Hello WADA members,

Over the course of the past 2 weeks your WADA leadership has engaged the membership in a series of district level Zoom meetings. For those that chose to participate (almost 200) thank you for engaging in these sessions and sharing your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. The WADA Board debriefed about what was offered at these meetings and two mindsets/themes were evident amongst our state Athletic Director’s - some are seeing only the obstacles while others are seeing the opportunity.

Some Athletic Directors are focused on what might go wrong, things that are completely out of their control, while others acknowledge that things happen outside of their control all the time. This upcoming season, while full of unique challenges, is no different in that many things are out of our control.

The unspoken part of this is the impact the AD's mindset has on the school, programs, and communities. When you hear your boss or one of your coaches complaining . . . that doesn't stir up confidence or hope. When you hear them embracing the opportunity, you believe the fight is worth it and your effort changes.

Do you see the obstacle or the opportunity? AD’s need to set the tone!!

In an effort to help you set that tone and be as informed as possible the WADA Board will begin sending weekly updates through the start of the fall season. Our intent with this communication is to help you focus on the controllable, while making progress happen and setting an optimistic tone.

We will do our best to keep you updated on decisions, timelines, and resources as we return to school and athletics this fall.

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

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

Todd Sobrilsky, CMAA
WADA President
WEEKLY ITEMS of INTEREST

1. The WADA Board spent time at its most recent Board meeting (7-14-20) discussing potential season changes for the 2020-21 school year. As part of that discussion we developed and are sharing with you a Pro/con list for three options: Status Quo/Traditional, Flipped Seasons, and Truncated Shortened Model. We are not advocating for or supporting any of these models until we capture the memberships perspectives. We have provided a survey form for you to share your thoughts and other potential ideas concerning these models. Please complete the survey by day's end, Friday July 24, to help us inform the WIAA through our liaison, Nathan Delany, WADA President Elect.

2. Please remember to check out gowada.org for regular updates and resources. We recently added the NCS4 best practices and COVID supplement as it relates to event management. 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. From our WIAA Liaison, Tom Shafranski - On Monday, July 20, 2020, the WIAA will again host the New Athletic Director Workshop for Athletic Directors starting their tenure as a high school sports administrator. It is always a special day for everyone in the WIAA office, as our entire staff is involved and active throughout the program because it marks the start to a new school, a new beginning for an exciting year ahead. We truly love being able to get to know each school administrator. However, with this year’s program, entitled, “Are you truly ready for your fall sports?,” having to be a virtual program, it is a fitting title as we all, together, face the challenging, uncertain times ahead. Through all of these difficult times, the certainty new athletic directors and all athletic directors can be assured of is the support of the WIAA office. We now look forward to working with each of you in new, creative ways--through your challenges and ours--to provide student-athletes the opportunity to participate in a safe, quality, education-based athletic experience.

4. We scheduled our next statewide ADInsider Roundtable for July 30th at 2:00 PM. Watch your email for more specific details and registration information to be sent out next week.

5. The NFHS has announced the next phase of the NFHS Network’s journey with the “High School Support Program”. You have should have received a press release (from the WIAA”s Director of Communications, Todd Clark) earlier this week regarding this initiative and can find more details here. We want to make you aware of an upcoming Zoom meeting being provided by the NFHS regarding this new “High School Support Program”. The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 22 at 2 p.m. CST. Meeting Zoom link.

6. Message from Dave Anderson, WIAA Executive Director:
Hello WADA membership,
I will do my best to keep you up to date and informed in these uncertain times, I hope you all received the lengthy update yesterday. We definitely want to provide as many resources as soon as we can and I can share that the Board of Control is considering a special meeting this month to discuss action items. Please stay in touch with your district's leadership to be ready to respond to ever changing scenarios. This week I had a very well attended superintendent meeting and got feedback from the WADA board regarding potential next steps and scenarios which we will discuss as a staff and with the Board of Control. The WIAA is trying to balance local control and statewide consistency to support student athletes and recognize elements of our mission are sometimes at odds in this previously unthinkable scenario of a pandemic.

My Very Best Always,

Dave Anderson
Executive Director WIAA