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## Immediate Repeal of the “Out of Season” and “Open Facility” Policies

The ASAA “out of season” contact and “open facility” policies do allow for coaches to work with students year around on a limited bases for purposes of conditioning and individual instruction. Additionally, the “out of season” contact restrictions are suspended each year from May 20 to July 31. As ASAA wants to bring these policies into alignment with the State of Alaska Health Mandates, **THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE.**

**As of April 10, 2020, ASAA is prohibiting all out of season contact, including “open facility”. This also prohibits the use of school facilities and coaches from organizing or directing workouts and practices.** This is in response to the State of Alaska’s Health Mandate 13 and is in effective immediately. Until further notice, all ASAA Activities are confined to their seasons as defined by the ASAA Article 7 Section 6 Bylaw, which reads in part (emphasis added).

*C. Definition of Season - For an activity that is confined to a season, the season is established by the Board of Directors and may begin with the first day of practice and end at the conclusion of the state championship event.*

*D. Penalty: The following penalties assume that a school is in good standing and has not been warned or is not under other penalty at the given time. A school under warning or other penalty status may be assessed additional penalties than those listed below, up to and including suspension from the Association.*

*Out-of-Season Practice/Play:*

***1. First Offense: School receives warning and the head coach receives a suspension of games equaling the number of days of the violation. If Association determines that the violation involved intentional conduct by a school representative, probation for one school year and the head coach receives a game suspension for three times the length of the infraction.***

***2. Second Offense: The head coach receives a suspension for one school year and the school will receive a fine of \$200 minimum.***

The ASAA Executive Board will meet in the coming weeks to discuss policies for summer activities, along with academic eligibility concerns for Fall 2020 that have been expressed by member schools and families. As a reminder, the Board has **already announced the cancellation of all 2020 spring events, championships, regular season contest and practices.** Therefore, no ASAA activity should consider itself “in season” until further notice.

## Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions relating to ASAA's policies regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. If you have a question, please contact Billy Strickland at [billy@asaa.org](mailto:billy@asaa.org).

### **1. Q. May coaches organize "voluntary" or "optional" practices/tryouts during this cancellation period?**

A. No, coaches are not able to work directly with students during this cancellation period. This includes but is not limited to the use of platforms such as Zoom to conduct workouts. Coaches may not be involved in circumventing this policy.

### **2. Q. Does the cancellation period apply to off-season fall and winter activities?**

A. All ASAA sports and activities fall under this guidance. There is to be no practice or gatherings for any ASAA sports or activities until further notice.

### **3. Q. May schools participate in contests/events during this cancellation period?**

A. No, the cancellation period for practices and contests/events applies to all ASAA member schools, regardless of where the practice or contest/event occurs.

### **4. Q. May groups of students gather for workouts?**

A. While the ASAA encourages students to stay active, we discourage groups of students from getting together in alignment with local, state and federal social distancing guidelines.

### **5. Q. Does this cancellation period apply to public schools only?**

A. The cancellation period applies to all ASAA member districts, schools, public and private, in all ASAA-sanctioned activities.

### **6. Q. May coaches communicate with students/athletes?**

A. Coaches can communicate with students in accordance with local school district policy, but not organize or participate in workouts. We encourage coaches to provide support to students during this stressful time. Coaches may send out individual workout plans, but not with the intent of having them done in a group setting.

### **7. Q. May students or coaches access school facilities during this cancellation period?**

A. During this moratorium-like cancellation period, there shall be no high school facility usage by activity/athletic staff and students/teams. Field maintenance is allowed.

### **8. Q. Will 2019-20 ASAA State Championships that have been cancelled be rescheduled?**

A. No, cancelled 2019-20 ASAA State Championships will not be rescheduled.

9. Q. Are current high school seniors eligible to return and participate in ASAA sanctioned activities during the 2020-2021 school year?

A. ASAA activities are education-based and exist as an extension of the classroom. Current ASAA policy regarding duration of eligibility is based on four consecutive years (eight semesters or the equivalent) for each student after entering the 9th grade, not on seasonal participation opportunities.

**10. Q. How does Pass/Fail affect NCAA eligibility and admittance into higher education? And is the NCAA also upholding the pass/incomplete or will student athletes need a letter grade?**

A. ASAA has does not interpret eligibility rules and policies for the NCAA and NAIA schools. Please address these questions to the NCAA at 1-877-622-2321 or their websites at:

» **NCAA**

<http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>

» **NCAA-Coronavirus**

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/coronavirus-covid-19>

The NCAA Eligibility Center also has a phone line for students and parents at 1-877-262-1492.

» **NAIA schools website:**

<https://play.mynaia.org/contact-us>

The NAIA Eligibility Center phone number at 816-595-8300.