



January 29, 2021

BSD High School Athletics Update 2021

Throughout January, we have worked to gather information about how updated athletic guidelines released through Governor Inslee's office, the Washington Department of Health, and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) will impact athletic programming across the district.

We want to share the following updates with all families:

- The KingCo Conference has proposed and received approval from the WIAA to provide our student athletes an alternative seasonal calendar. The following language is the official release from the KingCo Conference:

The KingCo Conference recently appealed to the WIAA regarding the order of athletic seasons when those seasons will start and the length of the seasons. The WIAA has approved KingCo's appeal. With an interest in protecting spring sports due to their lost season last year, KingCo will offer the following seasons:

- *Season 1 = March 1 – April 3: (Fall Sports – Boys Golf, Boys Tennis, Cross Country, Football (Feb. 24 start), Girls Soccer, Girls Swim and Dive, Slow-pitch Softball, and Volleyball));*
- *Season 2 = April 5 – May 8: (Winter Sports – Boys Basketball, Boys Swim, Competitive Cheer, Competitive Dance, Girls Basketball, Gymnastics (March 29 start), and Wrestling));*
- *Season 3 = May 3 – June 12: (Spring Sports – Badminton, Baseball, Boys Soccer, Fastpitch, Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, and Track).*

The KingCo Athletic Directors, in concert with the KingCo Principals and KingCo Board of Directors, are in the process of developing a plan for schedules and agreed upon health and safety measures to be implemented as conditions and regional metrics allow.

It is important to note that the district does not currently offer Slow-pitch Softball and that the announcement only covers WIAA/KingCo sports. For students who are interested in Lacrosse and Water Polo, the governing organizations for both of those sports are finalizing their seasonal calendars:

- Current discussion about water polo focus on having both seasons (girls and boys) offered later in the spring, likely during Season 3.
- Current discussions about lacrosse focus on having both seasons (girls and boys) offered later in the spring, likely during Season 3.
- When the plans for both sports are finalized, we will share that information with all families

It is important to highlight the final sentence of the official KingCo release. The focus of every district and every school in the KingCo Conference is to provide these seasons safely and in alignment with what the current guidance from the state allows. As this work is finalized, it will be shared with coaches, athletes, and families.

An essential element of this work is for all of us to remain focused on following all safety measures currently in place across the state, including but not limited to wearing a mask, washing your hands, and maintaining physical distancing. Our shared commitment to these safety measures are one way we can all help our Region to remain in Phase 2 of the reopening plan as we approach the start of the regular sports' seasons.

- While the target date to begin KingCo's Season 1 is March 1 (February 24 for football), the District remains fully committed to providing athletic opportunities during the month of February for registered athletes. There are important updates for families to know about the opportunities that will be offered in February:
 - There will be opportunities for indoor sports to move their programs indoors during February.
 - There will be opportunities for aquatic programs to access pools during February.
 - Although these two changes are coming and the Puget Sound Region will move into Phase 2 on Monday February 1, we are asking for participants to remain patient as coaches and athletic directors work to finalize updated Participation Plans aligned to what is allowed under the new guidance. As plans are finalized, those plans will be shared with registered athletes.
 - Updated plans are focused on ensuring that all necessary safety measures are in place for all district programs as the new guidance is applied to in-person opportunities.
- For athletes to be cleared for the upcoming seasons, two items need to be completed:
 1. *Preparticipation Physical Evaluation*: Athletes must have a current physical on record as part of their registration for summer (or regular season) activities. Coaches **cannot** allow an athlete to participate without a current physical.
 2. *ImPACT Testing*: Athletes must have a current baseline ImPACT test completed. Each school's athletic director will be sending information to their school community next week with specific information that will include dates, times, and registration processes.

If you would like additional information about registration requirements for high school sports, you can visit the district's [high school athletics page](#).

- Through February, I will be providing a weekly update for families sharing updates from the KingCo Conference that will highlight finalized safety plans and schedules.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Athletics and Activities Department through email (lowellj@bsd405.org or arnonea@bsd405.org) or phone (425-456-4010 or 425-456-4050). We are happy to assist!

In partnership,

Jeff Lowell, CAA
District Athletic and Activities Director, Title IX Coordinator