

2020-21 Stoughton High School Winter Sports FAQ

We have put together a few of the anticipated frequently asked questions and responses pertaining to the winter athletic season. It is understood that this has, and will continue to be a fluid situation as we try to balance providing opportunities while following guidelines for the safety and security of our students, staff and community. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of our Vikings.

On October 16, the Badger Conference stated it will not hold an official winter sports season. What do suspended Badger Conference events mean?

The Badger Conference unanimously voted that since not all schools have the ability to start simultaneously with competition that it is not in the best interest to conduct a partial or incomplete conference schedule and competitions. Schools in the Badger Conference will pick up winter sports when they are able to, but no conference championship, awards or recognition will take place for the 2020-21 winter season.

What does competition delayed start mean?

Delayed start relates to interscholastic competitions for our winter sports teams. Current Dane County mandates prevent us from playing games or holding competitions at this time. Our intention at this time is to start our winter sports with practices as planned in conjunction with the WIAA schedule while still following the Dane County guidelines. These restrictions include limits to the number of participants at one time and the safety and sanitation procedures until the mandate is lifted allowing us to resume competition.

Are we going to be able to play games?

Games initially are postponed until the Dane County restrictions are lifted. We will utilize the ability to work on sport specific skills and team strategies within practices while following current guidelines to prepare our kids for a return to competition when possible.

Will there be Badger Conference schools having interscholastic competition at the start of the winter season?

At this time, it appears that some schools that are outside of Dane County do have plans to compete as soon as possible. Our inability to compete comes from the Dane County restrictions and the council we receive on the matter.

What will be the metric or standard in order for us to compete?

We are following those restrictions established by Public Health of Madison and Dane County. Dane County has one of the most restrictive guidelines in the state for the overall safety and wellbeing of our greater community. We will have all of our protocol and systems in place once we are given the clearance to begin.

Will our teams be able to participate in any of the WIAA postseason events?

Upon return to interscholastic competition during the regular season, we intend to provide our students and teams the opportunity to compete in these traditionally attended events.

Is there an opportunity to adjust or extend the winter season to provide more opportunities?

Unfortunately due to the limited remaining days in the calendar and existing adjustments made, it is unlikely that any additional adjustments can be made.

How many kids will be allowed in an indoor practice/space?

Until the Dane County order changes, we will be limited to 10 students in an indoor practice/space initially. This will be revisited with the ability to change as the mandates and guidelines do.

Can student-athletes practice or compete outside of the school team during this time?

By being a WIAA member school, we will follow the rules of eligibility for our athletes. Within those rules an in season student-athlete is allowed to practice outside of their school team as they deem fit. Those rules also state that an athlete cannot participate in no more than two (2) out-of-school competitions during the season with coach and administrative approval.

Our position on this is to be receptive to the needs of our student-athletes in this year of restriction, but the overlying stance will be for the safety and wellbeing of all of our student-athletes. This includes those who may experience exposure from teammates that may attend events where exposure opportunities are higher. Discussions outlining all event specifics will take place between athlete, parent, coach and administration to determine event approval on case by case basis.

Bottom line, we believe in educationally based athletics and value the contributions all student-athletes have towards their teams made up of their peers overall success. Decisions will be based on the overall impact it has on the team and the safety and wellbeing of all members.

What time will practices take place?

Practices will be allowed to follow building hours (6:30am to 11:00pm) and extend beyond current staff access. This is common for staff/coaches who have responsibilities outside of established hours.

This accommodation will provide coaches and our programs the ability to spread out our practices to allow more space and decrease space population at any one time.

How will we get to the games?

Once games are approved to resume, SASD will provide district transportation that follows the recommended health and district guidelines. In some cases additional busses or vehicles will be used. Families will have the ability to still utilize the alternative transportation accommodations within board policy which allows parents to self-transport their student to away events if pre-approved.

Will equipment be shared? Pass to each other, defend each other, etc..

There will be limited shared equipment that will be sanitized to help decrease the likelihood of potential transmission. Sport-specific skills, techniques and strategies will be initially modified until a full return to activity is safely possible.

Will the locker room be available?

Initially, locker rooms will not be used. This allows us to reduce gatherings. We will transition into limited capacity occupancy as the season progresses.

Will masks have to be worn during practice and the game?

As long as the mask mandate is in effect, yes, masks have to be worn during practice and the game. This was confirmed by the WIAA that the state mandate overrides all other guidelines and positions.

What is the protocol if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

The SASD [action plan](#) for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 will be followed, which includes isolation for all individuals within the respective cohort to be 14 days.

Will kids have to stay in the same pods/cohorts for all practices?

Once initial pods/cohorts are established, they will remain the same until it is deemed appropriate to adjust and combine individuals from different groups.

How will we handle senior night or other special nights?

These will be held as soon as we possibly can to ensure our ability to recognize those associated with our programs. We understand these special events, like many others in this time, may look different than in the past, but the sincerity will be the highest.