

## Alberta Schools' Athletic Association update: March 26, 2020

### COVID 19 FAQ's

#### Postponed Events

1. When are the Basketball/Wrestling/Cheerleading Provincials going to be rescheduled?
  - At this time the ASAA has not set any replacement dates for these sports. If the ASAA receives confirmation from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health that it is safe to hold such events, then a new calendar of events will be published. There is no way to speculate on timelines right now, but the longer we are without direction, the more likely it is that these events will be cancelled.
  - At some point, the ASAA Executive Committee, in consultation with the respective provincial government and educational authorities, will make a decision on "go/no go" for ASAA provincials in the above three sports.
2. What is going to happen with Badminton/Rugby 7's/Rugby 15's/Team Handball/Track & Field Provincials?
  - At this time the ASAA has not changed any of the current dates for these sports. If the ASAA receives confirmation from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health that it is safe to hold such events, then a new calendar of events will be published. There is no way to speculate on timelines right now.
  - At some point, the ASAA Executive Committee, in consultation with the respective provincial government and educational authorities, will make a decision on "go/no go" for ASAA provincials in Team Handball, Badminton, Rugby 7's, Rugby 15's and Track & Field.
3. Will the Zones be holding zone championships?
  - You will need to contact your Zone representative for their decisions on rescheduling of zone championships. However, as zones typically follow the lead of the ASAA we would not anticipate a zone hosting a championship if the ASAA is not proceeding with provincials in that sport.

#### Participation on a non-school team

4. If my school sport program is currently suspended because of school being closed am I able to play for my club team and still be eligible for my high school if it reopens and school sport seasons resume?
  - Yes, currently all ASAA sports are postponed due to schools being closed and are not available to students right now. **However**, see next point...
  - It is critical that you follow the direction of the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Alberta Government, and at this time, ASAA's interpretation is that the door is not open to any form of gatherings for the purpose of sports practices. Further, based on the all schools being closed to students and all recreation facilities being closed, the ASAA would perceive any sports team practices occurring in such facilities to be a violation of the Alberta Public Health

Orders issued on March 25, 2020, and that violators would be subject to fines from the Alberta Government.

- Should there be a change in direction from the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health or the Alberta Government that opens the door to sport participation, student athletes can participate in non high school or club team activities as long as they follow the guidelines listed in the policy handbook found online at [www.asaa.ca](http://www.asaa.ca). This includes that once or if school sport resumes, the student athlete will need to determine if they want to continue in the non-school program and forgo their eligibility in that sport(s) or leave your non-school team to regain eligibility with the school program.
5. Can I be a part of my club/non-school team and be practicing now?
- Definitely No. The ASAA recommends you follow the guidelines set forth by the Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). As of March 23, 2020 gatherings are limited to immediate family members only. As of March 25, 2020 people violating Alberta Public Health Orders may be subject to fines from the Alberta Government.
  - Following a model of social responsibility would currently dictate that no sports practices of any kind should be held.

### **Registrations/Deadlines**

6. Do I still need to register my coaches, athletes or teams for all sports?
- Proceed as you normally would, however, due to the unique circumstances we are pleased to note at this time all late fees are suspended pending further discussion by the ASAA Executive Committee. Further, if events resume, registration deadline dates will be extended accordingly.
7. I received a late fee invoice for my basketball team, do I need to pay this now?
- Not right now; please note, at this time all late fees are suspended pending further discussion by the ASAA Executive Committee.
8. Will there be any modifications to the planned new requirements for mandatory coach education courses (Fundamentals of Coaching becoming new CAC replacement, ASAA Concussion course becoming Making Headway).
- No. We remain on track to transition [www.Schoolcoach.ca](http://www.Schoolcoach.ca) to the CAC Locker platform, and coaches will need the “Making Headway” Concussion Course by one month into the season of play for all sports after September 1, 2020. Please encourage all your coaches and required staff to take advantage of any downtime during this isolation period to go online and complete the Making Headway course, which is presently available at <http://thelocker.coach.ca>. If coaches are not currently in the CAC database, they will have to complete a registration at the above noted web address.

## Meetings

9. Will ASAA be having its Annual General Meeting this year?
  - At this time the answer is **Yes**. The meeting may be by video conference. Any changes to the AGM date or process will be communicated to the zones and board members if/when the Executive Committee makes a decision on this matter.
10. Will the Notice of Motion deadline be extended?
  - The Notice of Motion deadline of April 1 has been extended by a vote of the ASAA Executive Committee to May 1.
11. Will Zone meetings take place as planned?
  - We encourage you to reach out to your zone representatives for any changes that may occur to the zone meeting date, location, time.
  - The ASAA has offered its Zoom video conference platform to zones to facilitate virtual meetings.

## Student-Athlete Eligibility

12. Because some students were not able to either complete or even have their ASAA Sport Season in the spring of 2020, will the ASAA be allowing an additional year of eligibility for current Grade 12 students in 20/21
  - Current policy indicates that current Grade 12's would not be eligible to participate in ASAA Sports in 2020/21. The ASAA Executive will discuss this matter and if requested by the membership, will take it to the Board of Governors for a decision. The balance of convenience favours not allowing an additional year of eligibility in 2020/21. All students in grade 12 in 2019/20 have been told that if they were enrolled in the required credits, they will receive a high school diploma and will be able to advance to post-secondary as in any other year. Their high school studies will be complete at the end of the 2019/20 school year.
  - While it is unfortunate for all that students have lost this competitive opportunity, the health and safety of student athletes, coaches, officials and others remains the prime focus of the ASAA. To allow a second year of grade 12 for current grade 12 students will deny an athletic opportunity for current students in Grade 10 and 11 who likewise have already lost some and possibly all of the spring championships and sports for spring 2020.

## Hosting-related Questions

13. As a school host of a postponed provincial event what should I do with the supplies sent to me?
  - Please hold on to all equipment and supplies that were sent to your school from the ASAA, one of our staff members will reach out to you when and if the time comes to send them back to the ASAA.
14. Hosting Spring 2020: What happens to schools that were scheduled to host provincials between March and June 2020?

- If their spring 2020 event is cancelled, the ASAA Executive has voted that they have first rights to host the same event in spring 2021. See immediately below for further detail.

**Hosting: In the event that outright cancellations occur...**

15. A. Is it correct to assume that if a school that was scheduled to host in the spring or 2020 and is offered the chance to host the same event in the spring of 2021 and decides not to, will they be penalized in any way?

- Correct, the spring 2020 host school will not be penalized for choosing to decline hosting the same event in spring 2021.

B. If a zone/region is currently scheduled to host one of the larger provincial championship events in Spring 2020 (Badminton, Track, Rugby), and the event is cancelled for 2020, will they be expected to host the same event in 2021?

- Yes, because these events are on rotation.

C. What about those schools who have been granted the bid to host in the spring of 2021, especially basketball which is a much sought after hosting opportunity?

- Because of the unprecedented situation we are in the COVID19, it is not fair for 2019/20 basketball hosts to have invested significant time, effort and cost into the hosting of 2019/20 ASAA Basketball Provincials to have that championship pulled from them. All 2019/20 basketball hosts will be offered the opportunity to host in 2020/21. If any of the 2019/20 host choose not to host in 2020/21, the currently scheduled 2020/21 host will host the event. If all 2019/20 basketball hosts choose to host in 2020/21, all those scheduled for 2020/21 will be deferred to host in 2021/22.

D. Will the deadline for a bid Fall 2021 be extended?

- Yes, the current bid deadline of April 1, 2020 for bids on Fall events 2021 will be extended to May 1, 2020. As per policy any Fall 2021 Championship events that are without bids at the May 1 deadline will be considered vacant and still available for schools to submit bids after that deadline; such bids would be considered at the following ASAA Executive Meeting
  - As information, the bids currently received as of March 26, 2020, for Fall 2021 are:
    - 1A Boys Volleyball
    - 1A Girls Volleyball
    - 3A Boys Volleyball
    - 3A Girls Volleyball

**The Future**

16. Fall 2020: What should schools be planning regarding fall sports and championships for 2020/21.

- At this time, it is too early to know the impact of COVID-19. ASAA remains optimistic that a full calendar of sports will take place during the 2020/21 school year.