

Your Question:

You asked for information on college athletics reopening plans and specifically determinations on return to play and any criteria used to discontinue play.

Our Response:

The coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt postsecondary activities including college athletics. On July 9, 2020, the [National Collegiate Athletic Association](#) released their latest guidelines for college sports reopening plans. As part of the NCAA's [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan Considerations](#), there is recommendation to classify sports into three categories: low contact risk, medium contact risk and high contact risk. These categories also have their own recommendations and testing considerations. The NCAA also offers updated team practice considerations that include wearing face coverings during all team practice activities, training in *functional units* comprised of 5 to 10 individuals/players following appropriate sanitization requirements and the utilization of electronic whistles to reduce the transfer of droplet-filled air as present with the use of a traditional whistle.

Many conferences under the NCAA continue to [release details](#) about their plans to return to play for the fall or delay until spring 2021. A sample of those conference decisions can be found below.

Conference Responses

[Atlantic Coast Conference](#): 11-game season beginning September 12 including two built-in bye weeks.

[Ivy League Council of Presidents](#): cancelled all fall sports as their institutions are implementing campus-wide health and safety policies that make it impossible for sports teams to compete.

[Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference \(PSAC\)](#): suspended all sports through end of 2020 with intentions of shifting fall sports to spring 2021 pending a "return to competition can be safely executed."

[Pac-12 Conference](#): approved a 10-game, conference-only fall schedule

Information regarding postsecondary legislation for college athletics at the state-level was not found upon completion of this information request. However, the [Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics](#) released guidelines for institutions as they consider bringing players back during the COVID-19 pandemic. The commission recommends seven guidelines and considerations including relying on medical experts' and public health officials' guidance, prioritizing the minimization of health and safety risks for college athletes, developing on-boarding protocols that are shared with all athletes, staff and the greater campus community in advance of any on-campus return and addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in Black communities.