



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite A258 – Houston, TX 77058

Region 8 Meeting – May 27, 2020

Brian Polk/Dr. Susan Elza: UIL Update

- physical info is on the website: incoming 7th/9th graders will have to get physicals
- all athletes should have physicals on file for strength and conditioning
- eligibility: there will be flexibility; announcements will be made in July
- CCP: not going up until late July because of THSCA/TGCA conferences
- remote learning: allow flexibility; if some kids cannot attend in person S&C, they can continue to do remote learning.
- will we start on time? Will we have fans in the stands? Don't know yet at this time.
- DEC/RMA: will be loaded sometime around mid-June; you can meet with new DEC but not posted yet. Usually posted after LC but may be done before.
- Legislative Council will be a live zoom meeting on 16th-17th with no public hearing. If you have a rule proposal, you can turn them in. The sub varsity basketball fee will be addressed.
- June 8th: working to revise for some individual sports (a lot can be found on the Athletics document with the Q&As)
- tennis courts be open? Summer camps? All in the documents
- Cheerleading document will be posted later today
- sport specific instruction: went to 90 min/day with no more than 60 min/sport.
- summer leagues: the only thing that can be done in your indoor facilities (natatoriums, gyms, indoor facilities) can be strength and conditioning/sport specific programs. NO outside leagues as of right now.
- outside facilities: can have outside leagues but they have to abide by department of health regulations (4 or less participants).
- natatoriums: swimmers can do sport specific training. You can only have 25% capacity which is determined by the school district.
- 1 coach to 20 athletes: doesn't mean that you can only have 1 to 20 at a time, you can do 5 to 100, etc.
- no regulations of number of kids outdoors. Groups of 10 inside and groups of 15 outside are the max. You can have multiples of these groups but have to follow inside regulations when it comes to cap.
- fall: looking to give extra time; add S&C time outside of the school day. 60 min outside of school day for S&C (in or out of season). Have not released anything about it yet but will be coming.
- youth programs: TEA wants to control what goes on inside the building but not outside. The 4 athlete limitation by TEA could be lifted after May 31st but not sure. TEA doesn't outline much, a lot of it is recommendations. Trying to get clarity regarding that. Trying to time stamp every time we change one of our documents.



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite A258 – Houston, TX 77058

- concussion protocol: do they need a doctors clearance if they had one in the spring? Haven't been asked that but lean towards going through protocol before they practice
- How long will the extra 60 min out of the school day? It will be for the entire school year. If this is a good change, it could be a permanent change. If you are in season, it will NOT count towards your 8 hours.
- S&C self screening: recommended by district to do it at home before they come. What are people doing to ask this? Comes down to your district and the resources you have. Some have created a google form to do on the phone.
- virtual instruction once S&C starts: you can do this until June 8th and can continue for kids who are not able to come. Can continue for school districts who do not want to start June 8th. There will be flexibility with this.
- officials pay: there is no delay in the increase for next year as of right now in the athletic proposals.
- bathrooms: they can use them, but if you have a facility with only bathrooms in the locker rooms, the school district will have to make the decision.

Superintendent Panel: Dr. Brian Woods (Northside ISD), Dr. Lloyd Verstuyft (Southwest ISD), Mr. Roland Toscano (East Central ISD)

UIL has released guidelines for a start date of June 8th, what are the positives and what do you see as concerns?

Woods: We are hopeful, the opportunity for us to start as early as June 8th is a hopeful thing. I think that this is doable and something we can accomplish; it will be a little more expensive because of the student to coach ratio. I think it is important to not rush to make plans, we need to be comfortable before we execute it. It is a great opportunity to take the first wave of kids interacting with staff and getting involved.

With the safety cautions, do you think getting everything for sanitation/PPE equipment will halt the start of S&C?

Toscano: We have been able to acquire what we need for our plan initially. We are aware of what that entails and will provide everything we need for proper sanitation. I do not think it will be an obstacle.

Do you have any concern with participation of kids in S&C? Any obstacles?

Verstuyft: This is where local decisions really come into play. Have to consider other summer plans going on. Have to be cautious and make sound decisions for everyone involved.



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite A258 – Houston, TX 77058

Fundraising and sponsorships: what are your thoughts on trying to continue to obtain them?

Toscano: I don't think we necessarily change our relationship with who supports us. We have to be considerate and might need to suppress our expectations.

Plans for compensating coaches this summer?

Woods: Plan to compensate coaches, because of the number of coaches per student will make it more fiscally challenging than the past. Official pay: concerned for the budget in the immediate range. Plan to compensate in an equitable way in a diverse district.

Verstuyft: Agree with both. Important to regard the value of our coaches. The earlier the athletic department forms a proposed budget the faster we can take it to our governing bodies to get approved.

Conferences: what are y'all's thoughts about letting coaches and ADs attend?

Woods: if we think it is safe we wouldn't deviate from letting coaches attend. We would encourage in an online setting if that is the final outcome.

Verstuyft: We all believe in the associations and their learning opportunities. If they're following social distancing guidelines and it is safe, it would be okay. We would have to relay the protocols to our governing board to get their approval.

Any thoughts for out of town travel for non-district/tournament games?

Toscano: All criteria/conditions that must be met would have to align at where we have landed as a school community. Given the current climate we may spend more time discussing if we can have the same experience more locally. Would not spend much time previously discussing that but will be more likely to going forward.

Woods: We need to be ready to flex into more local, high quality tourneys if we feel like that is necessary. Already talk of development along that line; need to be ready if kids cannot stay in hotels in August.

Football season: what are your thoughts of live streaming of games? Pay per view experience/letting students broadcast?

Verstuyft: A lot will be contingent on where we are after June/July, but would support the ability. Depending what the landscape looks like and if we're restricted to get together as a crowd it would be a good option. We have had a huge jump in technology in the past few months and that could be used to our advantage in the fall. Even if we do have some ability to have crowds at games, I think we should still use it.



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite A258 – Houston, TX 77058

Straight online ticketing sales and limited cash on hand?

Toscano: A good idea; we need to prepare to limit contact. We are going to have percentage of the population who will not want to gather in crowds, continue following social distancing guidelines, etc. with the current world. A good plan to consider and flesh out and be ready to use.

What can we expect for school in august? Any change to the academic calendar?

Woods: No answer right now. Leaning away from a major calendar change because it would involve significant communication with community. If the school calendar doesn't change, it has to be ready to flex immediately, and possibly be different at numerous schools. A big challenge for athletics is to take game(s) and having to reschedule them because the school was closed, etc. Challenge is to get away from the notion that the schedule will be officially set.

Thoughts on hybrid schedules?

Verstuyft: We are meeting with area Superintendents multiple times a week and with the TEA. Connecting locally at a high level. For inner session capabilities for longer breaks. We are all looking at numerous opportunities. In the area, we walk aside each other and want to do similar things in local districts because the schedules effect each other.

Importance of returning to Athletics/Extra Curriculars?

Woods: really excited for S&C notion, it is the first opportunity for kids to be back in our building: it is our opportunity and responsibility to get that right. The goal is to return on time for the UIL and bring a sense of hope and normalcy to families. Live streaming: any way to get competition out to the community will draw people back together. It is important to reconnect with our families and get them back in our schools.

What are some major areas of concern regarding safety?

Toscano: The theme that is rising to the surface is flexibility. We need to have the ability as an org to change directions on the dime with contingency planning. According to our survey, 30% of parents would not feel comfortable sending their kids back to school if things do not change. They need to know we have a comprehensive plan to return and communicate it for numerous scenarios (face-to-face, hybrid, if someone gets tested positive, etc). The plans must be clear and concise. School calendar needs to have some form of flexibility. Not ready to jump into a massive calendar shift but also know that there needs to be time built in to flex. Our community will be more confident with a plan regardless of what the world brings us. The degree that we do that well is the degree of comfort in our community.



TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

1322 Space Park Drive, Suite A258 – Houston, TX 77058

Outdoor graduations?

Verstuyft: We all want to recognize the seniors. Lots of factors: have to consider how big your class is, how your community feels about outdoors, etc. Anything done will have some risks to it. We had a 40 person task force that have been working through all of the logistics. Have a detailed plan for entrance/exit, social distancing guidelines, etc. Seats labeled off and the parents will be aligned with where their student sits on the field. Addressing an outdoor commencement that will acknowledge/recognize the students because they deserve something and have a sense of closure.