

*-KSHSAA Unanimously adopted a policy that will allow students who are enrolled in remote learning and direct instruction in at least five new subjects of unit weight to be eligible for KSHSAA sponsored activities. In essence, students who are in districts that aren't having in-person instruction at the start of the school year will still be able to compete in KSHSAA activities.

*-KSHSAA is also focusing on the health of everyone involved in athletics. They are recommending that all students and staff wear masks at all times except when directly participating in an activity. For football, the association wants equipment sanitized frequently. Jamborees are being discouraged for 2020. Huddle formations should be in rows and not in a circle. KSHSAA also recommends staggering locker room guidelines to minimize the number of athletes in the locker room at the same time. KSHSAA is also recommending that the player box on the sideline be extended from the 25-yard line to the 10-yard line on each side. Non-essential personnel would be asked to stay outside of that box. For cross country, they are recommending wave starts instead of mass starts and for schools to consider not allowing fans at the races. In volleyball KSHSAA is suggesting that no large tournaments be held with quads being the largest activity held. Recommendations for girls golf include a shotgun start, which means all groups tee off at the same time from different holes on the course.

*-KSHSAA Executive Director Bill Faflick said the plan does not require action from the association as all of these items are "considerations" for school districts to take into account as they plan to return to sports. This plan will be sent out to all schools under the KSHSAA umbrella. Faflick also noted that the plan for the return to activities will remain fluid as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve.

*-When can practices begin for fall sports?

Roger Perkins from the Southern Cloud District who is the 1A representative on the executive board was quoted as saying:

"Most of our superintendents are looking to push back the start of school a week to 10 days. There's a backlog of getting schools set up to take temperatures. I'm not sure we're ready to start sports on Aug. 17."

KSHSAA Executive Director Bill Faflick:

"The focus needs to be on the teaching and learning that needs to take place. If we start earlier, can we get more in? We think about the competitive imbalance. We understand that will be a challenge."

"The focus needs to be on participation, on those growth opportunities and connecting them to school." "One of the benefits of coming back to activities is having administrative oversight so that kids aren't out doing their own thing."

"The sooner we can make a decision for our schools, the better. If there will be a delayed start, those considerations are really important for our schools."

The official start date for fall sports practices is still up in the air. KSHSAA will conduct a survey of all superintendents in Kansas to figure out how school districts will proceed with their school year.

Faflick: "We'll have a quick turnaround with that. I'd anticipate another meeting with this board on Monday or Tuesday of next week."