This weeks message to the members is WADA President, Todd Sobrilsky, CMAA

WADA Members,

Hard to believe that the fall sports season is upon us and the start of the 2020-21 school year is here. Whether you are in virtual mode, face to face or somewhere in between (hybrid) one thing is for sure during this strange new world we are operating in . . . Every day presents a new update. . . Every day is a new headline. . . Every day is a new challenge. . . Every day is a new obstacle.

All 100% true.

But every day is also a new opportunity. Every day is a chance to learn. Every day is a chance to get better. Every day is a chance to move forward.

A text from a colleague recently asked how we stay positive in these times. My response: it's a choice. I know days are difficult, but that's not new. And it's difficult for everyone. But we still get to choose who we are in the midst of it. And to show up with worry and fear isn't useful or helpful for anyone. Nothing good comes from that.

So I encourage you to choose to be positive, choose to live your values, choose to believe that not only better days are ahead, but that there is still opportunity today. Easy? Of course not. But it's better than the alternative. And it's guaranteed to make a difference today.

Circumstances are out of your control. Your mindset is not. Focus on what you can control. Your programs, coaches, and athletes will be better for it.

Be positive . . . stick together . . . lead with purpose!

Be Safe and Healthy, and please - wear a Mask!!

Todd Sobrilsky, CMAA

ITEMS of INTEREST

1. WADA announcements to be aware of:
   - Latest WADA Survey - Thanks for all the responses and feedback for us to collect and share with the WIAA as the decision making continues and helps make sure questions and concerns are collected and addressed consistently. This one focuses on the open questions of school year contact, competition types being planned on, and gives a space for other questions and topics needing clarification. Appreciate everyone taking the time to complete this, probably about 3-5 minutes.
   - We will be producing 1 more WADA Weekly newsletter. Our intent when we started this project was to provide you with timely information and updates as we worked our way through the uncertainties of the summer and fall season start. Now that the school year and the fall season...
has started (elitebet we still have much to work through) we will be transitioning to providing a
WADA newsletter on a monthly basis starting in September.
➢ The WADA Board will be meeting over the next week to discuss what the 2020-21 Conference
will look like . . . will we be able to hold a conference in the Dells as we have traditionally done
or will we need to look to provide a virtual experience because of the pandemic? Watch for that
decision and more information in next week's WADA Weekly.
➢ A friendly reminder that amidst the chaos of the first few weeks of school start up the WIAA will
be holding their area meetings throughout September. It was decided at the WIAA Board of
Control meeting last week to hold these meetings virtually this year. Watch your email inbox for
more details from the WIAA office on how to register to attend. Here is a link to the scheduled
dates for the meetings.
➢ WADA would like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone at the WIAA office for working on
the how to, and then allowing the past 2 Board of Control meetings to be live streamed to the
state. Last week's meeting has had 10,000+ views as of today - WOW!! The transparency of
what is being discussed and decided in this time of uncertainty and constant change has been
much appreciated. A special thanks to the Board of Control and WIAA Executive Director, Dave
Anderson for being willing to offer everyone this opportunity and take a risk - our WADA
membership has a clearer understanding of the process and is better informed because of it.

2. 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

3. WADA Board/District Reps Updates:

District 1 - Mary Schradle-Mau, Turtle Lake - As schedules have solidified since the revised WIAA season
calendar was released, schools are now starting to work on the finer details of managing events during this era
of COVID. ADs are working with their building administrators as well as building and grounds personnel to
determine the safest way to move people in and out of their buildings, gyms, and outdoor spaces, as well as
figure out locker room use, the sale of concessions, etc. ADs will have to share their specific protocols with
their opponents in order to make the events run smoothly and safely. To facilitate this process and hopefully
eliminate redundant emails, I have created a Google Sheet that ADs can access to add their school's
particulars and expectations and view other school's similar information. I will share the sheet with all of you
via email. You can also click here.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Svw0ppBdhklSs9eobOUlW8ffl9YCIUWAdnKDtAYqE/edit?usp=sh
aring
Locate your conference on the tabs at the bottom of the sheet. Feel free to add columns as appropriate for
your conference, add your school to another conference if you belong to multiple, etc. Make the sheet
workable for you and your conference partners. Hopefully it will lessen our work load just a little bit!

District 2 - Brian Margelofsky, CAA, Northland Pines - NA

District 3 - Jim Langkamp, Baraboo - The sports of Girls Golf, Girls Tennis, Girls Swim, and Cross Country
began this week. Many schools are offering these sports in District 3. Most of the invitationals have been
cancelled. The focus has been on scheduling dual competitions. AD’s have found the COVID Games Wanted
section on the WIAA website to be helpful in filling schedules.
District 4 - Kathy Bates, CMAA, Appleton Xavier - District 4 continues to be in a very fluid state. Some conferences are going ahead with fall sports, some have decided to move fall to spring, and some are yet undecided with meetings upcoming that may be decisive. Some of the decisions do not 'match' for schools in football only conferences. Every day we learn of a new decision made and/or request from one of our members. Those going forward with fall are discussing and developing guidelines with regard to locker rooms, spectators, locker rooms, scheduling, etc. All of our efforts are to provide opportunities for our student athletes in all sports, regardless of what season(s) in which they compete.

District 5 - Brittany Spencer Grant, CMAA, New Glarus - We have quite the spread of fall sport decisions that District 5 schools have made. Many in and around the Madison Area have postponed all fall sports to the alternate fall season. Some are proceeding with all fall sports as usual. Others are proceeding with select fall sports now, and others in the alternate fall season. I have no doubt that we will be able to work together to provide our students the best opportunities possible in whichever seasonal placement they're in. Use me as a resource as needed to send out communications regarding holes in your schedule that need to be filled!

District 6 - Eric Plitzuweit, CAA, Burlington - As many of us are seeing around the state, decisions are continually being made regarding what our fall season will look like. Yesterday, there were a number of schools that participated in the first WIAA sanctioned sporting event in over 5 months. Meanwhile, others are beginning to plan what the alternate season will look like. I encourage everyone to take a step back and try to appreciate today; that no matter what season your school chooses to participate in, to not worry too much about tomorrow. Realize that your “next season” is going to happen whether you worry about it or not. Understanding this, know that worry has never accomplished anything for anyone and redirect your mental energy towards what you can control. Focus on the student athlete, the coaches, and what we can offer each other; we can control our response and how we work with each regardless if we are participating now or in the alternate season.

District 7 - Michelle Guyant-Holloway, Wauwatosa East - District 7 - Here to view is a document provided from Justin Marien at WAC on Fall or Alternate Season List. I’d like to host another zoom meeting to discuss any changes/concerns/issues that are still out there as to the start up for low risk sports and prior to the high risk sports start up. As most schools are starting back up with in-service days, please complete the Doodle invite - here - as to what time/date may work best. An agenda will be shared with all as we get closer to that date. Short video clip from Jon Gordon to keep us in the right mindset - Feed the Positive Dog.

4. August 11, 2020. WADA Board Meeting Minutes
The next WADA Board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 23, 2020

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

5. NFHS/NIAAA News: For those that are thinking of attending the NIAAA/NFHS NADC in Tampa Bay in December, the NIAAA/NFHS has set a September 15, drop dead date for making their decision of holding that event face to face or going virtual. The WADA leadership would advise that you hold off until that decision is made to book your flights and hotels.
6. **From our WIAA Liaison, Tom Shafranski:**
This past Monday saw the start to five fall sport programs throughout the State. As school administrators and school districts identify their choice of season for fall sports and look for potential contests, the WIAA has developed a new COVID-19 Games Wanted webpage. Below you will find the link to this new page:

https://schools.wiaaw.org/Forms/ContestsWanted/Search/

It is a one-stop-shopping tool that is very easy to navigate and either post games/meets/events or search for them. AD’s are able select a sport season, then search by school, conference, district, county or contest type (Exhibition or Regular season), and/or Contest Level (Varsity, JV, Freshmen or other). Users can also look for a Matchup Type (Head-to-Head or Multi-School Invite). It truly is a very user-friendly resource for Athletic Directors to find contests with one another. Numerous listings have already been posted.

Give this site a try and use it as necessary. We are looking forward to seeing high school sports back in action from Racine to Superior and Platteville to Florence as students begin to return to their high schools this fall.

All the best as the fall sport seasons get underway and keep wearing your mask!

Sincerely,

Tom Shafranski, CAA
Assistant Director

7. **Message from Dave Anderson, WIAA Executive Director:**
Greetings,

With the Board approving this year’s Area Meetings to be conducted remotely via Zoom, staff has begun discussing what those meetings should look like and how many Area Meetings ought to be held. To this point nothing has been firmly decided. Our conversations have sought to identify and debate the pros and cons of having only one, state-wide zoom vs. the traditional 7 Area Meetings – or some number in-between.

The idea of having one, membership-wide Area Meeting is intriguing from the stand-point of all member’s hearing the conversations and perspectives first-hand vs. being “relayed” to you by WIAA staff. Some of the challenges of a single meeting include how to manage member conversations and feedback, hoping to be able to continue to have a manageable Open Forum and Break-Out sessions on a key topic or two. We prefer if Area Meetings can continue to be a two-way conversation to the extent possible. But either way, these are an important piece of our annual membership conversations and communications.

Staff will continue this conversation and we will share intentions, dates and etc. as soon as finalized.

If you have a thought on this topic, please share it with your WADA rep.

Yesterday the Wisconsin Department of Health issued their guidance for the start of school. The release acknowledged that across the state and the many schools within the state, there are unique circumstances that are being confronted. We see the fact that interscholastic athletics and activities were absent from that guidance and being left up to each school to have been a good thing; an opportunity!
It gives members the opportunity to at least try to provide the activities to kids that they and their families have been hoping for. The WIAA Board has attempted, in their recent decisions, to preserve a measure of “hope” for all kids, even in communities and counties that might be too “hot” right now to offer all of the traditional fall sports within the traditional fall season.

So now it’s up to us to make the most of this opportunity. To see that we follow all the best practices and not seek to skirt, manipulate or circumvent – or tolerate such.

Be the best leaders we can be, in every respect – and expect the same from kids, coaches and parents, if we want to see these opportunities continue. Do not “blink” to call-out behaviors that may jeopardize or short circuit our chances. Let’s not throw away our shot. If we want to see good things continue, we must not take this opportunity for granted. We know this virus has a mind of its own and can pivot and flare in a “minute”.

You have worked so hard to put plans in place in order that students might return to school and have even just a chance for engaging in school activities. We know that many kids desperately need these opportunities and the connections they provide. We hope others will recognize that and respect your leadership as well as the directives you have put in place, in order to preserve these chances.

Good Luck!
Let us know how we can help,

Dave Anderson
Executive Director WIAA

The next WIAA Board of Control meeting is scheduled for September, 18 @ 1:00 PM