

### Comparison of Options for Resumption of Play

It should be noted that the Board of Control had approved Option 1 as the sole option for further consideration at its July 10, 2020 meeting.

**Option 1 - Delay the start of fall sports, Leave all in traditional seasons. Consider options for future seasons after the school year begins.**

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuity with normal seasons which has developed over time to all for the full development of the student by minimizing same season conflicts for students and coaches to the highest extent possible</li><li>• Normalcy for students by having a season in normal time</li><li>• Allow most schools to be in session for instruction, regardless of method</li><li>• Continued Student Engagement, even if classroom instruction is not in-person</li><li>• Opportunities regardless of the type of instruction</li><li>• If interrupted, other options may continue to exist during the remainder of the school year</li><li>• The majority of fall sports are outside and change in seasons impacts maintenance of facilities, short and long term</li><li>• The majority are outdoors and more able to have an appropriate social distancing</li><li>• Able to monitor current health data and see if trends are more positive about the virus as well as the ability to adjust and "pivot" if needed</li><li>• An opportunity for a "reset" of facilities during the delay including the winding down of usage by outside groups and additional cleaning and final preparation of facilities for official practice</li><li>• Positive impact on students by having a season, even if shortened after reviewing of impacts of spring cancellations.</li><li>• Little if any evidence of direct contact spread between participants as issues have surrounded outside activity in most cases</li><li>• Member schools are much more able to control the environment at practices, workouts, and contests than largely unregulated non-school groups</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Potential stops and starts as well as the possibility of complete postponements due to virus changes</li><li>• Individual changes by individual districts may allow for competition in some areas but not in others</li><li>• Reduced Contests and Practices from the normal schedule</li><li>• Prioritization of outside play if high school season is delayed or impacted</li><li>• Delay of start could adversely impact districts and counties where the virus has had minimal impact</li><li>• Any playing in the fall could be viewed negatively in the overall view of the current virus</li><li>• Likely inconsistencies from district to district on participation in light of school attendance decisions</li><li>• Any reduction in contests could have long-term financial impacts on athletic programs</li><li>• Playing contests in the fall could bring financial issues due to likely reduced attendance</li><li>• Depending upon data available, there could be a loss of specific sports as they may be further regulated including not being able to participate at all (i.e. volleyball played indoors)</li><li>• Possible loss of a parent or family member being able to watch their student participate due to an environment of reduced fans, etc.</li><li>• If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in the fall, the sports being played in the fall season could lose part or most of the season</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Even shortened, all seasons would likely be greater than that allowed by the “sandwich” plan</li><li>• Allows for the likelihood that Fall, 2021 would not be shortened as they would in the event fall sports were moved to spring</li><li>• This option does not shorten the fall and winter seasons unnecessarily at this early point in time</li><li>• Recertification of equipment for the 2021 playing season in football would likely be impacted by trying to play a full season in the spring, a necessary step in preparation for the next year</li><li>• While some participants also play on travel teams and otherwise, many coaches remind us that the vast majority of Kentucky baseball and softball participants likely have not played an organized competition since May of 2019 and as such, an appropriate “ramp-up” to play would not occur</li></ul>	
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**Option 2 - Switch the fall sports of cross country, football, soccer and volleyball to the spring, leaving field hockey and golf in the fall. Switch the spring sports of baseball, softball, tennis and track and field to the fall, leaving bass fishing and archery in the spring**

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most spring sports are low-risk or low-touch</li> <li>• Fall weather more predictable in most years</li> <li>• If interrupted, other options may exist during the school year</li> <li>• Would allow for sport-activities such as Archery and Bass Fishing to be exceptions and stay in normal academic year spots, as well as allowing golf to remain in the fall with its health advantages (social distancing, etc.) during the pandemic</li> <li>• Minimize the impact of overlap of participants and coaches by keeping larger conflicting groups of sports together</li> <li>• This maximizes the number of student-athletes we can get on the field in the fall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of loss of an additional spring season if fall is shut down</li> <li>• The majority are outside and change in seasons impacts maintenance of facilities, short and long term (consider that only slightly over ¼ of Kentucky schools have regular access to an artificial surface)</li> <li>• The movement could create conflicts with existing spring sports that are now held in the fall such as cheer, which has an appreciable number of cheer participants participating in fastpitch softball and track and field</li> <li>• With normal winter sports start, a major overlap of participants in both fastpitch softball and girls track and field with girls basketball</li> <li>• With a normal winter sports start, major overlap of participants in swimming and diving and basketball with participants in track and field, baseball and softball</li> <li>• Possible loss of a parent or family member being able to watch their student participate due to an environment of reduced fans, etc.</li> <li>• Almost assuredly would require shortening of the winter season for all sports to minimize student conflicts</li> <li>• Athletes in other sports (football and soccer), and have been working out with those teams would have reduced preseason preparation if asked to pivot in fall to track and field and specific events</li> <li>• Mention overlap problem with late winter and potential FB regular season compared to spring practice</li> <li>• Possible loss of high school participation due to conflicts with existing spring non-school opportunities (volleyball, soccer)</li> <li>• National and regional sports medicine officials have grave concerns about players trying to have two competitive football seasons inside one calendar year</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely likely that 2021 football season would have to be shortened/truncated again in the fall of 2021 to ensure adequate multi-month recovery of participants</li> <li>• Recertification of equipment for the 2021 playing season in football would likely be impacted by trying to play a full season in the spring, a necessary step in preparation for the next year</li> <li>• While some participants also play on travel teams and otherwise, many coaches remind us that the vast majority of Kentucky baseball and softball participants likely have not played an organized competition since May of 2019 and as such, an appropriate “ramp-up” to play would not occur</li> <li>• If there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in the fall, the sports being played in the fall season could lose part or most of the season</li> <li>• Likelihood of student un-enrollment in a Kentucky school and re-enrollment outside of the state if participation opportunities exist</li> <li>• Extremely likely that 2021 football season would have to be shortened/truncated again in the fall of 2021 to ensure adequate multi-month recovery of participants</li> </ul>
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**Option 3 - Adopt the "sandwich" plan where fall sports are sandwiched in between winter and spring sports, starting at or near the end of the calendar year, with all having shorter seasons. Under this plan, Winter sports would start end of December (with two weeks practice), and end regular season around February 14; Fall seasons would start with practice on 2/15 with play on 3/1 to May 1 and Spring would start with play around April 26 (practice 2 weeks) and play through end of June. Of course, these dates would be adjustable if preferred.**

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves open the opportunity to play all sports in all 3 seasons</li> <li>• Opportunity for the resumption of play more "as normal" if prospects for vaccine/treatment are realized and schools can return consistently to in-person learning</li> <li>• Even if reduced, there would be some school revenue from contests</li> <li>• Allows schools the opportunity to open the year and get school started and deal with issues such as schedules, academic plans, transportation, dealing with possible outbreaks of COVID in the school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certainly, there is no guarantee that students (and parents) will not participate in both in and out of state sports opportunities outside of the high school ranks if the seasons are altered in this manner</li> <li>• Assumes this situation will be over by the start of the winter season</li> <li>• Likely loss or reduction of spring seasons to "squeeze in" fall seasons after the loss of an entire season in 2020</li> <li>• Likelihood diminishes of multi-season participants as the postseason play would overlap between winter and fall sports and then between fall and spring sports</li> <li>• All sports and sport-activities, while perhaps having fewer expenses, would necessarily have significantly less revenue with reduced contests</li> <li>• Reduced Contests and Practices from the normal schedule</li> <li>• Delay of start could adversely impact districts and counties where the virus has had minimal impact</li> <li>• Recovery between seasons would be nearly non-existent for multi-sport athletes, likely contributing to both physical issues and the likelihood of "burnout" and reduced future participation</li> <li>• Almost certain adjustments to future seasons</li> <li>• Almost certain appreciable loss of participation in a good many sports due to likely prioritization of participation in other sports (football, basketball) by multi-spot participants</li> <li>• Potential loss of the educational opportunities within the sport by the loss of the school-approved spring practice sessions in football</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible loss of collegiate recruiting exposure when events are scheduled outside of the NCAA recruiting calendar</li> <li>• Possible expansion of outside, non-school influences on students whether it be with participation or recruiting activities</li> <li>• Pushing off to spring leads to issues with recruiting and likely, insurance</li> <li>• Condensed schedules: Teams would play approximately 60% of a regular-season schedule and there would be some overlap in season</li> <li>• For football, with its specific ramp-up of activity required for acclimation, students would be forced routinely to choose between getting ready for football and finishing a winter sports conflict</li> <li>• For volleyball, the large overlap between volleyball and girls basketball could see many players having to choose between the two at the postseason time of the winter sports seasons</li> <li>• National and regional sports medicine officials have grave concerns about players trying to have two competitive football seasons inside one calendar year</li> <li>• Extremely likely that 2021 football season would have to be shortened/truncated again in the fall of 2021 to ensure adequate multi-month recovery of participants</li> <li>• Recertification of equipment for the 2021 playing season in football would likely be impacted by trying to play a full season in the spring, a necessary step in preparation for the next year</li> <li>• Seasons would be appreciably shorter for all sports than even shortened fall seasons</li> </ul>
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