

# An Alternative Approach to Offering Interscholastic Education-Based Athletics for Northern Climate States

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## Additional Considerations:

1. Regionalize regular season competition. Regardless of "league" and "classification" affiliation, create regional play pods that reduce overall travel. Secondary benefit is looming budget shortfalls and athletics "doing their part." Consider classification in terms of 'strength of program' when trying to create regionalized matchups.
2. Allow for Sunday competitions. This will alleviate the expected decrease in an already dwindling pool of officials, and will allow for more flexibility in securing school provided busing on days there are no conflicts transporting the general student body.
  - a. Mandate for every 6 days "on", the student-athletes receive 1 day "off" from athletic team commitment (NCAA model).
3. Regular Season schedules are reduced by 25%, to MPA minimums.
4. "Open Tournament", with seeding based on "Heal Point" system. Schools can opt into the "Open Tournament" based on their seeding and potential matchups created.
5. Schools consider allowing for dual sporting in seasons where traditional sports offer conflict with the modified scheduling of these activities.
6. **A complete flip of the fall and spring seasons is an option, if desired.** However, it is my belief this will cause many issues, specifically, transportation of large Track & Field rosters to home meets and the size of those meets. Also, moving a higher risk contact and close proximity activity like Boys Lacrosse into the fall makes the decision to move football harder to justify.

## Recognized Conflicts:

1. Most seasons will have "overlap". Students attempting to participate in multiple sports they have always accessed will have schedule considerations to manage. Coaches will need to understand this and be accepting of it. Administrators will need to do whatever is possible to avoid game days of the same sports on the same days.
2. Climate will dictate how effective this change can be, especially in the Spring 1 and Spring 2 seasons.
3. Facility Availability. Several of our activities are reliant on private facilities. Ice Hockey will need to remain solvent with available ice rinks coming out of the financial issues that the pandemic has caused. Use of collegiate facilities in Indoor Track and Swimming & Diving in particular will need to be taken into consideration and approached as needed.
4. Facility Availability Part 2. Trying to start Boys Lacrosse and Track & Field seasons a few weeks earlier for most parts of the state will prove difficult. In boys lacrosse, the three northernmost schools offering this sport already rely on a private university turf facility for games as it is.
5. Facility Availability Part 3. Football and Soccer in the spring could prove to be tough with fields drying out from the winter thaw, especially the further north in the state you go and the limited amount of turf fields in the northern ½ of the state and downeast region.
6. "Winter 2.A" is a more recent development based on news out of several of the universities that schools will rely on to offer these activities, especially Indoor Track access for the southern part of the state.

<b>Fall 2020</b>	<b>Winter 1 2020-2021</b>	<b>Winter 2.A 2021</b>	<b>Spring 1 2021</b>	<b>Spring 2 2021</b>
Start Date: TBA	Workouts Begin: November 23.	Workouts Begin: January 4.	Workouts Begin: March 15.	Workouts Begin: April 5.
<b>Boys and Girls Cross Country</b> (State Championship October 31, 2020)	<b>Boys and Girls Basketball</b> (State Championship February 28/29, 2021)	<b>Boys and Girls Ice Hockey</b> (State Championship March 21, 2021)	<b>Boys Lacrosse</b> (State Championship May 30, 2021)	<b>Boys and Girls Soccer</b> (State Championship June 20, 2021)
<b>Golf</b> (State Championship October 10, 2020)	<b>Boys and Girls Swimming &amp; Diving</b> (State Championship February 15/17/18, 2021)	<b>Indoor Track</b> (State Championship March 21, 2021)	<b>Boys &amp; Girls Track &amp; Field</b> (State Championship May 30, 2021)	<b>Football</b> (State Championships June 27, 2021)
<b>Boys and Girls Tennis</b> (State Championship October 17, 2020)	<b>Ski (Alpine &amp; Nordic)</b>	<b>Winter 2.B 2021</b> Workouts Begin: February 1.	<b>Drama</b>	<b>Field Hockey</b> (State Championship June 13, 2021)
<b>Baseball</b> (State Championship October 31, 2020)		<b>Competitive Cheerleading</b> (State Championship April 4, 2021)	<b>Debate</b>	
<b>Softball</b> (State Championship October 31, 2020)		<b>Girls Volleyball</b> (State Championship April 4, 2021)		
<b>Girls Lacrosse</b> (State Championship October 24, 2020)		<b>Boys Volleyball*</b> (State Championship April 4, 2021)		
		<b>Wrestling</b> (State Championship April 4, 2021)		

*\*denotes a new activity offered by the MPA, allowable in the new season window offered.*

**E-Sports Begin as slated in the national PlayVS schedule**

Sport Color Code, as designated by NFHS-

“Low Risk”

“Moderate Risk”

“Higher Risk”

NFHS Resource: April 2020

[https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15\\_2020-final.pdf](https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15_2020-final.pdf)