

## ECASD Fall Sports Update – August 15, 2020

The Eau Claire Area School District (ECASD) has decided to postpone the fall 2020 sports season as currently scheduled.

ECASD will adopt the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association's (WIAA) proposal to move fall 2020 sports to spring 2021 for districts that choose to do so according to the following option: "WIAA Alternative Fall Option/Reduced Spring." Please note that no seasons will be eliminated (winter, fall or spring) in the WIAA's approved and adopted model to make room for another season. Instead, this will be a shift of seasons within a truncated model for all sports. The schedule will be winter, fall and then spring, ensuring that the spring season ends in late June. Our local decision is due to the impact of our present instructional model and current Eau Claire City-County Health orders.

The ECASD Board of Education met on July 20 and voted 6-1 to start the 2020-21 school year with a hybrid instructional learning model.

ECASD will look to provide any opportunities that are available based on WIAA guidance for fall sports, ensuring they are reflective of our learning model and public health guidance.

### **ECASD will implement the following additional extracurricular provisions in support of the safe reopening of our school and community:**

1. Virtual general training activities or in-person general training activities could be shared for all students. For example, stretching, flexibility, and warm-up routines, strength and speed training, conditioning, and mental preparation/sport psychology resources could be offered, as long as they adhere to standard WIAA Coaching Contact rules.
2. We will look to provide opportunities by the means available based on WIAA guidance for fall sports and reflective of our schooling model and public health guidance. We will offer general fitness, strength, mental health, academic and social-emotional connection support throughout the year to all students.
3. ECASD Athletics will not hold any fall athletics in person, nor encourage students to gather or train outside of school grounds at this time.

We hope to return to education-based athletic programs with additional guidance from WIAA and the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, which will allow for the best opportunity to prepare for a safe return to our facilities if able.

We will provide students with best practices and mental health support along with virtual training opportunities and connections to help facilitate when we are ready to return in-person athletics.

ECASD and your athletic programs will continue to provide resources for virtual platforms and best practices to assist in resuming the quality education-based athletic programs we offer. These resources will prepare us for a full return to in-person operations when deemed safe and when we can adequately meet the needs for appropriate cleanliness, hygiene, monitoring and interaction to safely operate programming and additional activities. Further details will come from our school and district administration on our future opportunities.