Good Day WADA Members,

As I sit on my back deck, I am reflecting about all of the roads in which we have all been down over the last 20 weeks (140 days), facing, confronting and attempting to mitigate this global pandemic. As the wind blows and birds fly by, I have been reminded of the importance of self-preservation. “You must take care of number one!” “If you don't have good health, what do you have?” “Everyone needs a tribe!” (Thanks Jim!)

Every single one of us has had their individual lives, family lives, professional lives and personal lives flipped on its head. The pandemic, if not monitored, will suck the life right out of us, if we are not careful. Everyone needs to be able to step back and take the positives that this crisis has given to us. Some of you are asking, what “positives” have come out of this pandemic.

- Time for personal connections: Think about all the additional time that you have been afforded to spend as you please. This life is about the connections you make with people and all you come into contact with. Yes, the face-to-face contact might be cut off, but an old-fashioned phone call to have a personal conversation never goes out of style.

- Emergence (or Re-emergence) of personal hobbies: With the additional time, some have found new hobbies of crafting, jigsaw puzzles, family game nights, movie nights or trivia night. You might have found an interest in golf, basketball, horseshoes, ladder golf, cornhole (bags) or some other great yard games. What a better time to find some time for some personal or professional reading.

- For those physically in need of some work: How about thinking, planning and executing a yard or house project. The satisfaction in successfully finishing a project might just be what the doctor would order. The endorphin release from such a project could be the ticket to getting you ready for the start of a great school year.

- Your Pride: A pack of lions live together for the betterment of all. They live in a cohesive family unit. Your personal “Pride” needs to be stronger today than it was yesterday. We have all struggled through moments in the past 5 months, but when examining your “Pride” look beyond your household members. Absolutely, your spouse/significant other/partner and children are very important, but your personal and professional members of your Pride are just as important in this time of added stress. Talking with
individuals outside of your immediate family aid in your positive and strong mental health.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the upcoming weeks, months and years.

Never Forget: We WILL get through this . . .
   Take a Step Back . . .
   Expand your Pride!

Tough Times Don’t Last, Tough People Do!!

Shawn W Groshek, RAA
WADA Vice President

ITEMS of INTEREST

1. Please remember to check out gowada.org for regular updates and resources. If you would like to share resources or templates we would love to have your submissions, please email to Eric Plitzuweit, eplitzuweit@basd.k12.wi.us This week we would like to highlight our AD Toolbox section and encourage you to share with Eric your communication emails/letters from your schools/conferences to your communities about what you are planning to do this fall. We will house these shared resources in the COVID 19 Resource Toolbox for you to use as samples/examples.

2. WADA & WIAA #TeamUpToBeatCOVID Social Media Campaign - press release & graphic to use

3. WADA Board/District Reps Updates:

   District 1 - Mary Schradle-Mau, Turtle Lake - Difficult, but great work is being done as conferences across the district meet virtually to talk through fall schedules and what events will look like regarding fans, social distancing, admissions, live streaming, etc. A lot of questions remain unanswered, but our dedicated ADs are taking on the task with persistence and the best interest of our student-athletes in mind.

   District 2 - Brian Margelofsky, CAA, Northland Pines - Several counties in the southern portion of District 2 have been notified by their county health departments that their conference(s) must go to conference games only. Most conferences this week worked on updating their schedules to the new WIAA start dates. Many northern district 2 schools are preparing for students returning for classes face-to-face; while others in the southern part of the
District have announced virtual learning and preparing for this challenge. AD’s still maintain a positive approach to do what’s best for our student-athletes.

District 3 - Jim Langkamp, Baraboo - Many schools and conferences used this past week to digest the WIAA Board of Control’s decision to postpone the start of fall sports, as well as provide opportunities for schools to move their fall sports to the spring. Many school districts made their decision to hold school virtually, in person, or using a hybrid model. As more districts make their decision in the coming week we will get more clarity with regard to which schools will be participating, and build schedules. The trend appears to be cancelling multi-team events other than smaller local/regional invitational.

District 4 - Kathy Bates, CMAA, Appleton Xavier - Several district conferences (Bay, NEC, FVA, M & O, Packerland, and FRCC) have already made the decision to cancel all non-conference events for fall 2020. Conference schedules are being revised in light of the later start dates. The FRCC have moved the starting date for low risk sports from August 17 to September 1. The Green Bay Public Schools board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, so changes to current status may occur. Difficult times call for difficult decisions and I know we are all making the best decision for the safety and well being of our student-athletes, their families, and our school communities.

District 5 - Brittany Spencer Grant, CMAA, New Glarus - Many of our district schools have faced, and continue to face, challenging decisions regarding our fall athletic opportunities and what those might look like either now, or in the future. I have no doubt that we will all be able to work together in the coming months to reschedule what’s needed and allowed to best benefit our student-athletes. Look for a meeting invitation in August where we can again meet as a district and discuss and share both in the large and breakout settings. Reach out in the meantime with anything I can assist with!

District 6- Eric Plitzuweit, CAA, Burlington - As we all get closer to our return to school and the start of the “new” fall season, it becomes clear that athletic directors need the support of each other. The passion for return to play has never been greater in our communities across the state and country. Continue to use each other as resources and, as a reminder, refer to the WADA AD Support page or submit resources if you have found something to be helpful as we all navigate through this.

District 7- Michelle Guyant-Holloway, Wauwatosa East - Make sure you are still taking time for yourself in these last few weeks. District 7 Zoom Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 6 at 11:00am
https://wauwatosaschools.zoom.us/j/98743950506?pwd=TlM4WklZRjBmazhaaGFUR3gxdWdndz09
Meeting ID: 987 4395 0506
Passcode: 782725

4. July 28, 2020 WADA Board Meeting Minutes
The next WADA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2020 @ 9:00 AM.

Feel free to contact your District Rep with any items you would like brought to the Board to discuss.

5. **From our WIAA Liaison, Tom Shafranski:**

With the WIAA Board of Control approving the start of Girls’ Golf, Girls’ Tennis, Girls’ Swimming and Diving and Girls’ & Boys’ Cross Country, for August 17 and Football, Girls’ & Boys’ Volleyball and Boys’ Soccer approved to begin September 7, we enter a phase of preparation with many unknown answers and uncomfortable scenarios looming. Feelings of anxiety are common as we begin to realize the “new normal” is going to be different. Change is always part of an Athletic Director’s daily routine; however, dealing with change during a pandemic is more stressful and difficult. Einstein once wrote: “The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.” Athletic Directors are highly intelligent, organized individuals, adapted to handle change because it occurs so frequently in our routines. Answers have previously come to questions asked regarding summer contact along with all the other issues during the initial flurry of COVID-19 sent our way. Responses to questions for the start of the fall sports season, issues we face for whatever “culminating activities” that will be allowed along with any additional seasons during the year ahead will all be fully reviewed and vetted appropriately with answers to follow. We’ll get through the changes we all face—using intelligence—together.

Maintain social distance policies, wear a mask, wash hands and stay well!

Tom Shafranski, CAA
Assistant Director

6. **Message from Dave Anderson, WIAA Executive Director:**

Since last week’s Board of Control meeting the Executive staff have been working to complete their sport-specific fall guidance and get it reviewed by Sport Medical. We plan to meet this coming Monday hoping to finalize any loose ends so we can begin getting fall season guidance out to members as soon as it is green-lighted by SMAC.

Also on next Monday’s discussion agenda will be ideas on what the Second Semester / 3 Season model might look like, including number of weeks, starting and end dates, along with as many variations as would make sense to provide the Board for consideration.

Concomitant with that discussion are a substantial list of thoughts, ideas, questions which need to be brought to the Board for discussion and/or decisions. Thanks to all for reaching out to us to share thoughts, ideas, and questions - all will be discussed.
Staff will also be considering issues relating to sport officials – ranging from additional pregame instructions, use of air-horns in lieu of whistles, use of masks and a range of other related topics.

On a closing note; last week everything we were hearing was “We just want kids to be able to have a chance to get together, even if it might be just to practice.” “Just getting together would be wonderful.” “If we could get a few games, that would be fantastic. We don’t even need a championship.”

To be clear, at a time of uncertainty and of known distress among young people, these are the “right” answers for education-based athletics. Don’t look down at your shoes when saying-so. Don’t apologize for believing it.

This week we have begun to hear some folks “strategizing” about “would my team do better if we did the traditional season, but if those guys go traditional then it’s better if we go in the alternative season.” That’s a view focussed on “my best chance” for – a championship; “my best chance” to win.

Please do what you can to pull those sorts of views up short. Just don’t go down that rabbit hole. Not this year.

Please lead and be clear that your decisions will be made upon what will give your students an opportunity to get together with their teammates and maybe even get some games in. As one of my staff just shared with me – our job right now is “to leave hope on the table.”

If we can get more than that – fantastic!

But all of this is going to be complicated enough, don’t let it be taken hostage or manipulated for any reason other than what you are trying to do because it is good for these kids. They’ve been through a lot. They’re counting on all of us.

Thanks.

The next WIAA Board of Control meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 14, 2020.