

2020-21 MSHSAA Traditional and Alternate Season Planning (9/4/20)

At this time, MSHSAA plans to offer all three traditional sport seasons, along with traditional activity seasons. In addition, an alternate fall sports season coupled with an alternate spring sports season, is planned. Details are shown below. As circumstances change, so may these plans. We will continue to keep the membership informed.

Traditional Sport and Activity Seasons:

- Classifications, post-season schedule, and championship venues are **subject to alteration** from what would have been in place under normal circumstances.
- Traditional Fall Season – 17 Weeks (3 practice, 14 comp) (August to December)
- Traditional Winter – 20 Weeks (3 practice, 17 comp) (October to March)
- Traditional Spring – 14 Weeks (3 practice, 11 comp) (February to June)
- Activities Seasons– traditional seasons and postseasons being offered as of now

Alternate Fall Season Option

- **Practice:** First Allowable Practice for alternate fall season - February 22, 2021
- **Competition:** Competition Season for alternate fall season - March 12 to May 1 (7 Weeks)
- **Sport-by-Sport:** Schools may select the alternate fall season for a single sport or multiple sports.
- **Selection of Season:** Each school should determine its path (traditional fall or alternate fall) for each sport by September 17 at noon in order for traditional fall classifications to be set. **Please notify MSHSAA by email if your school wants to opt-out of the traditional fall season and participate in the alternate fall season for one or more sports. Schools that declare participation in the alternate fall season will not be allowed to compete in that sport(s) in interscholastic competition after September 17.**
- **Contact Days:** Schools participating in the alternate fall season will have 35 contact-days during the traditional fall season and must complete them by November 2, 2020. The length of a contact day cannot exceed 2 hours.
- **Mid-Season Switches:** Schools that begin participation in the traditional fall season, and then request to move to the alternate fall season may have limited access to their students for those sports and will not automatically get 35 contact-days.
- **Late Requests to Switch:** Schools that have participated in more than 40% of the Fall Season (7 weeks of practices and games) and request to move to the alternate fall season could be approved, restricted or denied. Any school wishing to change seasons after the deadline must appeal to the MSHSAA Board of Directors for allowance.
- **Postseason:** Participation in any postseason contest in a sport will disallow entry into the alternate season.
- **Classifications and Venues:** Details for the alternate fall postseason remain under evaluation and cannot be finalized at this stage.
- **Football Note 1:** Schools that participate in football during the alternate fall season WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT ANY LIVE OR THUD CONTACT DURING THE 35 CONTACT-DAYS for safety and risk management purposes. Helmets only.
- **Football Note 2:** Schools that participate in football during the alternate fall season WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONDUCT ANY LIVE OR THUD CONTACT DURING THE SUMMER OF 2021 for safety and risk management purposes. Helmets only.

Traditional Winter Sports Season:

- **One Winter Season:** No alternate season for the winter traditional season can be offered.
- **Join Late as Necessary:** Schools under health restrictions which prevent them from participating at the start of the traditional winter season may join the season at any point local guidelines allow.
- **Conclusion:** The traditional winter sports season will end on March 20.
- **More Info Later:** More details will be provided after we get the fall underway.

Alternate Spring Season Option:

- **Practice:** First allowable practice for alternate spring season - April 26, 2021
- **Competition:** Alternate spring season competition season - May 14 to July 10 (8 Weeks)
- **Coupled with Fall Alternate Season:** Schools participating in the alternate fall season in any sport will automatically be placed in the alternate spring season for all sports, but may opt-out by **requesting in writing** to participate in the traditional spring season on a sport-by-sport basis.
- **Contact Days:** Schools participating in the alternate spring season will have 35 contact-days during the school year and must be completed prior to April 19, 2021.
- **Classifications and Venues:** Details for the alternate spring postseason remain under evaluation and cannot be finalized at this stage.
- **More Info Later:** More details will be provided after we get the fall and winter underway.

Non-School Competition

- By-Law 3.13 (Same Sport-Same Season Restrictions During the School Year) will remain in effect for both the alternate fall and alternate spring seasons. Students representing their school in a sport will not be allowed to participate (practice or compete) on a non-school team of the same sport during the school sport season.
- If a school declares participation in the alternate fall season for a sport, then that sport will not have interscholastic competitions during the traditional fall season. A student would fall under By-Law 3.14 and could play on a non-school team, even though it is during the traditional fall season. For example: A school has decided to play volleyball in the alternative fall season, then those students could participate in non-school competition during the fall because the school is not playing interscholastic contests.