

NJCAA National Office Communication

NJCAA Members,

As the association continues to evaluate pertinent information regarding the impact of COVID-19 leading up to the start of the 2020-21 academic year, the NJCAA is providing the following recommendations and changes for safety and well-being protocols during regular season competition and championship events.



**For more in-depth updates regarding the below information, please visit: [NJCAA Connect COVID-19 Homepage](#)*

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- **STUDENT-ATHLETE RETURN TO CAMPUS**
 - For the 2020-21 academic year, NJCAA member schools will be permitted to open dorms to all student-athletes (fall, winter, spring sports) beginning July 18, 2020.
 - The accelerated move-in date will allow member colleges to institute a 14-day quarantine period for student-athletes and implement extra safety precautions as necessary prior to the August 1 start date for fall practice.
 - If NJCAA member colleges choose to bring student-athletes back to campus earlier due to COVID-19, a plan of action must be submitted to the NJCAA National Office for approval no later than July 10, 2020.
 - For the year 2020-21 an exception will be allowed to Article V, Section 7 of the NJCAA Bylaws. This exception will allow member colleges to provide or pay for student-athlete COVID-19 testing, if

they so choose. At this time, this exception will only apply for the 2020-21 academic year but will be reviewed as needed.

- **FALL 2020 SPORTS**

- At this time, the NJCAA will proceed with fall championship sports beginning practice and competition as planned. For the following sports, the start date for practice is August 1, 2020, and the first competition date is August 20, 2020.
 - Men's and Women's Cross Country
 - Football
 - Men's and Women's Half Marathon
 - Men's and Women's Soccer
 - Division III Women's Tennis
 - Court Volleyball
- Maintaining the current practice, regular season competition, and postseason schedules will allow all fall championships to conclude before Thanksgiving, with the exception of football.
- Regions may condense or postpone start dates for practice or competition during the regular season as deemed necessary in the instance of student-athlete health and safety or region protocols.
- NJCAA regions may determine region winners for postseason competition as necessary. This may include condensed region tournaments, regular season champion, or other formats.
- All changes made to region or district tournaments must be submitted to the NJCAA National Office for review no later than September 15, 2020.

- **FALL 2020 NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SPORTS**

- To allow member colleges adequate time for proper health and safety precautions as student-athletes return to campus, the NJCAA will condense the fall non-championship season for the following sports:
 - Baseball

- Beach Volleyball
 - Men's and Women's Golf
 - Men's and Women's Lacrosse
 - Softball
 - Tennis (Division I Women's, Division I Men's, Division III Men's)
- All fall non-championship sports will be permitted to begin fall practice starting August 31, 2020. Fall competition will be permitted to begin starting September 5, 2020 concluding October 31, 2020.
- **WINTER 2020-21 SPORTS**
 - The following changes have been made to the 2020-21 NJCAA Men's and Women's Basketball seasons:
 - Practice will be permitted to begin starting September 14, 2020.
 - Competition will be permitted to begin starting October 16, 2020.
 - The following changes have been made to the 2020-21 NJCAA Men's Wrestling season:
 - Fall practice will be permitted to begin starting October 1, 2020, concluding October 31, 2020.
 - Regular-season practice will be permitted to begin starting January 1, 2021.
 - Competition will be permitted to begin starting January 20, 2021.
 - All programs will be permitted 20 competition dates, with one allowable scrimmage.
 - The following changes have been made to the 2020-21 NJCAA Men's and Women's Bowling, Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving, and Men's and Women's Indoor Track & Field seasons:
 - Practice will be permitted to begin starting October 1, 2020.

- Competition will be permitted to begin starting October 30, 2020.
- **SPRING 2021 SPORTS**
 - At this time, spring 2021 sports will follow regular timelines and guidelines. As the spring season approaches, the NJCAA National Office will provide additional guidance on any possible changes as necessary.

**To receive communications from the National Office, ensure that all staff members of your department are designated with appropriate permissions, roles, and sport assignments in NJCAA Connect.*

For more in-depth information visit: [NJCAA Connect COVID-19 Homepage](#)

- Updates
- Documents
- Important Dates
- Safety Protocol Recommendations
- Webinars
- Member college suspended/dropped sports

Yours in sport,



Dr. Christopher J. Parker
NJCAA President & CEO