



September 21, 2020

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and concerns on moving DPS football to Season C. We understand the desire and passion around providing our student athletes with a football season that will allow access to competition and recruiting for college-level scholarships.

Currently in Denver, we are under guidance from our local health departments that limit cohort size and adult interaction with cohorts. This *guidance alone would make it impossible* to offer the same programming allowed in neighboring communities and could limit participation opportunities for our students.

- Our stance reflects our commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff and communities.
- We feel the decision to move forward with CHSAA football after the winter break gives us the best and safest opportunity for our students to participate this school year.
- We are committed to continuing to work with Denver Health and to continuing to evaluate the health risks, including impacts of potential COVID spikes and the impending flu season, as we move forward over the next several months.

After thoughtful discussion with DPS athletic directors and coaches, and following guidance by leadership and local health officials, DPS as a district will follow the original timeline presented by CHSAA and choose to play football in Season C (spring).

We appreciate your understanding during this unprecedented time and we look forward to seeing you on the gridiron in Season C!

Below are the key Season C dates:

- Start of official practice: February 25, 2021
- First game: March 11, 2021
- Round 1 of playoffs: April 24, 2021
- Semifinals: May 1, 2021
- Championships: May 8, 2021

Below is additional information provided by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA):

- Schools can choose to play in either Season A (fall) or Season C (spring).
- Schools can only play in one season.
- The season structure will be identical in each season.
- There will be a champion named in each season.
- Teams will play a 6+1 season, meaning all teams will play a six-game regular season. Teams that miss the playoffs can schedule a seventh game against another non-qualifier in Week 1 or Week 2 of the postseason. Teams that make the playoffs will play at least seven games.
- Teams must play four of the six regular-season games in order to be eligible for the postseason.



- Playoffs will be an eight-team bracket, which is set and seeded by the CHSAA Seeding Index (RPI, MaxPreps, CHSAANow coaches poll, and Packard Rankings).

September 15, 2020

With the high level of media interest this past weekend over the possible reopening of high school football, we want to take an opportunity to share information regarding the unified stance that DPS has taken in regards to this topic.

First of all, thank you for your support during this challenging and unprecedented time. In early August, CHSAA presented and approved a sports calendar for the 2020-21 school year. This calendar provided modified schedules and timelines for all sports that fall under the CHSAA umbrella. At that time, we outlined a strategic and incremental plan that aligned with local health guidelines and gradually returned our student athletes to conditioning activities and eventual participation in their CHSAA season. We have also committed to working with Denver Health to evaluate the health risks to determine if and when we participate in sports as CHSAA approves them to begin.

Recently, there has been a focused effort to have the state reconsider the start date for football and move it to the current fall season. As part of that movement, CHSAA has sent a survey to its member schools asking if they are ready and willing to begin playing fall sports (specifically football) on Sept. 21, 2020.

The survey had many references to guidance and variances that are not currently defined, and asked districts to decide if they wanted to move football based on these unknown and undetermined timelines. After thoughtful discussion with DPS athletic directors and coaches, and following guidance by leadership and local health officials, DPS as a district has requested that CHSAA honor the schedule that was approved and presented in August.

We are deeply committed to providing our students with safe and engaging opportunities to participate as scholar athletes in CHSAA sports and activities. Our stance reflects our commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff and communities. Our stance is also a strong message that we value and support the diverse group of student athletes we serve. While offering two distinct seasons of football seems logical and noble on the surface, it instead highlights a glaring inequity that does not value all of the more than 140,000 student athletes across the state of Colorado.

We feel the decision to move forward with CHSAA sports as scheduled, after the winter break, gives us the best and safest opportunity for our students to have an opportunity to participate this school year. Currently in Denver, we are under guidance from our local health departments that limits cohort size and adult interaction with cohorts. This guidance alone would make it impossible to offer the same programming allowed in neighboring communities. It could also limit participation opportunities for our students. Additionally, the lack of a solid and cohesive plan from CHSAA that outlines the expectations and requirements for the rollout of football makes it very difficult to make additional commitments at this time. This is because we are unable to assess whether participation would be feasible, what conditions would be required and any implications given our local health context.



As a district, we are excited to continue to grow the opportunities for participation for all of our student athletes over the next several months. Our efforts are in alignment with our return to school processes, local health guidelines, and demonstrate that we value the diversity of all student athletes that participate in CHSAA sports. We will move forward as one.

If you have questions, concerns or thoughts, please reach out to your school's athletic director.

#DPSathletics1903

Ante el alto grado de interés generado por los medios de comunicación el pasado fin de semana sobre la posibilidad de reanudar el fútbol americano de preparatoria, queríamos aprovechar esta oportunidad para compartir información sobre la postura unificada que DPS ha tomado con relación a este tema.

Ante todo, agradecemos su apoyo durante estos tiempos difíciles y sin precedentes. A principios de agosto, CHSAA presentó y aprobó el calendario deportivo para el año escolar 2020-21. Este calendario proporcionaba la modificación de los horarios y cronogramas de todos los deportes de otoño bajo el amparo de CHSAA. En ese entonces, esbozamos un plan estratégico y gradual que seguía las directrices sanitarias locales y marcaba el regreso paulatino de nuestros estudiantes deportistas a las actividades de acondicionamiento y su participación eventual en la temporada de CHSAA. También nos hemos comprometido a trabajar con Denver Health para evaluar los riesgos de salud a fin de determinar la posibilidad y el momento de participar en los deportes a medida que CHSAA autorice su reanudación.

En forma reciente, los esfuerzos se han centrado en hacer que el estado reconsidere la fecha de inicio de fútbol americano para adelantarla a la actual temporada de otoño. Como parte de dicho esfuerzo, CHSAA ha enviado una encuesta a las escuelas miembro en la que se les pregunta si están dispuestas y desean comenzar a jugar los deportes de otoño (concretamente fútbol americano) el 21 de septiembre de 2020.

La encuesta contemplaba distintas referencias a directrices y discrepancias aún por definir, y pedía a los distritos que decidieran si deseaban adelantar el fútbol americano de acuerdo con estos cronogramas desconocidos e indeterminados. Tras detenida consideración con los directores deportivos y entrenadores de DPS y siguiendo las directrices de los líderes y funcionarios de salud local, DPS como distrito ha solicitado que CHSAA respete el cronograma aprobado y presentado en agosto.

Tenemos el firme compromiso de proveer a nuestros estudiantes unas oportunidades seguras y motivadoras para participar como deportistas en los deportes y actividades de CHSAA. Nuestra postura refleja nuestro compromiso para con la salud y la seguridad de nuestros estudiantes, personal y comunidades. Asimismo, nuestra postura envía el claro mensaje de que valoramos y apoyamos a los diversos grupos de estudiantes deportistas a los que servimos. A pesar de que ofrecer dos temporadas distintas de fútbol americano parece lógico y noble a simple vista, en realidad se destaca la evidente inequidad de que no se valora a ninguno de los más de 140,000 estudiantes deportistas en todo el estado de Colorado.

Creemos que la decisión de retomar los deportes de CHSAA tal y como se había programado, después de las vacaciones de invierno, es la mejor y más segura forma de que nuestros estudiantes tengan la oportunidad de participar este año escolar. Actualmente, en Denver, seguimos las directrices de los departamentos de salud locales que limitan el tamaño de las cohortes y la interacción de los adultos con



cohortes. Estas directrices en sí solas harían que fuera imposible ofrecer la misma programación que se permite en las comunidades colindantes. También podría limitar las oportunidades de participación de nuestros estudiantes. Además, la falta de un plan sólido y coherente de CHSAA que describa las expectativas y los requisitos para reanudar el fútbol americano hace que sea muy difícil asumir compromisos adicionales en este momento. Esto se debe a que no podemos determinar si la participación sería posible, qué condiciones serían necesarias y cuáles serían las implicaciones teniendo en cuenta nuestro contexto de salud local.

Como distrito, nos entusiasma seguir incrementando las oportunidades de participación de todos nuestros estudiantes deportistas durante los próximos meses. Nuestros esfuerzos se ajustan a los procesos para el regreso a la escuela, las directrices sanitarias locales y la demostración de que valoramos la diversidad de todos nuestros estudiantes deportistas que participan en los deportes de CHSAA. Avanzaremos todos a la misma vez unidos.

Si tienen alguna pregunta, inquietud o consideración, no duden en comunicarse con el director deportivo de su escuela.

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