to revision as available data and information in this space continue to emerge and evolve.

This **Updated** Second Edition is intended to do two things:

- Remind schools about the continuation of certain previously published NCAA Board of Governors requirements related to the conduct of fall sports championships.
- Update and extend the guidance provided in the first **five** resocialization publications considering new and emerging information. This information includes considerations specific to the prevention of community spread of COVID-19 in the athletics setting and examples of recommendations for COVID-19 testing in sports with a high transmission risk, differentiating outdoor from indoor sports.

### **Reminder About Continuing Board Requirements**

Notwithstanding any updates provided in this **document**, the following prior [Board of Governors mandates related to the conduct of fall sports championships](#) remain in place:

#### Student-athlete well-being

- All member schools must adhere to federal, state and local guidelines related to COVID-19.
- All student-athletes must be provided an opportunity to opt out of participation due to concerns about contracting COVID-19, and if a student-athlete chooses to opt out, the individual's athletics scholarship commitment must be honored.
- Schools must maintain previously established eligibility-related accommodations for student-athletes who opt out of participating this fall or those whose seasons are interrupted or cut short due to COVID-19.
- While statements of personal commitment to health and safety are acceptable, member schools may not require student-athletes to waive their legal rights regarding COVID-19 as a condition of athletics participation.

#### Fall championships-related issues

- The conduct of NCAA championships must be in line with federal, state and local guidelines.
- NCAA fall sports championships must be conducted using the principles associated with developing enhanced safety for student-athletes and essential athletics personnel. Such enhanced safety includes regular testing, separation of student-athletes and essential personnel from all other nonessential personnel, and physical distancing and masking policies during all aspects of noncompetition.
- If 50% or more of eligible teams in a particular sport in a division cancel or postpone their fall season, there will be no NCAA fall championship in that sport.
- If any division elects to postpone fall sports championships, the decision to conduct the championships at later dates must be based on the scientific data available at that

time, as well as an assessment of the operational, logistical and financial impact of proceeding. When a championship is set to occur on a new date, an additional assessment must be made using the same factors (scientific data available at the time and operational, logistical and financial impact), and the division will report its determinations to the Board of Governors for its review.

- If a decision is made to move forward with fall sports championships, there must be a plan for scaling down the number of championship sites, including the possibility of single sites where appropriate, reduced bracketing, fewer competitors, and similar actions to create efficient and effective events.
- A division may allow for some fall sports championships to occur and others not be conducted based on level of risk to the student-athlete, but in all instances, decisions must comport with the Association's commitment to gender equity.

#### Hotline

- The NCAA has established and published a [phone number and email address](#) to allow college athletes, parents or others to report alleged failures to adhere to the obligations reflected in the resocialization standards or allegations that the school is otherwise engaged in behavior that puts student-athletes at risk for COVID-19. Upon receiving a concern, the NCAA notifies the campus athletics health care administrator and conference office about the concern. The athletics health care administrator is expected to take immediate reasonable measures to review the concern and notify the NCAA of action taken, if action is necessary.

### **Updates and Extensions to Previously Published Guidance**

As noted in the [Requirements for Each Division Related to the Conduct of Fall Sports and Championships: FAQs](#) published in August, the requirement for schools to adhere to the original Developing Standards materials applied through Oct. 27, 2020. That mandate has expired. Given the additional knowledge within the broader medical community about the prevention, mitigation and treatment of COVID-19 in student-athletes, **the requirements set forth in that original Developing Standards document and the guidance in prior resocialization documents are now replaced by the guidance set forth in this **Updated** Second Edition document.**

### **Risk of Transmission of COVID-19**

As reported by the CDC, the primary and most important mode of transmission of COVID-19 is through close contact from person to person. Based on data from lab studies on COVID-19 and what the medical community knows about similar respiratory diseases, it may be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has

the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or eyes, but current medical guidance from the CDC is that surface transmission is not the main way the virus spreads.<sup>1</sup>

The CDC states:<sup>2</sup>

- The closer you are to other people who may be infected, the greater your risk of getting sick.
- Spending more time with people who may be infected increases your risk of becoming infected.
- Spending more time with people increases their risk of becoming infected if there is any chance that you may already be infected.
- Indoor spaces are more risky than outdoor spaces where it might be harder to keep people apart and there's less ventilation. Indoor areas with good ventilation are better, and outdoor areas are best. Thus, consider that COVID-19 spread is most likely when individuals are in prolonged close contact in an indoor area with poor ventilation, which has implications for both indoor sport training and sport competition planning.

While available data indicates that it is much more common for the virus that causes COVID-19 to spread through close contact with a person who has COVID-19 than through airborne transmission, the CDC has shared that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 seem to have infected others who were more than 6 feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. In this scenario, the people who infected others were in the same space during the same time or shortly after the person with COVID-19 had left.<sup>1</sup>

CDC guidance notes the risk of COVID-19 transmission increases when an individual has had close contact with an infected person, regardless of whether the infected person has symptoms. The CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period\* starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

*\* Individual exposures are added together over a 24-hour period (for example, three five-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). Data is limited, making it difficult to precisely define "close contact." However, 15 cumulative minutes of exposure at a distance of 6 feet or less can be used as an operational definition for contact investigation. Factors to consider when defining close contact include proximity (closer distance likely increases exposure risk), the duration of exposure (longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk), whether the infected*

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<sup>1</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html)

<sup>2</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/deciding-to-go-out.html)

*individual has symptoms (the period around onset of symptoms is associated with the highest levels of viral shedding), if the infected person was likely to generate respiratory aerosols (for example, was coughing, singing, shouting), and other environmental factors (crowding, adequacy of ventilation, whether exposure was indoors or outdoors). Because the general public has not received training on proper selection and use of respiratory personal protective equipment, such as an N95, the determination of close contact should generally be made irrespective of whether the contact was wearing respiratory personal protective equipment. At this time, differential determination of close contact for those using fabric face coverings is not recommended.<sup>3</sup>*

Asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is of significant concern among the college sport environment because, like the broader student body, it is largely composed of younger adults (18-29 years of age). Even if these individuals remain asymptomatic or are minimally symptomatic after being infected with SARS-CoV-2, they are still capable of spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. If they infect another younger adult, the risk of an adverse outcome is low, although the long-term consequences to cardiopulmonary health to themselves or other younger adults remain unknown. In contrast, contact with that same asymptomatic/minimally symptomatic individual presents a potentially lethal risk for high-risk category individuals who are far more likely to have an adverse outcome if infected with the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 (see below). Relatedly, pre-symptomatic spread is also a concern, as these individuals are infected with COVID-19 but have not yet developed symptoms or signs of this disease.

The CDC has emphasized that, among adults, the risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, with 8 out of 10 deaths related to COVID-19 in the United States being reported in adults 65 years and older and the greatest risk for severe illness from COVID-19 being those 85 or older.<sup>4</sup>

In addition, the CDC recently updated its information pertaining to risks related to COVID-19 in adults and children with certain medical conditions.<sup>5</sup> The lists below are not to be considered exhaustive, and the CDC website should be consulted for updates about the conditions described. It has been established that adults with the following underlying medical conditions are at increased risk:

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<sup>3</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html)

<sup>4</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/older-adults.html)

<sup>5</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html)



- Cancer.
- Chronic kidney disease.
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease (including silent disease with elevated [coronary calcium scores](#)) or cardiomyopathies.
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant.
- Obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but less than 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- Pregnancy.
- Severe Obesity (BMI of 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher).
- Sickle cell disease.
- Smoking.
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

The CDC further advises that based on what we know at this time, adults of any age with the following conditions might be at an increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- Asthma (moderate to severe).
- Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain).
- Cystic fibrosis.
- Hypertension or high blood pressure.
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids or use of other immune weakening medicines.
- Neurologic conditions, such as dementia.
- Liver disease.
- Overweight (BMI greater than 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, but less than 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
- Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues).
- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder).
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus.

Finally, while children have been less affected by COVID-19, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, and some children develop severe illness. Children with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness. Current evidence on which underlying medical conditions in children are associated with increased risk is **limited**, but the CDC has identified certain scenarios that may result in increased risk for severe illness.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/symptoms.html)

While the majority of students and student-athletes will not fall into these higher-risk categories and may be unlikely to have complications from COVID-19, certain student-athletes may have some of the identified medical condition risk factors. For example, sports such as football may have an overrepresentation of student-athletes (for example, football linemen) who meet the high-risk criteria as it relates to obesity. For this reason, prevention and testing strategies should recognize that some athletes may have an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Similarly, those students and student-athletes who are not themselves part of a higher-risk category can still represent a significant threat to any high-risk category individuals, including friends, roommates, family members, professors, coaches and others, with whom they may have unprotected contact. These risks must be considered as schools, student-athletes and their parents or guardians continue to evaluate the risks and benefits of participating in collegiate sport.

### **Mitigating Risk With Daily Self-Health Checks**

Every student-athlete and all athletics personnel should practice at least daily self-health evaluations before participating in any aspect of in-person athletics activities.

The CDC has published a nonexhaustive list of symptoms that may indicate COVID-19 infection.<sup>7</sup> Individuals with any of the following are encouraged to contact the designated physician, athletic trainer or other athletics health care representative by telephone or virtual visit before coming on campus or to any athletics facility:

- Fever or chills.
- Cough.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- Fatigue.
- Muscle or body aches.
- Headache.
- New loss of taste or smell.
- Sore throat.
- Congestion or runny nose.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Diarrhea.

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<sup>7</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

In addition, the CDC has directed individuals who identify any of the following life-threatening symptoms, or any other symptoms that are severe or concerning, to **seek emergency medical care immediately**.<sup>7</sup>

- Trouble breathing.
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
- New confusion.
- Inability to wake or stay awake.
- Bluish lips or face.

### **Mitigating Risk With Face Coverings and Physical Distancing**

In addition to hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, coupled with other sanitization practices, physical distancing and universal masking are the most effective strategies for preventing COVID-19 spread at the community level. Emerging science affirms that cloth face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that could reduce the spread of the disease. In particular, cloth face coverings help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others<sup>8,9</sup>.

In sport, the practice of universal masking would mean that all individuals engaged in athletics activities (student-athletes and athletics personnel) would wear a mask/cloth face covering during all phases of activity that involve proximity to other individuals. This practice could present a physical challenge to the student-athlete during activities when there is contact to the head or face, strenuous exercise is involved, or the mask is likely to get wet. Where a mask/cloth face covering cannot be safely tolerated, schools should consider implementing physical distancing protocols that encourage at least 6 feet between individuals.

If a team can successfully implement universal masking and distancing practices during athletically related activities, these techniques could reduce the risk of spread in the event of contact with an infected team member. While the CDC does not, at this time, account for the use of a face covering in determinations of what was or was not a high-risk contact, some local public health authorities do. In those local situations, contract tracers may determine that a high-risk contact did not occur in situations where the proximity between an infected and uninfected individual was less than 6 feet, but where both individuals were covering the mouth and nose with a mask / cloth face covering. In other words, in addition to lowering the risk of transmission, universal masking practices may potentially ease the operational burden that would otherwise accompany managing a community or

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<sup>8</sup> [cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0714-americans-to-wear-masks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0714-americans-to-wear-masks.html)

<sup>9</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html)

team outbreak. This consideration is likely to be in flux as we understand better the operational considerations for “prolonged exposure” and “close contact in sport.”

**NOTE:** Although face shields were referenced in the original Developing Standards materials, the CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. This would include face shields that have been developed for football helmets and ice hockey helmets and are made to affix to the helmet’s rigid face mask. Similarly, the CDC does not recommend masks with exhalation valves as a method of preventing the person wearing the mask from spreading COVID-19 to others.<sup>10</sup>

### **Mitigating Risk: Outdoor Training and Proper Ventilation**

The risk of COVID-19 transmission is greater in indoor spaces with poor ventilation. Indoor spaces with good ventilation are better, and outdoor spaces are best. This means, to the extent possible, schools should consider maximizing outdoor activity during training as another strategy to mitigate COVID-19 risk.

When outdoor training is not feasible, or for indoor sports, it is important to mitigate risk with masking whenever feasible, including during training. Further, schools should consider evaluating the effectiveness of ventilation systems, including whether air flow is being maximized, and how best to implement and maintain physical distancing wherever possible. The CDC and Environmental Protection Agency have published various recommendations on these points including, among others:<sup>11</sup>

- Consider taking steps to improve ventilation in the building, in consultation with an HVAC professional, based on local environmental conditions (temperature/humidity) and ongoing community transmission in the area:
  - Increase the percentage of outdoor air (for example, using economizer modes of HVAC operations), potentially as high as 100% (first verify compatibility with HVAC system capabilities for both temperature and humidity control, as well as compatibility with outdoor/indoor air quality considerations).
  - Increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces, if possible.
  - Disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy.
  - Consider using natural ventilation (for example, opening windows if possible and safe to do so) to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air when environmental conditions and building requirements allow.
  - Improve central air filtration:

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<sup>10</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html)

<sup>11</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/office-buildings.html)

- > Increase air filtration to as high as possible without significantly diminishing design airflow.
  - > Inspect filter housing and racks to ensure appropriate filter fit and check for ways to minimize filter bypass.
  - Consider running the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for two hours before and after occupied times, in accordance with industry standards.
- Generate clean-to-less-clean air movements by re-evaluating the positioning of supply and exhaust air diffusers and/or dampers and adjusting zone supply and exhaust flow rates to establish measurable pressure differentials. Have staff work in “clean” ventilation zones that do not include higher-risk areas such as visitor reception or exercise facilities (if open).
- Consider using portable high-efficiency particulate air fan/filtration systems, known as HEPA systems, to help enhance air cleaning, especially in higher-risk areas.
- Ensure exhaust fans in restroom facilities are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied.
- Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation as a supplemental technique to inactivate potential airborne virus in the [upper-room](#) air of common occupied spaces, in accordance with industry guidelines.

### **Continued Relevance of Return to Campus Considerations**

It remains that the first two weeks after any return to campus (for example, after a winter or spring break) deserve special consideration because student-athletes are converging from multiple parts of the country and may be asymptomatic, pre-symptomatic or symptomatic carriers of COVID-19. As athletics departments continue to develop and refine protocols related to student-athlete reentry to campus, including testing athletes upon campus return, the following considerations identified in the [Action Plan](#) document remain relevant and may warrant consideration of additional testing based on the athlete’s timeline:

- Confirmation of no high-risk exposure to COVID-19 for at least two weeks before returning to campus.
- Absence of typical COVID-19 symptoms.
- Assessment of risk factors involved in traveling back to school.
- Management of infected individuals in accordance with local public health **authorities**, CDC and institutional guidance.

## **Continued Relevance of Transition Period and Return to Activity Considerations**

It also remains that the structure of activity during identified transition and acclimatization periods (for example, after material breaks from physical activity) warrants careful consideration. COVID-19 has increased the complexities and will continue to impact health and safety considerations related to returning to athletics and preseason activities. Traditional transition and acclimatization considerations (for example, cardiovascular conditioning, heat, altitude) are still very relevant, and when coupled with the physical and nonphysical impacts related to COVID-19, they can create complex re-entry challenges for student-athletes.

Recommendation No. 3 of the NCAA's [Interassociation Recommendations: Preventing Catastrophic Injury and Death in Collegiate Athletes](#) (Catastrophic Materials) speaks to the vulnerability of student-athletes during the first week of activity of a transition period in training and the importance of establishing a seven- to 10-day initial transition period during which student-athletes are afforded the time to properly progress through the physiologic and environmental stresses placed upon them as they return to required activities.

In addition to the NCAA guidance that can be found on the [NCAA Coronavirus Resource Page](#), various evidence-based resources have been published by professional organizations in sports medicine and strength and conditioning. These resources may help inform member schools as they design and implement evaluation activities, physical conditioning and practice sessions during these transition periods impacted by COVID-19. Schools are encouraged to leverage all available resources and information as they plan for a return to campus and athletics activities. A nonexhaustive list of some of these materials is included for reference:

- [American Medical Society for Sports Medicine](#).
- [College Athletic Trainers' Society](#).
- [Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association](#).
- [Korey Stringer Institute](#).
- [National Athletic Trainers' Association](#).
- [National Strength and Conditioning Association](#).

## **Discontinuing Isolation for People With COVID-19**

If a student-athlete or athletics staff member becomes newly infected with COVID-19, proper isolation protocols must be followed. However, the CDC has updated its guidance on this topic, relying on new scientific evidence to inform its recommendations related to the duration of isolation after infection and precautions to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2, while limiting unnecessary prolonged isolation and unnecessary use of laboratory

testing resources. Following are the updated CDC recommendations for discontinuing isolation after a new infection with COVID-19.<sup>12</sup>

Infected asymptomatic individuals — People infected with SARS-CoV-2 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive test for SARS-CoV-2.

Infected symptomatic individuals — People with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home or at school may discontinue isolation when all of the following conditions have been met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- Other symptoms have improved.

### **Other Considerations Related to Resumption of Activities After Positive Tests**

The CDC has identified other information that athletics departments should consider as part of their development of protocols related to the discontinuation of isolation for infected individuals after positive test results.<sup>13</sup> For example, for certain populations, including those with conditions that may weaken their immune system, a longer post-infection isolation time frame may be desired to minimize the chance of prolonged shedding of the virus. People who are severely ill may need to stay home for up to 20 days. Similarly, it should be noted that recommendations for discontinuing isolation in people known to be **infected** with COVID-19 are different than CDC recommendations on when to discontinue quarantine for people known to have been **exposed** to COVID-19. For example, the CDC still recommends 14 days of quarantine after high-risk exposure based on the time it could take to develop illness if infected. Thus, it is possible that a person known to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined because the possibility of infection remains for 14 days from the date of last exposure.

The CDC has emphasized that local public health authorities should determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. Even though the CDC is still currently recommending 14 days of quarantine following a close contact, it has simultaneously stated that, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine<sup>14</sup> are acceptable alternatives (although not without residual risk):

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<sup>12</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html)

<sup>13</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html)

<sup>14</sup> [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html)



- Quarantine can end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
- *When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available*, then quarantine can end after day seven if a diagnostic specimen tests negative, and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (for example, in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after day seven. NOTE: The CDC does not specify type of test; the local public health authority should determine the type of test to be used.

The CDC has stated that reliance on either of these alternatives can occur only if all of the following criteria are met:

- No clinical evidence of COVID-19 has been elicited by daily symptom monitoring during the entirety of quarantine up to the time at which quarantine is discontinued.
- Daily symptom monitoring continues through quarantine day 14.
- People are counseled regarding the need to adhere strictly through quarantine day 14 to all recommended nonpharmaceutical interventions (nonpharmaceutical interventions\*, aka mitigation strategies). They should be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local public health authority or their health care provider to report this change in clinical status.

\*Correct and consistent mask use; physical distancing; hand and cough hygiene; environmental cleaning and disinfection; avoiding crowds; ensuring adequate indoor ventilation; self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 illness.

## **Cardiac and Exercise Considerations for Resumption of Exercise After COVID-19 Infection**

The COVID-19 virus can potentially negatively impact any endothelial structure, including the heart and lungs, thereby posing a potential risk to individuals who return to exercise post-infection. Although preliminary data suggested that athletes with prior COVID-19 infection should undergo cardiac screening,<sup>15,16</sup> follow-up publications have recommended a tiered approach based on severity of symptoms.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> [jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2766124](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2766124)

<sup>16</sup> [bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/18/bjsports-2020-102516](https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2020/06/18/bjsports-2020-102516)

<sup>17</sup> [jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2772399](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamacardiology/fullarticle/2772399)



Based on emerging evidence, a group of experts from the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the American College of Cardiology have developed an algorithm of considerations and recommendations related to pre-participation cardiac screening, testing and exercise, which is available on the [AMSSM website](#).

### **Exercise Considerations During Quarantine**

As student-athletes are placed in quarantine after contact tracing reveals that the athlete meets the criteria for a close contact with someone who has COVID-19, athletic departments may consider the following with respect to individuals in quarantine:

- Individual exercise in quarantine may be appropriate where such exercise does not cause cardiopulmonary symptoms.
- Group exercise in quarantine is not recommended.
- Individuals monitor for symptom development during quarantine.
- If symptoms develop, with or without exercise, test for SARS-CoV-2.
- Under some circumstances, continued exercise during quarantine may allow the athlete to shorten or avoid a more significant transition period before returning to play after quarantine.

### **Strength and Conditioning Considerations**

Because of the number of respiratory droplets that are distributed into the air during a typical strength and conditioning workout, athletics departments should consider the potential risk mitigation benefits of implementing universal physical distancing and masking practices with all student-athletes and strength and conditioning and other personnel during such sessions, including conducting sessions outdoors where feasible. See also “Mitigating Risk With Outdoor Training” and “Mitigating Risk With Face Coverings and Physical Distancing” above.

### **Team Practice Considerations**

Available data supports the idea that, although sport has many positive effects, group practice activities have the potential to increase the risk of COVID-19 spread if proper distancing and/or masking practices are not implemented, and if air flow or ventilation is compromised. As athletics departments account for and plan to address these risks, they should consider the following:

- Face coverings during team practice activities — See “Mitigating Risk With Face Coverings and Physical Distancing” above.
- Working in functional units — Schools should consider the establishment of “functional units” as a strategy to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. A functional unit may be composed of two to 10 or more individuals, all members of the same team, who consistently work out and participate in activities together. Assuming that these individuals observe appropriate sanitization, physical distancing and universal masking practices at all other times and do not otherwise place themselves in high contact risk scenarios (for example, attending off-campus social events), the individuals would only be considered high risk to one another. A similar strategy is to have one unit of a team always train against another unit of a team. For example, the first unit of the football team always training against the third unit of the football team; and the second and fourth units always training together. This means that if an individual from one of those units does become infected, the entire team may not be impacted, and contact tracing may be more manageable than it would be otherwise in the event of an infection.
- Electronic whistles or whistle covers — Schools **and conferences** should consider the use of electronic whistles in practice **and competition** scenarios as a strategy to avoid the deep breath and forced burst of droplet-filled air that result from the use of a traditional whistle. Alternatively, schools should consider the use of a whistle with a complete covering (bag, pouch or cover) that prevents displacement of spit into the air.

## **Impact of Activities Outside Athletics**

Student-athletes are students first. Although they may be under relatively strict team rules during their daily commitments to athletics, they will be making choices about how to spend their remaining hours (for example, in classrooms, in the dorms, at the dining facilities, at parties, at home over the holidays). For this reason, campus policies coupled with a commitment from each student-athlete to practice infection control are integral to the successful mitigation of the risk of COVID-19 spread within and outside the athletics department. Without the broader campus policies and practices to guide their behavior when away from athletics, student-athletes may incur more risk through their everyday activities than they might as a participant in a sport with high contact risk. Before assuming that the implementation of sanitization, distancing and masking practices are an effective strategy for mitigating risks within the athletics setting, a school should consider whether and to what extent those mitigation practices are successfully occurring outside athletics activities and whether and how testing protocols may provide an effective supplement to those practices.

## Testing Methodologies and Strategies

The polymerase chain reaction test, which amplifies nucleic acid of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, with sample(s) obtained with a nasopharyngeal swab, remains the primary standard. However, testing paradigms are still rapidly changing, and other strategies are becoming available. For example, rapidly emerging testing strategies include the use of nasal swab or salivary samples rather than nasopharyngeal swabs. In addition, emerging point-of-care PCR (rapid PCR) testing will provide results immediately, as compared to typical laboratory-based PCR testing, which usually involves a 24-hour or longer wait. For the purposes of this document, rapid PCR is considered in the same manner as point-of-care antigen testing (see below) because of similar uncertainty regarding sensitivity and specificity in asymptomatic populations. Finally, pooled sampling allows for multiple samples to be assessed simultaneously, which can be an effective strategy for surveillance testing, including testing strategies for asymptomatic athletes.

Point-of-care antigen testing assesses for the presence of a viral protein. With this method, up to 50 tests or more can be performed in one hour and can selectively identify any positive results without having to rerun the tests (as is typical for other types of bulk batch testing). Point-of-care antigen testing currently has relatively low sensitivity, meaning it could miss some positive cases, but the sensitivity has been improving over time. Point-of-care antigen testing has a specificity of about 98%, meaning that the test may produce a false-positive result in about two cases for every 100 tests performed. Although this may seem low, it means that there is the potential for athletes to be assumed infectious when in fact they are not. For this reason, it is common practice for positive point-of-care antigen tests to be followed by a confirmatory PCR test. The confirmatory PCR test is considered the final test result.

Point-of-care antigen testing costs less than typical lab-based PCR testing. Because such testing may allow a combination of increased testing frequency combined with rapid speed of reporting, this may provide a benefit for surveillance testing that outweighs high sensitivity tests that are coupled with delayed (for example, more than 48 hours) reporting.<sup>18</sup>

Serology testing, either using IgG or IgM antibodies, has not been sufficiently validated at this time to warrant its use for diagnostic testing purposes **or for the purpose of permitting exclusion from quarantine**. Antibody testing may be considered to screen for possible previous exposure to SARS-CoV-2 but should not be used as the sole method to determine potentially infected individuals.

Diagnostic testing refers to either PCR or point-of-care antigen testing to confirm or negate the presence of infection with COVID-19.

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<sup>18</sup> [medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.22.20136309v2](https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.06.22.20136309v2)

Surveillance testing is used to track patterns of spread in a community setting. Typically, a percentage of the population, or the entire population of a defined group, is tested without regard to whether the individual is symptomatic or may be engaged in high contact risk behavior. Surveillance testing may be used to help mitigate risk of an outbreak due to the sport activity.

The CDC does not recommend repeat surveillance testing for infected individuals within the 90-day window following infection. However, these individuals should continue to follow all risk mitigation strategies.<sup>12</sup> If such individuals develop COVID-19 symptoms during this 90-day window, testing should be considered if an infectious disease or infection control expert cannot account for another explanation for the symptoms. To date, reinfection appears to be uncommon during the initial 90 days after symptom onset of the preceding infection, and viral shed can continue beyond three months after COVID-19 illness onset. Recent publications have introduced the idea that neutralizing antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 are stably produced for at least five to seven months after infection and that robust cellular immunity persists for at least six months after even mild or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>19,20,21</sup> For the combined reasons of ongoing viral shed — and therefore possible false positive PCR tests — and ongoing immunity for at least five months, **not** retesting previously infected individuals who are asymptomatic may be considered for up to 150 days from when the initial infection occurred. **Such** decisions should be made in consultation with the team physician and local public health **authority** recommendations and should align with school and conference recommendations. Individuals who develop symptoms between 90 and 150 days after initial infection should be retested. Regardless of the retesting strategy, and in keeping with CDC guidance, such individuals should be quarantined and otherwise managed in accordance with established school protocols after the 90-day post-infection window.

Diagnostic testing in athletics may be considered a combination of surveillance testing, testing individuals and groups engaged in high-risk exposure, and testing individuals with suspected COVID-19 infection. At present, scientific studies do not provide clear guidance on the following:

- Test sensitivity in asymptomatic people.
- Prediction rules for estimating the pretest probability of infection for asymptomatic individuals to allow calculation of post-test probabilities after positive or negative results.

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<sup>19</sup> [cell.com/immunity/fulltext/S1074-7613\(20\)30445-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2020.11.011)

<sup>20</sup> [biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.01.362319v1](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.11.01.362319v1)

<sup>21</sup> [bmj.com/content/bmj/371/bmj.m4257.full.pdf](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m4257)

- Thresholds for ruling out infection for a variety of clinical situations, including sport. Therefore, the testing strategies for asymptomatic athletes noted below are based on consensus recommendations and are subject to change as more data emerges.<sup>22</sup>

**For the purposes of this document, based on current evidence and standards, PCR testing, or antigen testing that is performed with a regular cadence, should be considered the standard testing methods for both baseline and ongoing surveillance testing. Testing strategies are always contingent on the availability of ample testing supplies, laboratory capacity and the adequacy of turnaround time and access to testing.**

### **Sport Transmission Risk Classification Update**

The categorization of sport by transmission risk, which was previously noted in the original [Action Plan](#) document and [FAQ: Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball and Testing Considerations for All Sports](#), is based on consensus from the NCAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Group, the AMSSM COVID-19 Working Group, and the Autonomy 5 Medical Advisory Group. Sport transmission risk is based on the projected probability of respiratory droplet and/or aerosolized spread during vigorous exercise when physical distancing and masking are not applied or are not possible. Sport classification reflects sport-specific training and competition and not cross-training or other aspects of training. For example, swimming and diving is a low contact risk sport, but dryland training activities such as trampoline, stretching and tumbling may be associated with higher risk activity if risk-mitigating strategies noted above are not in place. Sport classification also does not account for other activities that are not uniquely or commonly part of sport training or competition. Again, using the swimming and diving example, if swimmers who are not actively competing are congregating in a poorly ventilated room without physical distancing and masking, then risk of disease spread increases independent of the sport-specific aspect of swimming. **These considerations mean that the training and competition environments should be considered beyond the transmission risk classification of sport.**

The transmission risk assessment has now been updated below to include all NCAA-sponsored sports, including both winter and spring sports. Importantly, this risk assessment differs from the National Federation of State High School Associations and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and also may differ from state or local risk categorization guidance. This update also differentiates outdoor from indoor sport, as emerging evidence in professional and collegiate football and professional soccer reveal that on-field risk of infection is low in these outdoor sports, with infections being sourced primarily to off-field social situations. Given the uncertainties and lack of

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<sup>22</sup> [nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2015897](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2015897)

data for indoor sports that are not played in a bubble, concern remains about the possibility of increased risk of infection spread in the indoor sport setting. Table 1 summarizes identified transmission risk by sport. The appendix provides transmission risk of sports with testing strategies for student-athletes and Tier 1 individuals, including officials.

**Table 1. Sport Transmission Risk Summary**

Sport	Indoor/Outdoor	Current Transmission Risk	Proximity to Other Competitors
<b>Acrobatics and Tumbling</b> [emerging sport]	Indoor	High	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors. However, frequent, very close contact among teammates.
<b>Baseball</b>	Outdoor	Intermediate	Intermittent, short-lived contact between fielders and base runners. Proximity between catcher and hitters.
<b>Basketball</b>	Indoor	High	Frequent close contact among all competitors during play.
<b>Bowling</b>	Indoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Cross Country</b>	Outdoor	Low	Close proximity at the start and potentially throughout the race among competitors. Risk mitigation strategies can be employed, especially at the start and finish of competition.
<b>Equestrian</b> [emerging sport]	Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Fencing</b>	Indoor	Low (if face mask is worn under protective face gear)  Intermediate (if no face mask is worn)	Frequent close contact between two competitors at a time during competition. Protective gear covers face but is not a mask.
<b>Field Hockey*</b>	Outdoor	Intermediate	Frequent, short-lived proximity among competitors during play.
<b>Football</b>	Outdoor	High	Frequent, short-lived close contact among competitors during play.
<b>Golf</b>	Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Indoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Indoor	High	Frequent close contact among competitors during play.
<b>Indoor Track and Field</b>	Indoor	Intermediate	Close proximity at the start and potentially throughout the running events among competitors. Competitors in frequent proximity throughout events.
<b>Lacrosse*</b> (Women's)	Outdoor	Intermediate	Frequent, short-lived proximity among competitors during play.

Sport	Indoor/Outdoor	Current Transmission Risk	Proximity to Other Competitors
<b>Lacrosse*</b> (Men's)	Outdoor	Intermediate	Frequent, short-lived close contact among competitors during play.
<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b>	Outdoor	Low	Close proximity at the start and potentially throughout the running events among competitors.
<b>Rifle</b>	Indoor/Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Rowing</b> (sculls of two or more people)	Outdoor	Intermediate	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors. However, in sculls of two or more people, there is prolonged close contact for all teammates in the scull. <i>Training indoors also may involve risk if physical distancing and masking are not observed.</i>
<b>Rowing</b> (single scull)	Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates. <i>Training indoors also may involve risk if physical distancing and masking are not observed.</i>
<b>Rugby</b> [emerging sport]	Outdoor	High	Frequent close contact between two competitors at a time.
<b>Skiing</b>	Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance among competitors and teammates.
<b>Soccer*</b>	Outdoor	Intermediate	Frequent, short-lived proximity among all competitors.
<b>Softball</b>	Outdoor	Intermediate	Intermittent, short-lived contact between fielders and base runners. Proximity between catcher and hitters.
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>	Indoor and Outdoor	Low	Proximity at the start and potentially throughout the swimming events among competitors. Risk mitigation strategies can be further used for those not actively competing.
<b>Tennis</b>	Outdoor	Low	Can consistently maintain distance between competitors and teammates.
<b>Triathlon</b> [emerging sport]	Outdoor	Low	Proximity at the start and potentially throughout the swimming, running and cycling events among competitors.
<b>Volleyball</b>	Indoor	Intermediate (if face mask is worn)  High (if no face mask is worn)	Intermittent contact among competitors. Frequent touching of shared equipment.
<b>Volleyball (Beach)</b>	Outdoor	Low	Intermittent contact among competitors. Frequent touching of shared equipment.
<b>Water Polo</b>	Indoor/Outdoor	High	Frequent close contact among all competitors.



Sport	Indoor/Outdoor	Current Transmission Risk	Proximity to Other Competitors
<b>Wrestling (Men's)</b>	Indoor	High	Frequent close contact between two competitors at a time.
<b>Wrestling (Women's)</b> <i>[emerging sport]</i>	Indoor	High	Frequent close contact between two competitors at a time.
*If played indoors, assumes similar transmission risk if arena size <u>and</u> ventilation/air flow approximate outdoors. If arena size is small and/or ventilation/air flow is compromised, then assumes transmission risk will be higher; however, all decisions regarding arena size and ventilation/air flow capacity should be made in consultation with local public health authorities.			

## Testing and Masking Strategies Based on Sport and Travel Transmission Risk

Testing strategies should align with institutional and local/state public health guidance and take into consideration factors specific to transmission risk. Because of emerging information regarding the differential risk of outdoor and indoor sport, testing strategies for high transmission risk sports may differ based on whether the sport is held indoor or outdoor.

Testing strategies are designed to be directed toward student-athletes and athletics personnel who have regular, close contact with student-athletes. This group of individuals is considered Tier 1, which is the highest exposure tier. Following is a summary explanation of Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 risk categories, which is based on information in a recently published scientific article.<sup>23</sup>

- **Tier 1** — This is the highest exposure tier and consists of individuals for whom physical distancing and face coverings are not possible or effective during athletic training or competition. Examples of relevant individuals include student-athletes, coaches, athletic trainers, physical therapists, medical staff, equipment staff and officials.
- **Tier 2** — This is a moderate exposure tier and consists of individuals who come into close contact with Tier 1 individuals but can reasonably maintain physical distance and use face coverings. Examples of relevant individuals include certain team staff (for example, **administrators**) and certain operational staff (for example, security, event staff and league staff).
- **Tier 3** — This is the lowest exposure tier and includes individuals who provide event services but do not come into close contact with Tier 1 individuals (and should this occur, would be reclassified into Tier 2). Examples of relevant individuals include certain operational staff (for example, housekeeping, catering, sanitation and transportation) and media or broadcast workers.

<sup>23</sup> [bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2020/10/08/bjsports-2020-103227](https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2020/10/08/bjsports-2020-103227)



In daily practice, schools should consider how best to eliminate any unnecessary interaction among the different tier groups. Universal physical distancing and masking should be considered for all individuals in Tier 2 and Tier 3 at all times, including during competitions, and for individuals in Tier 1 where they cannot avoid interaction with Tier 2 or Tier 3 individuals. [Guidance and Recommendations for Game Day Operations - Basketball](#) provides more detailed considerations for basketball operations, including guidance for interaction among the three tiers and spectators, if applicable. Although this document is basketball-specific, the general guidance includes considerations that may be applicable to other sports.

### Team Travel

Because public and private travel may pose logistical challenges related to potential exposure and appropriate risk mitigation independent of sport, testing strategies that take into account team travel may help mitigate such risk. Schools should continue to evaluate the current data regarding risks related to commercial plane and other travel, and travel protocols should be considered that include physical distancing, as possible, and universal masking for all individuals traveling with others by private car, van, chartered bus or chartered plane. Schools should also plan for proper communication of all travel rules, protocols and expectations to everyone in the travel party. When feasible, schools should aim to travel and play the same day to avoid overnight stays. For overnight stays or same-day travel, prepackaged meals or room service should be considered. If restaurant dining is the only option, consider take-out food or outdoor eating as preferable alternatives.

To date, no COVID-19 outbreaks/superspreader events originating from air travel have been publicly reported. This may be the result of masking enforcement coupled with high-quality ventilation systems. On the other hand, there have been reports of superspreader events from prolonged team travel in a van. This may have been the result of a combination of limited masking and poor ventilation. Based on these available facts, it is reasonable to conclude that bus/van travel may not necessarily be a lower COVID-19 transmission risk than air travel and may pose a greater risk. To mitigate COVID-19 transmission risk during bus/van travel, universal masking and physical distancing should be in place when feasible, individuals should wear a mask/face covering, and windows should be opened when feasible.

Following are additional considerations for travel:

- Use of and adherence to assigned seating charts, as applicable, for all modes of travel.

- Strategic placement of individuals for all travel, e.g., cohort previously uninfected individuals with those who have been previously infected/recovered within the prior 150 days; maintain pods and tiers that are used during practice.
- To avoid un-masked time, limiting unnecessary meals and/or food.
- Before eating, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Limiting group meals or using outdoor locations for group meals.
- Using “grab and go” meals where possible.
- If group meals must occur:
  - Using “grab and go” options.
  - Limiting mealtime.
  - Staggering flow and controlling spacing in food service lines.
  - Seating charts with strategic placement of individuals.
  - Physical distancing whenever feasible.
  - Prohibiting lingering in meal spaces.
  - Requiring masks except while eating.
- When drinking indoors or during travel, using a straw under the mask.
- Limiting time in locker rooms.
  - Using outdoor spaces or spacious indoor spaces to tape, prepare, and/or dress before entering locker room.
- Adhering to social activity safety measures at all times.

### Testing Strategies

Following are examples of testing strategies that may be considered for student-athletes and other Tier 1 individuals. These strategies should be evaluated with consideration toward applicable local and state guidelines and other factors impacting institution-level decision-making and may be updated consistent with emerging evidence. Because travel may be a risk independent of sport participation, travel recommendations are listed for each sport classification. Strategies also should take into consideration the timing of test results and the need to secure and review results as necessary before the start of travel, practice or competition, as applicable. The appendix provides transmission risk of sports with testing strategies for student-athletes and Tier 1 individuals, including officials.

### Low transmission risk sports

- Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.

### Intermediate transmission risk sports

- Out-of-season athletics activities — Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- **Regular and postseason** — Surveillance PCR or antigen testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.

### High transmission risk sports

- Out-of-season athletics activities — Surveillance PCR **or antigen** testing, for example, 25%-50% of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel every one to two weeks if physical distancing, masking and other protective features are not maintained, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.
- Preseason — Testing of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel once weekly by PCR testing, or three times weekly by antigen testing.
- Regular and postseason, **outdoor sports** — Testing of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel once weekly by PCR testing (within three days before the competition), or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.
  - If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
  - Regular and postseason, **indoor sports** — Testing (PCR/antigen/rapid PCR testing) of athletes and Tier 1 nonathlete personnel three times weekly on nonconsecutive days, beginning one week before the first competition. If all training and competition are done with universal masking and adherence to infection risk mitigation, then testing in a manner consistent with outdoor high transmission risk sports.
  - If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one day before travel for away competitions.
  - For the special scenario in which high transmission risk indoor sports are competing once weekly within a conference or specified geographic locale:
    - > If a single game — PCR test within three days before the game, or antigen/rapid PCR test the day of the game.

- > If back-to-back games against the same team (for example, Friday-Saturday) — PCR test within three days before the second game, or antigen/rapid PCR **within one** day of each game.
- > If two games against the same team are separated by one day (for example, Thursday-Saturday) — PCR test within three days before the second game, or antigen/rapid PCR test **within one** day of each game.
- > **These scenarios do not apply to multiple teams meeting in one location, and they do not apply to wrestling.**

With respect to competition with other schools, athletics departments should consider how best to secure reasonable assurance that the same risks have been adequately evaluated and addressed by the other team. Schools should consider how to share testing results and related safety assurances with opposing teams before the start of an event in a manner consistent with applicable health information and education privacy laws. Further, in conjunction with local public health **authorities** and contact tracers, schools should consider the process through which they will notify other schools should an athlete from one team test positive within 48 hours after competition with another team.

#### *Clinical-based testing and isolation*

In addition to routine surveillance and pre-competition testing, schools and conferences should contemplate protocols that include clinical evaluation for student-athletes and/or other athletics personnel who develop COVID-19 symptoms after pre-competition testing, including testing for the presence of the virus (PCR or antigen). If a student-athlete or staff member becomes symptomatic between testing and competition, protocols should be considered that include isolating the student-athlete or staff member until repeat results are available, in each case in a manner consistent with applicable state, local and institutional recommendations.

#### *Game officials*

Officials and referees may operate in proximity to student-athletes and school personnel during or as part of competition events. As a result, they may create risk for these individuals and may also be at risk for contracting the disease from student-athletes. Athletics departments should consider how best to plan for and address these additional risks. For example, schools should consider the implementation of appropriate distancing and masking practices, as well as the use of electronic whistles or whistles with a pouch or covering, and should consider how best to ensure that officials are aware of any other competition-specific practices or expectations that will be implemented for risk mitigation purposes (for example, teams not swapping benches between periods). Schools and conferences also should consider whether travel restrictions, including quarantine, will have an impact on a game official's participation.

Table 2 provides risk considerations and examples of testing and masking strategies that may be considered for officials in all sports. The appendix provides transmission risk of sports with testing strategies for student-athletes and Tier 1 individuals, including officials. These strategies should be evaluated with consideration toward applicable local and state guidelines and other factors impacting institution-level decision-making and may be updated consistent with emerging evidence. [Guidance and Considerations for Men's and Women's Basketball Officiating](#) provides more detailed considerations for basketball officials. Although this document is basketball-specific, the general guidance includes considerations that may be applicable to other sports.

**Table 2. Examples of Testing and Masking Strategies for Officials, and Proximity to Competitors**

Sport	Testing and Masking Strategies	Officials' Proximity to Competitors
<b>Acrobatics and Tumbling [emerging sport]</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Seated at judges table near the competition area but no direct contact with participants.
<b>Baseball</b>	For officials not behind home plate: No testing if masking maintained.  For any official who works behind home plate, regardless of mask wearing by official and catcher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week.</li> <li>Antigen/rapid PCR: Same day as each competition.</li> </ul> Preferential use of hand signals and masking if tolerated.	For officials not behind home plate: On the field of play near participants but can distance and be universally masked. Potential for occasional close contact but would be momentary (close call at a base/plate).  For home plate officials: Prolonged close contact between official and catcher.
<b>Basketball (more than one game and one team per week)</b>	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.  Masks as feasible during competition. Masks while on-site and masks while interacting with participants and coaches.	On the court near student-athletes.

Sport	Testing and Masking Strategies	Officials' Proximity to Competitors
<b>Basketball (one or two games per week with same team, not separated by more than one day)</b>	PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or if two games, before second scheduled game. Or Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.  <b>Masks as feasible during competition. Masks while on-site and masks while interacting with participants/coaches.</b>	On the court near student-athletes.
<b>Bowling</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Behind the approach area (15 feet). Will be distanced most of the time, except short interactions to notify of infractions.
<b>Cross Country</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	On the course (mainly start and finish areas) near participants but can distance most of the time from participants. Clerking positions interact with student-athletes.
<b>Equestrian [emerging sport]</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Judges can be distanced from participants.
<b>Fencing</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Judges distanced from range and contact with participants.
<b>Field Hockey</b>	No testing.  <b>Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.</b>	On the field near participants.
<b>Football</b>	Testing before competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before scheduled competition for that week.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Same day as each competition.</li> </ul> <b>Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.</b>	On the field of play near participants.
<b>Golf</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Can distance from participants.
<b>Gymnastics</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	On the gymnastics floor near the apparatus but no direct contact with participants.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Testing and Masking Strategies</b>	<b>Officials' Proximity to Competitors</b>
<b>Ice Hockey (more than one game and one team per week)</b>	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.  Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.	On the ice near participants.
<b>Ice Hockey (one or two games per week with same team, not separated by more than one day)</b>	PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or, if two games, before second scheduled game. Or antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.  Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.	On the ice near participants.
<b>Indoor Track and Field</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	On the track near participants but can distance from participants. Brief conversations with participants. Clerking positions interact with participants.
<b>Lacrosse (Men's and Women's)</b>	No testing if masking maintained.  Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.	On the field near participants.
<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	On the track near participants but can distance most of the time from participants. Clerking positions interact with participants.
<b>Rifle</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Judges distanced from range and participants.
<b>Rowing</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Officials can distance from participants.
<b>Rugby [emerging sport]</b>	No testing.  Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.	On the field of play near participants.
<b>Skiing</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Judges distanced from competition area and participants.



Sport	Testing and Masking Strategies	Officials' Proximity to Competitors
<b>Soccer</b>	No testing.  Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.	On the field near participants.
<b>Softball</b>	For officials not behind home plate: No testing if masking maintained.  For any official who works behind home plate, regardless of mask wearing by official and catcher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Same day as each competition.</li> </ul> Preferential use of hand signals and masking if tolerated.	For officials not behind home plate: On the field of play near participants. Can distance and be universally masked. Potential for occasional close contact but would be momentary (close call at a base/plate).  For home plate officials: Prolonged close contact between official and catcher.
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site. May need to have multiple masks due to humidity.	On the pool deck near participants; however, could distance and maintain brief periods of time near participants.
<b>Tennis</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Official on perch courtside. Line judges also distanced from court and participants and can be universally masked. Ball handlers may encounter closer but brief contact with participants.
<b>Triathlon [emerging sport]</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Officials distanced from competition area and participants.
<b>Volleyball</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Up official courtside (above net). Down official on sideline but can distance from participants. Line judges typically farther away from players.
<b>Volleyball (Beach)</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	Up official courtside (above net). Down official on sideline but can distance from participants. Line judges typically farther away from participants.
<b>Water Polo</b>	No testing.  Masks during competition and while on-site.	On the pool deck distanced from participants and can be universally masked. Ball handlers and goal judges may encounter closer but brief contact with participants.



Sport	Testing and Masking Strategies	Officials' Proximity to Competitors
<b>Wrestling (Men's)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before any scheduled meet/competition, or within three days of the second meet if back-to-back.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Within one day before each competition.</li> </ul> <p>Masks during competition and while on-site.</p>	On the mats near participants. Can maintain distancing around the mat, but officials on the mat are in close proximity to participants.
<b>Wrestling (Women's) [emerging sport]</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before any scheduled meet/competition, or within three days of the second meet if back-to-back.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Within one day before each competition.</li> </ul> <p>Masks during competition and while on-site.</p>	On the mats near participants. Can maintain distancing around the mat, but officials on the mat are in close proximity to participants.

### Universal masking

As part of agreed-upon competition protocols, schools and conferences should contemplate universal masking for all coaches and other personnel who are present at the event. This can help prevent the unwitting spread of infection to others with whom they may have close contact, especially when talking at a close physical distance as is so common on the sidelines or bench area. Similarly, because wearing a mask/face covering will not adequately protect a coach from infection by an unmasked infectious athlete, schools and conferences should contemplate a policy of universal masking for all student-athletes when they are not playing and when they move from the court or field to the sidelines for timeouts or between-period strategy discussions.

### **Updated Contact Tracing Considerations**

Effective contact tracing is critical in breaking the chain of transmission and limiting the spread of infection for infectious diseases such as COVID-19. However, there is no federal oversight of contact tracing programs, and the number of contact tracers in this country is currently inadequate to effectively manage disease spread among individuals and groups of people with high contact risk exposure. As a result, athletics departments, in consultation with institutional leadership, should consider evaluating the availability of and accessibility to local contact tracing resources. Where the availability of local contact tracing resources is identified as inadequate, schools should consider the need for and benefit of training on-site personnel through accepted courses such as the [Coursera class](#) and other [CDC-endorsed trainings](#). Staff who complete formal training in contact tracing

can be an invaluable resource with respect to institutional risk-management efforts and resources.

Contact tracing is important in deciding who should be placed in quarantine because of a close contact with a person infected with COVID-19. Local public health authorities oversee contact tracing, including when contact tracing is initiated by school personnel who have been trained as contact tracers. Because decision-making criteria may vary in different municipalities, schools should consider developing a professional relationship with local public health authorities as it can be helpful for such authorities to understand the school's risk-mitigation strategies, including the role of school personnel as contact tracers. It is also important for schools to understand expected protocols from local public health authorities after a new COVID-19 case, which can facilitate timely decisions regarding which Tier 1 individuals who have been placed in immediate quarantine as a precaution because another Tier 1 individual tested positive will ultimately remain in quarantine.

### **Considerations After a Positive Test Result**

When an athlete tests positive for COVID-19, local public health **authorities** must be notified, and required contact tracing protocols must be followed. Schools should consider the 14-day quarantine requirement **(or shortened quarantine in conjunction with local public health authorities)** for individuals with high risk of exposure as per CDC guidance. This may include members of opposing teams after competition. Determining which individuals had a high risk of exposure can be difficult, and in some cases, this could mean quarantining an entire team (or teams). Proximity monitoring devices and/or review of practice or game film may be helpful when available. As noted in the above section "Risk of Transmission of COVID-19," the CDC defines a close contact requiring quarantine as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, two days before test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.<sup>3</sup>

Ultimately, high risk exposure and "close contact" determinations and resulting quarantine decisions will be made in coordination with local public health authorities and applicable contact tracers. Athletics departments and schools should consider establishing a relationship with the applicable local and state public health officials and, in particular, explaining the COVID-19 risk mitigation strategies in place. Supplemental contact tracers from athletics departments and schools report to local public health authorities but are in a unique position to begin contact tracing protocols immediately, with firsthand information regarding potential close contact individuals.

## **Considerations Related to the Discontinuation of Athletics**

At the time of this writing, the [rate of spread of COVID-19](#) has been increasing in many regions of the country. Because of this increase, it may become impossible to practice and/or play sports, especially high contact risk sports, safely in some areas. In conjunction with public health officials, schools should consider pausing or discontinuing athletics activities when local circumstances warrant such consideration. Some examples of such local circumstances that might trigger a conversation with local public health **authorities** include the following:

- A lack of ability to isolate new positive cases or quarantine high contact risk cases on campus.
- Unavailability or inability to perform symptomatic, surveillance and pre-competition testing when warranted and as per recommendations in this document.
- Campuswide or local community test rates that are considered unsafe by local public health **authorities**.
- Inability to perform adequate contact tracing consistent with governmental requirements or recommendations.
- Local public health **authorities** stating that there is an inability for the hospital infrastructure to accommodate a surge in hospitalizations related to COVID-19.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

High transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Acrobatics and Tumbling [emerging sport]</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Basketball (more than one game and one team per week)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days. Testing begins one week before first competition.	Masks while on-site and masks while interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Basketball (one or two games per week with same team, not separated by more than one day)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or, if two games, before second scheduled game; or</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or, if two games, before second scheduled game; or</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.</li> </ul>	Masks while on-site and masks while interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Football</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	Testing once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	Testing before competition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before scheduled competition for that week.</li> <li>• Or antigen/rapid PCR: Same day as each competition.</li> </ul>	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Ice Hockey (more than one game and one team per week)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days. Testing begins one week before first competition.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

High transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials during regular and postseason	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Ice Hockey (one or two games per week with same team, not separated by more than one day)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or, if two games, before second scheduled game; or</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR test within three days before scheduled game, or, if two games, before second scheduled game; or</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each scheduled game.</li> </ul>	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Rugby [emerging sport]</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	Testing once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	No testing.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Volleyball (without masks)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Water Polo</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

High transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials during regular and postseason	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Wrestling (Men's)</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before any scheduled meet/competition, or within three days of the second meet if back-to-back.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Within 1-day before each competition.</li> </ul>	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Wrestling (Women's) [emerging sport]</b>	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Once weekly by PCR testing or three times weekly by antigen/rapid PCR testing.	PCR or antigen test three times per week on nonconsecutive days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCR: Within three days before any scheduled meet/competition, or within three days of the second meet if back-to-back.</li> <li>• Antigen/rapid PCR: Within 1-day before each competition.</li> </ul>	Masks during competition and while on-site.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

Intermediate transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials during regular and postseason	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Baseball</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Officials not behind home plate: No testing, if masking maintained.  Home plate officials: • PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or • Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition.	Officials not behind home plate: Masks during competition and while on-site.  Home plate: Masking as tolerated; masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Fencing (no face mask)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Field Hockey</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Indoor Track and Field</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

Intermediate transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials during regular and postseason	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Men's Lacrosse</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing if masking maintained.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Women's Lacrosse</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing if masking maintained.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Rowing (sculls of two or more people)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Soccer</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks while on-site. Masks as feasible during competition and masks when interacting with participants and coaches.
<b>Softball</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	Officials not behind home plate: No testing.  Home plate officials: • PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or • Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition.	Officials not behind home plate: Masks during competition and while on-site.  Home plate: Masking as tolerated; Masks when interacting with participants and coaches.



## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

Intermediate transmission risk sports	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials during regular and postseason	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Volleyball (with masks)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	25%-50% surveillance testing every one to two weeks.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
Low Transmission Risk	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Bowling</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Cross Country</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Equestrian [emerging sport]</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Fencing (if face mask is worn under protective gear)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

Low Transmission Risk	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Golf</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Outdoor Track and Field</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Rifle</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Rowing (single scull)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.

## Appendix. Sport Transmission Risk, Sample Testing, and Masking Strategies

Low Transmission Risk	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during out-of-season activities	Athlete and Tier 1 testing during preseason activities	Athlete Tier 1 testing beginning one week before competition and during regular and postseason	Testing of officials	Masking strategies for officials
<b>Skiing</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Swimming and Diving</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site. May need to have multiple masks due to humidity.
<b>Tennis</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.  Ball handlers: Masks when interacting with participants.
<b>Triathlon [emerging sport]</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.
<b>Volleyball (Beach)</b>	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	Testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students.	No testing.	Masks during competition and while on-site.

\*Travel may pose a transmission risk independent of sport practice and competition. If travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then consider PCR test within three days before travel departure for away competitions, or antigen/rapid PCR within one day before travel departure for away competitions. Such testing may already be part of the cadence for some sports, but it may need to be considered for sports in which testing is not otherwise considered.



## 56 Passenger Coach Seating Chart

RESTROOM				54	X	53	
56		55	X	50		49	X
52	X	51		46	X	45	
48		47	X	42		41	X
44	X	43		38	X	37	
40		39	X	34		33	X
36	X	35		30	X	29	
32		31	X	26		25	X
28	X	27		22	X	21	
24		23	X	18		17	X
20	X	19		14	X	13	
16		15	X	10		9	X
12	X	11		6	X	5	
8		7		2		1	
43				DRIVER			
STAIRS							

**sunyacsports@gmail.com**

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**From:** SSI <ssi@ncaa.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 3:44 PM  
**To:** sunyacsports@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: No documented incident of transmission of virus during games/event

Confirming there is no scientific evidence of transmission during competition.

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**From:** sunyacsports@gmail.com <sunyacsports@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 12:22 PM  
**To:** SSI <ssi@ncaa.org>  
**Subject:** No documented incident of transmission of virus during games/event

Good afternoon,

I know Dr. Hainline has repeatedly said that there has been no documented case where there has been a transmission of the virus during intercollegiate competition. Is there anything in any document that states that – I am looking for something that I can share with our presidents as part of our spring sports operational plan.

Or, a simple reply confirming or clarifying what I paraphrased in the above paragraph would also help.

Thank you.

Tom DiCamillo, Commissioner  
State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC)  
PO Box 39  
Syracuse, NY 13209

315-466-1843 / [sunyacsports@gmail.com](mailto:sunyacsports@gmail.com)  
[www.sunyacsports.com](http://www.sunyacsports.com)

Home Schedule for Each School - Baseball/Lacrosse/Softball/Tennis (W) - Updated 1/27/21

	Brockport	Buffalo St	Fredonia	Geneseo	Oswego	Cortland	New Paltz	Oneonta	Plattsburgh	Potsdam
3/20/2021					S			WLX	WLX	
3/24/2021		WLX		WLX	W	WLX				
3/25/2021					H					
3/26/2021					F	MLX	MLX	MLX		
3/27/2021	WLX		WLX		S		WLX			WLX
3/30/2021			BB		T					
3/31/2021			WLX		W		WLX			
4/1/2021	SB				H	SB			SB	
4/2/2021	MLX			MLX	F			BB	MLX	MLX
4/3/2021				WLX	S	SB		WLX		WLX
4/4/2021					U	BB		SB		
4/6/2021	BB				T		BB		BB	
4/7/2021	SB	WLX	SB	WLX	W	SB		WLX		WLX
4/8/2021					H			BB		
4/9/2021	MLX				F			MLX		MLX
4/10/2021	WLX	WLX		SB	S	WLX	BB	WLX	SB	SB
4/11/2021			BB		U					
4/13/2021					T		BB			
4/14/2021	WLX	SB	WLX		W	WLX	SB		WLX	
4/15/2021	WT		SB	WT	H	WT			WT	
4/16/2021					F	MLX	MLX	MLX		
4/17/2021		SB	BB	WLX	S	BB	WLX	SB	WLX	SB
4/18/2021					U	WT			BB	
4/19/2021	WT				WT	M		WT		
4/20/2021					BB	T	BB			
4/21/2021	WLX	SB		SB	WLX	W	WLX	SB	WLX	SB
4/22/2021			WT		WT	H	WT	WT		
4/23/2021	MLX			MLX	F	BB			MLX	
4/24/2021	SB	WLX	WLX		S		WLX	SB	SB	WLX
4/25/2021	BB				U					
4/26/2021			WT	WT	M		WT	WT		
4/27/2021					T	BB			BB	
4/28/2021		SB		SB	W	SB	SB			
4/29/2021			WT		H	WT			WT	
4/30/2021				MLX	F	MLX	MLX		MLX	
5/1/2021	SB		SB		S		SB	BB	SB	
5/2/2021	WT				U				BB	
5/3/2021				WT	M		WT		WT	
5/4/2021	BB				T				SB	
5/5/2021			SB	SB	W		SB	BB	BB	SB
5/7/2021			SB	SB	F					
5/8/2021	BB		BB		S			BB		

## 2021 Divisional Baseball Schedule (Updated 1/27/21)

	West				East		
	Brockport	Fredonia	Oswego		Cortland	New Paltz	Oneonta Plattsburgh
3/30/2021	at Fredonia	Brockport		T			
4/2/2021	at Oswego		Brockport	F			Plattsburgh at Oneonta
4/3/2021				S			
4/4/2021				U	New Paltz	at Cortland	
4/6/2021	Fredonia	at Brockport	at New Paltz	T		Oswego	
4/8/2021				H	at Oneonta		Cortland
4/10/2021				S		Plattsburgh	at New Paltz
4/11/2021		Oswego	at Fredonia	U			
4/13/2021				T		Oneonta	at New Paltz
4/17/2021	at Fredonia	Brockport		S	Oneonta	at Cortland	
4/18/2021				U		at Plattsburgh	New Paltz
4/20/2021	at Cortland	at Oswego	Fredonia	T	Brockport		
4/23/2021				F	Plattsburgh		at Cortland
4/24/2021				S			
4/25/2021	Oswego		at Brockport	U			
4/27/2021				T	at New Paltz	Cortland	at Plattsburgh Oneonta
5/1/2021		at Oswego	Fredonia	S		at Oneonta	New Paltz
5/2/2021				U	at Plattsburgh		Cortland
5/4/2021	Fredonia	at Brockport		T			
5/5/2021			at Oneonta	W		at Plattsburgh	Oswego New Paltz
5/8/2021	Oneonta	Cortland	Plattsburgh	S	at Fredonia		at Brockport at Oswego
5/9/2021				U			
5/15/2021	Semifinal DH at #1 Seeds			S			
5/16/2021	Semifinal Game 3 @ Higher Seed			U			
5/21/2021	Championship DH @ Higher Seed			F			
5/22/2021	Championship Game 3 @ Higher Seed			S			

### Schedule Notes:

All Dates are 9-7 Doubleheaders

### Playoff Format

4-Team Tournament / Division Winners plus next two teams with best records

Championship Host Determined by Highest Remaining Seed/Overall Record/Tiebreakers

Approved by Governing Body

2/1/2021

**Divisional Double Round Robin (Updated 1/27/21)**

**West**

**East**

<b>2021 Men's Lacrosse</b>	<b>Brockport</b>	<b>Cortland</b>	<b>Geneseo</b>	<b>Oswego</b>		<b>New Paltz</b>	<b>Oneonta</b>	<b>Plattsburgh</b>	<b>Potsdam</b>
3/26/2021	at Cortland	Brockport	at Oswego	Geneseo	F	Plattsburgh	Potsdam	at New Paltz	at Oneonta
4/2/2021	Oswego	at Geneseo	Cortland	at Brockport	F	at Potsdam	at Plattsburgh	Oneonta	New Paltz
4/9/2021	Geneseo	at Oswego	at Brockport	Cortland	F	at Oneonta	New Paltz	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh
4/16/2021	at Oswego	Geneseo	at Cortland	Brockport	F	Potsdam	Plattsburgh	at Oneonta	at New Paltz
4/23/2021	Cortland	at Brockport	Oswego	at Geneseo	F	at Plattsburgh	at Potsdam	New Paltz	Oneonta
4/30/2021	at Geneseo	Oswego	Brockport	at Cortland	F	Oneonta	at New Paltz	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh

5/4/2021 Semifinals @ #1 Seeds T

5/7/2021 Championship @ Highest Remaining Seed\* F

\*If Seeds are tied, West Division will host based on 5-Year Championship Record (4-1)

**Playoffs:** Divisional Schedule - 4-Team Playoff using Top 2 Teams in each Division with Crossover Semifinal

***Approved by Governing Body: 2/1/21***



# 2021 Women's Lacrosse Schedule (Updated 1/27/21)

West											
	Brockport	Buffalo St	Fredonia	Geneseo	Oswego		Cortland	New Paltz	East		
									Oneonta	Plattsburgh	Potsdam
3/20/2021						S	at Plattsburgh		Potsdam	Cortland	at Oneonta
3/24/2021	at Geneseo	Fredonia	at Buffalo State	Brockport	x	W	New Paltz	at Cortland		x	
3/27/2021	Oswego	x	Geneseo	at Fredonia	at Brockport	S	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh	x	at New Paltz	Cortland
3/31/2021	at Fredonia	at Oswego	Brockport	x	Buffalo State	W		Oneonta	at New Paltz		x
4/3/2021	x	at Geneseo	at Oswego	Buffalo State	Fredonia	S	x	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh	at Oneonta	New Paltz
4/7/2021	at Buffalo State	Brockport	x	Oswego	at Geneseo	W	at Oneonta	x	Cortland	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh
4/10/2021	Fredonia	Oswego	at Brockport	x	at Buffalo State	S	Plattsburgh	at Oneonta	New Paltz	at Cortland	x
4/14/2021	Geneseo	at Fredonia	Buffalo State	at Brockport	x	W	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh	x	New Paltz	at Cortland
4/17/2021	at Oswego	x	at Geneseo	Fredonia	Brockport	S	x	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh	Oneonta	at New Paltz
4/21/2021	Buffalo State	at Brockport	x	at Oswego	Geneseo	W	Oneonta	x	at Cortland	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh
4/24/2021	x	Geneseo	Oswego	at Buffalo State	at Fredonia	S	at New Paltz	Cortland	at Potsdam	x	Oneonta
4/29/2021	Semifinals @ #1 Seeds					H					
5/2/2021	Championship @ Highest Remaining Seed*					U					

\*If Seeds are tied, East Division will host based on 5-Year Championship Record (4-1)

## Playoff Format

Divisional Schedule - 4-Team Playoff using Top 2 Teams in each Division with Crossover Semifinal

Approved by Governing Body: 2/1/21

**2021 Softball Schedule (Updated 1/27/21)**

21 Softball Schedule (Updated 1/27/21)			West				East				
	Brockport	Buffalo St	Fredonia	Geneseo	Oswego		Cortland	New Paltz	Oneonta	Plattsburgh	Potsdam
4/1/2021	Buffalo State	at Brockport	x	at Oswego	Geneseo	H	Oneonta	x	at Cortland	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh
4/3/2021						S	Plattsburgh	x		at Cortland	
4/4/2021						U			Potsdam		at Oneonta
4/7/2021	Geneseo	at Fredonia	Buffalo State	at Brockport	x	W	New Paltz	at Cortland		x	
4/10/2021	at Oswego	x	at Geneseo	Fredonia	Brockport	S	at Potsdam	at Plattsburgh	x	New Paltz	Cortland
4/14/2021		Oswego		x	at Buffalo State	W		Oneonta	at New Paltz		x
4/15/2021	at Fredonia		Brockport			H					
4/17/2021	x	Geneseo		at Buffalo State		S	x	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh	at Oneonta	New Paltz
4/18/2021			at Oswego		Fredonia	U					
4/21/2021	at Buffalo State	Brockport	x	Oswego	at Geneseo	W	at Oneonta	x	Cortland	at Potsdam	Plattsburgh
4/24/2021	Fredonia	at Oswego	at Brockport	x	Buffalo State	S	at Plattsburgh	at Oneonta	New Paltz	Cortland	x
4/28/2021	at Geneseo	Fredonia	at Buffalo State	Brockport	x	W	Potsdam	Plattsburgh	x	at New Paltz	at Cortland
5/1/2021	Oswego	x	Geneseo	at Fredonia	at Brockport	S	x	Potsdam	at Plattsburgh	Oneonta	at New Paltz
5/5/2021	x	at Geneseo	Oswego	Buffalo State	at Fredonia	W	at New Paltz	Cortland	at Potsdam	x	Oneonta
5/8/2021	Best of 3 Semifinals @ #1 Seeds					S					
5/15/2021	Best of 3 Championship @ Highest Remaining *					S					

\*If Seeds are tied, East Division will host based 5-Year Championship Record (4-1)

**Approved by Governing Body: 2/1/21**

# 2021 Women's Tennis Schedule (Updated 2/3/21)

	West					East			
	Brockport	Fredonia	Geneseo	Oswego		Cortland	New Paltz	Oneonta	Plattsburgh
4/15/2021	Fredonia	at Brockport	Oswego	at Geneseo	H	New Paltz	at Cortland	at Plattsburgh	Oneonta
4/18/2021					U	Plattsburgh			at Cortland
4/19/2021	Geneseo	at Oswego	at Brockport	Fredonia	M		at Oneonta	New Paltz	
4/22/2021	at Oswego	Geneseo	at Fredonia	Brockport	H	at Oneonta	Plattsburgh	Cortland	at New Paltz
4/26/2021	at Geneseo	Oswego	Brockport	at Fredonia	M	at New Paltz	Cortland	Plattsburgh	at Oneonta
4/29/2021	at Fredonia	Brockport	at Oswego	Geneseo	H	Oneonta	at Plattsburgh	at Cortland	New Paltz
5/2/2021	Oswego	at Geneseo	Fredonia	at Brockport	U	at Plattsburgh	Oneonta	at New Paltz	Cortland
5/6/2021					H	Championship			

*Semifinals & Championship @ Cortland*

*Approved by Governing Body: 2/3/21*