Volume 1 Issue 2

Hello WADA Members,

By the time you read this newsletter, the WIAA Board of Control will have met and released their latest thoughts and plans concerning the start of the fall sports season.

No matter what that plan is . . . I want to encourage you to be positive.

Can I let you in on a secret? Right now our educational based athletic world, school programming, and life in general is difficult.

Expect difficulties. That doesn't mean to be a pessimist. That doesn't mean to expect the worst. But you should expect difficulties. That's being a realist.

The beauty is that you get to choose your perspective in the midst of these difficulties. You can complain, become bitter and be negative. Or you can choose to be present, looking for opportunities to lean in with a positive mindset and get through it.

It's your perspective that determines your experience. Do you see the problem or are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference by leading with a purpose?

These difficulties will either define you or develop you. Own your perspective - which is 100% in your control.

You have a choice today, no matter what is going on around you. No matter how difficult things are, no matter how bad the situation and your options look, you can choose to be positive. It's the only way to move forward.

Mindset is a choice. Choose to be positive today. For your own health, mentally and physically, as well as for those in your programs and communities.

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. Last week we asked you to look at this Pro/con list and then fill out a survey that we could then share with the WIAA Exec. Staff and Board of Control for their meeting yesterday. Here is the survey summary that we provided to them.

2. Please remember to check out gowada.org for regular updates and resources. This week’s highlight resource is the “Getting to Know your WADA Board” section (see #4 for there weekly district updates). 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. We have scheduled our next statewide ADInsider Roundtable for July 30th at 2:00 PM. Watch your email for registration information to be sent out next week. We will be discussing with the WADA Executive Board, and members of the WIAA Executive Staff the latest Board of Control actions.

4. WADA Board/District Reps Updates

**District 1 - Mary Schradle-Mau, Turtle Lake** - The District 1 zoom meeting was held on Wednesday, July 8th. A good portion of the time was spent sharing what each school district was doing regarding open gyms, contact days, etc. It was valuable for ADs to hear from colleagues what is working well for them in their districts in order to perhaps implement some of those practices at their own schools. The conversation then moved on to all of the unknowns regarding fall sports - fans, busing, streaming of contests, etc. The consensus was that there is a lot of anxiety, too many mixed messages from officials even within the same county, and the desire to have a decision made at the state level for fall sports.

**District 2 - Brian Margelofsky, CAA, Northland Pines** - We had our D-2 Zoom meeting on July 9th. Notes from that meeting can be accessed here: Area 2 Meeting July 9th. Already on this date the rumor of the SW model of moving fall sports to spring and spring to summer was present and discussed. This is not viewed as an equitable solution for northern schools (snow amounts) and districts (smaller and those whose students must work due to family income).

**District 3 - Jim Langcamp, Baraboo** - We held a District 3 Zoom conference this past Monday. Click here to view the recording of that meeting. The majority of the time was spent discussing the CESA 3 proposal to adjust sport seasons for the coming year. We also discussed video streaming, middle school sports, and coaches pay.

**District 4 - Kathy Bates, CMAA, Appleton Xavier** - We held a District 4 zoom meeting on July 8. We had over 50 in attendance. Most of the discussion was with regard to strength & conditioning practices, open gyms, and summer contact days. Most schools in the district have
canceled summer camps and league participation. At the conclusion of the meeting we did an experiment breaking out into conference meetings. Notes from the meeting can be found here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UJjE8-XuEwWeHoeQRxxpuViP8rGVni0Q/view?usp=sharing

District 5 - Brittany Spencer Grant, CMAA, New Glarus - We had our District 5 Zoom call back on June 30th. We spent a portion of the time together as a large group discussing summer activity, fall guidelines and the mental health results. We also utilized the breakout feature to get into smaller groups with some conferences joining together. We enjoyed being in the mixed conference groups as we were able to not only share what we’re each doing, but also listen to others ideas that we might be able to implement ourselves.

District 6 - Eric Plitzuweit, CAA, Burlington - Our last group correspondence took place last week on Friday when I sent out the weekly WADA message. I hope everyone had time to discuss with local school administration and gather feedback from coaches. Congratulations to Jeff Spiwak, formerly of Clinton, as he has accepted the AD position at Milton.

District 7 - Michelle Guyant-Holloway, Wauwatosa East - District 7 Fall Start Up Survey & District 7 Zoom Mtg July 6

The next WADA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 28. Feel free to contact your District Rep with any items you would like brought to the Board to discuss.

5. NIAAA Professional Growth and Development Workshop opportunities - they are FREE!! During the past 4 months of the COVID crisis I have taken numerous opportunities to attend these workshops and they are excellent. If you have not taken advantage of this PG&D opportunity you are truly missing out on improving your craft. Most are 60-75 minutes in length and are “taught” by working AD’s from around the nation with great nuggets of wisdom to share.

6. A great article from the NFHS Voice - "Embracing Change is Crucial in Restarting High School Sports, Performing Arts"

7. From our WIAA Liaison, Tom Shafranski - This past Monday brought 80 new Athletic Directors to a workshop with WIAA Executives and WADA representatives. With the “new normal” becoming our world of virtual meetings, the workshop was a success. As one attendee wrote following the event, “The message I took away from the meeting is how willing everyone is to help out.” I think this says it all—this comment reflects not just on the staff at the WIAA, but all of WADA as well. It is the fabric that is sewn into each of us as Athletic Administrators—always seeking to help others resolve their problems. Now, more than ever, helping one another through tough times is truly needed and necessary. Each of these new AD’s has or will be provided a mentor; but, each of us, also need to look out for one another during the year ahead and provide support and assistance as issues develop.

Stay well and wear a mask!
8. **BOARD PROVIDES UNPRECEDENTED FLEXIBILITY FOR FALL SPORTS**
   Video of the Meeting

9. **Message from Dave Anderson, WIAA Executive Director**

   Last week I mentioned the added discussions needing to take place around Area Meetings. There’s another topic worthy of some advance notice and member deliberations and that is WIAA Tournaments.

   Certainly in this office we recognize the excitement and sense of accomplishment associated with “Making State” and earning the designation of - “State Champion.” In our offices there have been preliminary conversations about how to go about a tournament opportunity, should sport seasons be able to get underway at some point in time. The discussions are broad at this time – mostly throwing out ideas, alternatives and hypotheticals; obviously, since we are yet to see a regular sport season as of yet get underway.

   We are talking about and considering the minimum number of games requirement, whether or not “seeding” is an absolute necessity, keeping all tournaments starting at/within the “regional” grouping as opposed to the sectional half-bracket as has been our trend recently in some sports. We talk and think about modifications to the idea of a tournament design and work to have possible “fall-back” opportunities should some form of “state championship” model prove to be ill-advised.

   While there are strong and passionate feelings and perspectives on the virus and the relative importance of school sport and activities within the big-picture, it is also essential to recognize that there are those in each city and community that frankly, do not want kids from 400 or 500 schools across the state coming into their community for a period of days, competing and traveling back to their own communities. We encountered this with tournaments last March from both our state finals venues and within the local communities hosting sectional play.

   So while this is one of those things that isn’t necessarily on the front-burner this minute, it is something we’ve begun discussing here – and might be good for members to begin having conversations as well, into “what’s most important?” Is it more important to just get kids back together – get them a chance to be together, practice and hopefully get some games in? Or, is all of this somehow less-worthwhile, pointless, if there can’t be a state champion determined?

   To be clear, it is absolutely our hope to be able to sponsor championship opportunities for the kids and our members. But given the twists and turns of this pandemic, the Board and staff need to be prepared for as many curveballs and surprises as we might imagine, since that’s been the norm these past 6 months.
Thanks for all the thought, time and energy you have been pouring into your work in these challenging times.
Keep Well.

Sincerely,

Dave Anderson
Executive Director

Archived messages:
Volume 1 Issue 1

7.16.20

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](http://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 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

7.30.20

Hello WADA members,

We will be sending weekly updates through August at this time to keep you updated on decisions, timelines, and resources as we return to school and athletics.
(Todd/Exec Board message)

Pro/con list or survey summary

Please remember to check out gowada.org for regular updates and resources. ADD. 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

We will have a statewide AD Insider roundtable at 1pm on July 30th and will have a district specific communication beginning next week.

District details starting w/ 7/25 email (copy and share yours)

District 1-

District 2-

District 3-

District 4-

District 5-

District 6-

District 7-

Message from Dave Anderson, WIAA Executive Director