

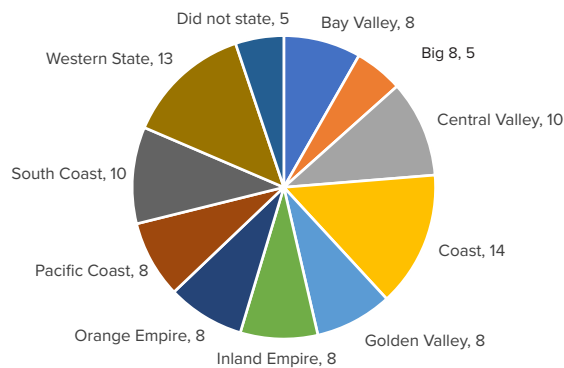


# CCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

## INTRODUCTION

In spring 2020, the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) administered a survey to California Community Colleges Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) across the state about how they are considering and making decisions about fall sports on their campuses. Ninety-seven colleges participated in the survey effort (representing an 89% response rates among the 109 community colleges with athletics programs). Participants also represented all sport conferences across the state (see figure below).



This report provides a summary of the findings from this survey. The findings provide information about the current impact of COVID-19 on fall sports, decision-making factors about fall sport implementation, considerations about social distancing, and how the CCCAA may support the field.

## CURRENT IMPACT OF COVID-19

COVID-19 is already impacting fall sports. More than half of the respondents (51; 54%) stated that preseason training has been minimized, while 21 said that there has been no impact so far (22%), and only 3 respondents said they have already canceled fall 2020 athletics (3%).

Several respondents suggested “other” impacts of COVID-19 on fall athletics and several themes emerged, such as:

- *Colleges are offering remote instruction for preseason training program (9);*
- *Concern about students’ ability to properly physically prepare or a negative impact on team development (6);*
- *Budgetary impacts (e.g., adjunct coaching/faculty and classified support staff; 2); and,*
- *Recruitment challenges (2).*

Further, other individual respondents offered concerns about scheduling, student mental health, field maintenance difficulties, academic concerns for student-athletes, students deciding not to attend college in fall, and worry about nonresident students with leases.

In addition to the fall sport implementation, COVID-19 also is impacting current hiring decisions. Among the respondents, 64 (66%) were currently in the hiring process of coaches or staff. Seven out of ten of these respondents are currently delaying these decisions (46; 72%), while two out of the ten are moving forward with the hiring (14, 22%), and the remaining respondents noted more complex hiring decisions (4, 6%), such as moving forward with hiring some positions but not others (e.g., hiring Athletic Director but not coaches; hiring adjuncts not tenured track) or citing a failed search.



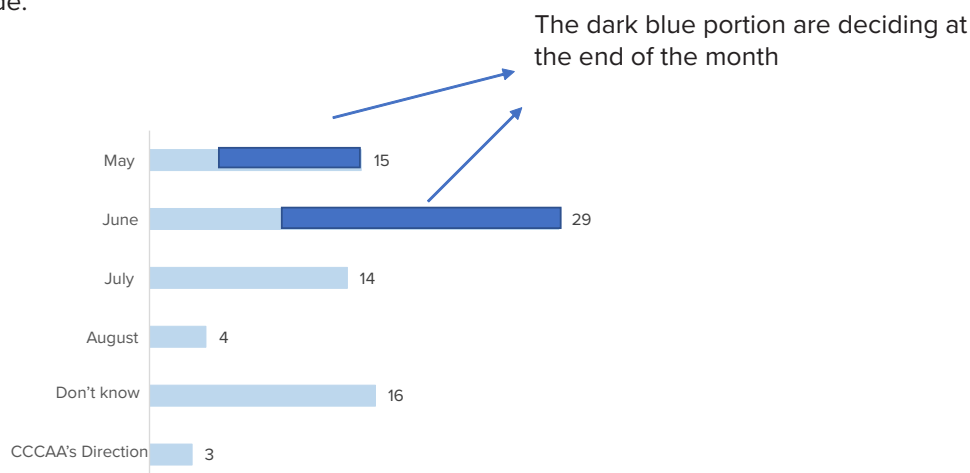
# CCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

## DECISION-MAKING FACTORS: TIMING AND GUIDANCE

Responses suggest that most colleges have not yet decided if they will run fall sports, there is a lot of uncertainty in the field, and many are waiting until the summer to make a final decision. Twenty-seven (27; 28%) respondents said they were waiting until the last possible date to decide about running fall sports, while 15 said they were deciding in May and 29 said June. Of those who said May and June, two-thirds of those respondents said they would decide at the end of the month (see Figure 2 below). Of those who said they are waiting until the last possible date, most of these respondents said they would decide in July (14), while others said August (4) or at the CCCAA's direction (3). Others were vague, saying "as close to the beginning of the start of fall as I can" or "contingent upon safety." Thirteen (13; 13%) respondents said they did not know when they would decide.

Figure 2: Timing of Decision



Respondents noted many factors in their decision to run fall sports, as described in Table 1 below. The top categories are government mandates for social distancing, public health recommendations, and faculty/staff safety concerns. Additional factors include whether neighboring colleges will have athletics, the ability to sanitize athletic equipment or buses for travel, the cost to run athletics with social distancing, and the cost to run athletics amid other COVID-19 priorities.

Many respondents cited other factors that they will use in their decision-making, including directives from governing bodies (e.g., district office, CCCAA; 4), student concerns (e.g., strength and conditioning, exposure to others, emotional impact), availability of vaccine (5), and loss of wages for coaches (1).

Table 1: Factors in Decision-Making

	Count who said this was an issue	Rank of importance
Government mandate for social distancing	86	1
Public Health recommendations/ predictions of risk	93	2
Faculty/staff safety concerns	72	3
Whether neighboring colleges will have athletics	54	4
Ability to sanitize athletic equipment or buses used for travel	63	5
Cost to run athletics with social distancing	39	6
Cost to run athletics amid other COVID-19 priorities	41	7
Loss of FTES	23	8

Respondents also provided more detail about their decisions to social distance. Most of the respondents are considering some sort of social distancing for fall 2020 sports, with a majority considering it for athletes, coaches, and spectators.



## CCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

**Table 2: Social Distancing**

Social distancing for athletes/coaches and spectators	50	52%
Only athletes/coaches	20	21%
Only spectators	10	10%
No social distancing	12	12%
Did not answer	5	5%
Total	97	

Decisions about social distancing and whether to run sports also differed by sport. A majority of colleges suggested that they would run cross country (55%) and golf (59%) with social distancing, while a majority of colleges said they may cancel football (59%), water polo (60%), and wrestling (63%). Colleges were split on basketball, soccer, and volleyball.

**Table 3: Decision-Making by Sport**

	Basketball (n=91)	Cross Country (n=58)	Football (n=61)	Golf (n=29)	Soccer (n=79)	Volleyball (n=81)	Water Polo (n=42)	Wrestling (n=24)
Cancelled because of COVID-19	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%
Expect to run with social distancing	41%	55%	30%	59%	43%	42%	33%	25%
Expect to run without social distancing	10%	10%	8%	3%	8%	6%	5%	8%
May cancel because of COVID-19 concerns	46%	33%	59%	34%	47%	49%	60%	63%

### STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing is a new standard for interaction with COVID-19, and many respondents across the state are considering how to social distance in sports. Respondents offered strategies that they are considering for spectators, as well as athletes and coaches in fall 2020.

#### *Strategies for Social Distancing*

Of respondents who said that they will practice social distancing among the spectators at fall sporting events, a majority said that they will not allow any spectators. Others suggested that they will limit the number of spectators and practice the physical space separation, such as “seating schemes that will employ social distancing.” Several of these respondents also commented on increased signage to support social distancing in athletic environments. These respondents commented about needing additional staffing resources, and equipment (e.g., hand washing stations), and sanitation. For example, one respondent said, “If safety of participants (student-athletes, coaches, staff) can be established...we would develop a plan for each venue, to ensure distancing parameters for entrance/exit, common areas, and seating. It would require signage, markings, policies (e.g. need masks) and labor to enforce.”



## CCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

A few respondents said they would require safety equipment (e.g., mask). To support spectator attendance and maintain social distancing a couple of districts are looking for larger venues or suggested that spectators will watch from their cars. Finally, several respondents said they were looking into live streaming events.

While some respondents offered specific ideas to address spectator social distancing, several respondents offered more general comments. For example, some respondents suggested that they would follow whatever the state/federal regulations exist at the time of the event, while others simply expressed uncertainty at this time.

### *Athletes and Coaches*

Respondents also expressed uncertainty in relation to social distancing among athletes and coaches. Many respondents noted that they would follow governing guidelines, which many noted as unknown at this time. For example, one participant said, "We are struggling with this, as our county has one of the more aggressive approaches and practices are not acceptable at this point. We will be asking this question of our County Health Department...next week." Overwhelmingly, respondents said they wanted to practice social distancing but did not really know what that will mean by fall 2020. Respondents are awaiting direction from state and local government, as well as the CCCAA.

Among respondents that had preliminary plans for social distancing for athletes and coaches in fall 2020, several themes arose in the responses, including changing practice structures, sanitization, personal protective equipment, and COVID-19 testing.

Several respondents said they would change the class structure to provide additional space between people. Respondents recommended creating smaller class sizes and staggering workouts so that fewer athletes access locker rooms at the same time. For example, one respondent said, "We....have the ability to offer class/practice times and staffing that would allow us to practice social distancing by 'breaking' up class sizes into smaller segments to allow spacing and appropriate sanitizing." Other respondents discussed online options for their students or working out alone, and many mentioned limiting any sports that require close contact. For example, one respondent said they would "hold smaller position-type meetings for football versus offense-defense full-team" practices. Several respondents mentioned that athletes would get their own equipment to use for practices, and a few others commented on the need for more vans to transport students to competitions with appropriate distancing.

Another major theme that emerged about how to practice social distancing among athletes and coaches involved proper sanitization. Several respondents discussed plans and protocols for cleaning. As one respondent noted, "Use disinfecting, chlorine-based machine liberally during activities that require person-to-person or person-to-ball contact." In addition, respondents discussed spacing in the locker rooms to allow for proper distancing.

Respondents discussed the need to wear personal protective equipment, such as masks, and the need for more sanitizing equipment and cleaning protocols. One respondent stated that they will require face masks whenever athletes and coaches are in groups where physical distancing cannot be maintained. Other respondents suggested COVID-19 or temperature tests before athletes are cleared to participate.

Several respondents questioned how to run sports safely amid the pandemic at this point. Respondents commented that it is impossible to properly prepare for the season (e.g., preseason training) and therefore, the demands of the season athletics were not safe. Others questioned the safety of running sports when it could cause a breakout of illness among athletes. For example, one respondent said, "We are not under financial pressure to put students and their loved ones at risk by running contact sports. There is no safe time to do so in fall. Either we will not bring cases down to containment level in time; or, if we do, playing contact sports will run the risk of creating an outbreak on our campus when we get an uptick in cases due to lifting restrictions."



## CCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

### SUPPORT FROM CCCAA

Participants requested several supports from the CCCAA, including overwhelmingly a need for a timely decision from the CCCAA about running or canceling fall sports. Several respondents discussed equity as a need for a statewide decision, and described equity implications of the decision. Other requests include CCCAA published protocols for social distancing, sanitation, and personal protective gear.

Most respondents asked for a decision about fall sports. One respondent noted, “Decide as soon as possible about allowing fall sports (or canceling) as an Association.” Another respondent said to provide “statewide guidance so campuses/conferences do not feel isolated in making decisions.” However, respondents differed about what that decision should be, with some arguing to run athletics, while others advocated to cancel the fall season. Respondents also suggested to make decisions (e.g., recruitment, eligibility, competition schedules, playoffs) all at one time, not piecemeal. Some of the respondents from multi-college Districts said they also are awaiting direction from their Chancellor that will determine their fall sport offering.

Respondents suggested that a statewide decision was appropriate because then it would be consistent and equitable across the state. However, some respondents also noted complex equity concerns in this decision. One respondent noted, “Take a holistic view of the state and look at implications for all through an equity lens. Especially with schools that may not have the resources to put in place the same mitigations that allow for safe competition and practice that larger or wealthier schools may have.” Further, another respondent suggested that the decision should strive to return to in-person interactions, as online learning introduces inequality, “Review decisions from the perspective of how do we get back to normal as the goal rather than a goal of remote instruction which has been proven to be a poor form of educating, especially for the population we serve.” Finally, rural colleges noted negative consequences of canceling athletics, “Athletics provides opportunities to our small, rural campus...Cancelling the entire sport could be devastating on our college. Safety is first and foremost, but even if partial seasons or spring season were possible, that would keep students engaged and progressing toward a degree.”

In addition to requesting a formal decision, respondents also requested guidelines to support local decision-making. As one respondent noted:

*It would be very helpful if the CCCAA would establish and publish a framework or rubric for the conferences and CEOs to work within. The framework should include various scenarios and recommendations based on the Governor's plan for reopening the state as well as specific recommendations for different sports. For example, some sports lend themselves better to social distancing (i.e. golf), while others do not (wrestling). We need leadership and guidance to help us make these tough decisions as these decisions don't just impact our athletes and programs, they impact our conferences and ultimately the entire association. We need a playbook.*

Other respondents requested guidance about specific topics such as sanitation, the use of personal protective equipment, and differing competition schedule options. Further, if cancellation of the fall sports season is necessary, respondents asked for direction to support student-athletes. As one respondent noted, “Please provide a set of guidelines/ recommendations that allow student-athletes to not be harmed during this process and the ability to still get their education.”

Respondents also requested more data and information on the pandemic and its implication on athletics, as well as the implications for sports not running in fall. For example, one respondent asked for information about “the impact on the ability to transfer if the four-year institutions do not play this season.”

***(Analysis compiled by Lauren Sosenko, Director of Research & Planning, Compton College)***



## CCCCAA Fall 2020 Sports Competition Season Survey

May 2020

### PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND REPRESENTATION

<i>Allan Hancock</i>	<i>Golden West</i>	<i>Reedley</i>
<i>American River</i>	<i>Grossmont</i>	<i>Rio Hondo</i>
<i>Antelope Valley</i>	<i>Hartnell</i>	<i>Riverside</i>
<i>Bakersfield</i>	<i>Imperial</i>	<i>Sacramento City</i>
<i>Barstow</i>	<i>Irvine</i>	<i>Saddleback</i>
<i>Butte</i>	<i>LA Mission</i>	<i>San Diego City</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>LA Pierce</i>	<i>San Diego Mesa</i>
<i>Canyons</i>	<i>LA Southwest</i>	<i>San Diego Miramar</i>
<i>Cerritos</i>	<i>LA Trade</i>	<i>San Francisco</i>
<i>Cerro Coso</i>	<i>LA Valley</i>	<i>San Joaquin Delta</i>
<i>Chaffey</i>	<i>Lake Tahoe</i>	<i>San Jose City</i>
<i>Citrus</i>	<i>Laney</i>	<i>San Mateo</i>
<i>Clovis</i>	<i>Las Positas</i>	<i>Santa Ana</i>
<i>Columbia</i>	<i>Lassen</i>	<i>Santa Monica</i>
<i>Compton</i>	<i>Long Beach</i>	<i>Santa Rosa</i>
<i>Contra Costa</i>	<i>Los Medanos</i>	<i>Santiago Canyon</i>
<i>Copper Mountain</i>	<i>Marin</i>	<i>Sequoias</i>
<i>Crafton Hills</i>	<i>Mendocino</i>	<i>Shasta</i>
<i>Cuesta</i>	<i>Merced</i>	<i>Sierra</i>
<i>Cuyamaca</i>	<i>MiraCosta</i>	<i>Siskiyou</i>
<i>De Anza</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Solano</i>
<i>Desert</i>	<i>Moorpark</i>	<i>Southwestern</i>
<i>East LA</i>	<i>Mt. San Jacinto</i>	<i>Taft</i>
<i>El Camino</i>	<i>Napa</i>	<i>Ventura</i>
<i>Evergreen Valley</i>	<i>Ohlone</i>	<i>Victor Valley</i>
<i>Feather River</i>	<i>Orange Coast</i>	<i>West Hills Coalinga</i>
<i>Foothill</i>	<i>Oxnard</i>	<i>West Hills Lemoore</i>
<i>Fresno City</i>	<i>Palomar</i>	<i>West LA</i>
<i>Fullerton</i>	<i>Pasadena</i>	<i>West Valley</i>
<i>Gavilan</i>	<i>Porterville</i>	<i>Yuba</i>
<i>Glendale</i>	<i>Redwoods</i>	