

**Date:** July 15, 2020

**Re:** 2020-21 MSHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening Sports and Activities

**To:** MSHSAA Member Schools Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

**From:** Kerwin Urhahn, Executive Director

I hope this memo finds you safe, healthy, and well this summer. First, I want to express my appreciation for all that you are dealing with and the challenges you face as we move forward into the 2020-21 school year. Second, with schools planning on having in-person classes available to students, then I believe it is the Association's responsibility to offer sports and activities to your students at your schools. It will be the responsibility of the parents to decide if they wish to have their children participate and represent their school. At this time we are planning to play all Fall sports beginning with the first allowable practice on August 10, 2020. You need to check with your local/county health department to determine what restrictions and allowances are in place in your geographical area of the state. This communication should take place prior to making decisions regarding your procedures for practices. Provided in this email is a link that gives you access to the 2020-21 MSHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening Sports and Activities.

There are several things to cover in this document: academic standard for the Fall semester, total remote learning, and guidance for returning to sports and activities this school year.

**Academic Standard for Fall:** At the April Board meeting the MSHSAA Board took action to grant relief of By-Law 2.3 for the fall semester only. The academic requirement states that all students must pass 3.0 credits or 80% of the maximum allowable credits during the previous semester in order to be eligible for the current semester. Therefore, all students are academically eligible coming into the Fall semester of the 2020-21 school year. However, the student must be enrolled in sufficient credits this Fall to maintain eligibility. Please note that every school may be more restrictive and/or develop their own threshold if so desired.

**Total Remote Learning for Fall:** Schools that are not going to offer in-person classes this Fall will not be allowed to participate in sports and activities. If a school deems that it is not safe to hold face to face instruction, then it is inappropriate to have students and coaches come together to participate in sports and activities.

**Guidance and Recommendations for opening sports and activities this school year:** If you click on the following link, [https://www.mshsaa.org/resources/PDF/2020-2021 MSHSAA Guidelines-Recommendations for Opening Sports and Activities.pdf](https://www.mshsaa.org/resources/PDF/2020-2021%20MSHSAA%20Guidelines-Recommendations%20for%20Opening%20Sports%20and%20Activities.pdf), it will take you to the document put together by our Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and Covid-19 Task Force. There are recommendations and guidance for dealing with COVID-19 and the document will be updated as needed as we go through the year. Please understand that you still need to be in contact with your local/county health department and follow their local requirements. Also, we are learning more about the virus and its impact on people that have a confirmed positive test. One aspect coming to light is that it can impact the heart, and because of this and the 14-day quarantine, there will be a MSHSAA **COVID Return To Play Form** that MUST be used for any confirmed positive test prior to a student returning to participation. This

requirement is for the safety of the student to ensure they are prepared to return to participation. Please review the 2020-21 MSHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening Sports and Activities closely in order to be informed and have the ability to develop appropriate protocols and procedures prior to the start of the ensuing sports seasons.