



## MEMO

**Date:** September 29, 2020  
**To:** ASAA Member schools  
**From:** ASAA Executive Committee  
**Re:** COVID-19 related limited time flexibility regarding ASAA participation on a non-school team policy – FALL ASAA SPORTS ONLY at this time.

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### TO BE REVISITED BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2020

With the support of the ASAA Zones, the ASAA Executive Committee is immediately suspending enforcement of the following ASAA Policy, Section IV.5 Participation on a Non-school team:

*To be eligible for high school participation in the ASAA sports of basketball, volleyball, football, cheerleading, team handball and rugby, a high school student is not permitted to play on a non-school team in the same sport during the same season. (Note: individual sports are not impacted by this policy)*

The ASAA is suspending enforcement of this policy on a temporary basis. The duration of the lift is to be determined but will not exceed the 2020-2021 ASAA school athletic calendar. This policy can be reinstated at any time by the ASAA Executive during the 2020-2021 school athletic calendar. It will automatically be reinstated August 1, 2021. This will enable students to be able to practice and compete with both a school team and a club/community team at the same time. This is in recognition of the postponement of ASAA fall provincials in all ASAA sports and the varied rate at which school jurisdictions are permitting school sport practices and mini-league competition to occur. This opportunity is only possible because of the Government of Alberta lifting its restriction of individuals only being in one sport cohort, to now “limiting the number of cohorts one is in.” While this short-term suspension of enforcement of ASAA Policy opens the door to students being involved in more than one sport cohort, the ASAA is not recommending any student be in multiple sport cohorts; it must be a decision of the student and their family after weighing the COVID-19 related risks associated with increased interaction with others.

The purpose of suspending the enforcement of this policy is to support the dynamic changes to the traditional school athletic calendar. The ASAA wants to support students, parents, coaches and schools in all efforts to successfully return to sport under the guidelines imposed by the Government of Alberta, AHS and school superintendents. This limited time policy modification will enable student athletes, in consultation with their parents/guardians, to make choices during the very fluid nature of the 2020-2021 school athletics calendar.

The original objective of this policy decades ago was to protect student athletes physically and mentally plus allow for sufficient time for academics. The ASAA still believes that academics must take priority over sports and that the safety and well-being of students is paramount. These things need to be at the forefront of the decisions that student athletes make during the 2020-2021 school year and ASAA encourages the adults supporting the student athletes to be considerate of this as well. We all want sport to be able to produce the benefits it does for student athletes physically, mentally, emotionally and socially, especially during the current times.

