



September 24, 2020

Dear St. Clair Families:

The Minnesota State High School League's Board of Directors approved a reconsideration placement of fall activities on Monday, September 21. A decision that brings football and volleyball back for a limited fall season.

The football season begins Sept. 28 with the first of six regular season games scheduled for Friday, Oct 9. We are planning a two week football postseason that will begin the week of November 16.

Volleyball will begin an 11-week season on Sep. 28, member schools will play their first match on Oct. 8. In the framework that was approved by the MSHSL Board of Directors, two weeks of postseason play would begin the week of Nov. 30.

Below you will see the basic outline for the upcoming season. Remember, for your son or daughter to be eligible to participate on Monday, they have to have the fee paid (Gr. 9-12 \$100, Gr. 7-8 \$80), up-to-date medical physical on file, and the MSHSL Eligibility form completed.

Football Fall Season Information

- Start date: September 28
- Acclimatization: 11 Days
- First competition date: October 9 (including lower levels)
- Last date of regular season competition: TBD (Recommended, Nov. 11 or 12)
- End date: Saturday, November 28
- Total weeks including postseason: 9
- Maximum number of contests: 6 (regular season)
- Maximum number of regular season varsity contests per week: 1

Volleyball Fall Season Information

- Start date: September 28
- First competition date: October 8 (including lower levels)
- Last date of regular season competition: November 28
- First date of postseason play: November 30
- Season end date: Saturday, December 12
- Total weeks including postseason: 11
- Maximum number of contests: 14 (regular season)
- Maximum number of games per week: 2
- Duals only. No Invitational or tournaments.

The fall MSHSL interscholastic volleyball season will begin on Monday, September 28th. Bylaw 208.00 Non-School Competition and Training is in effect on September 28th. This means that students who participate on your high school volleyball team are not eligible to participate on a non-school team during the approved high school volleyball season.

Schedules are on our school website. All of these football and volleyball dates are subject to change as many dynamics of this is changing on a day-by-day basis.

VOLLEYBALL:

- Volleyball will play 13 conference games in two divisions, and will finish up their game 14 playing the same rank team on the other side of the division, 1 vs 1, 2 vs 2 etc. Division Champions will play for the conference title.
- Volleyball players will be asked to dress in St. Clair before they get on the bus. We will try to limit the locker room space to other teams coming into our facility.
- **Unfortunately, there will be no spectators allowed into volleyball events. This is directly related to the Governor's order of no non-essential people within the school building. Each school is working on trying to stream their games so our families and friends will be able to watch the matches.**
- Concessions are highly discouraged, so we suggest players/ teams, bring their own cooler of food with them.
- There will be many protocols put in place to safeguard our student athletes, coaches, and officials, during their events. All coaches, support staff, and players, that are not playing will be required to wear a mask. When players come off the court they will be required to put on their mask. We will continue to social distance as much as possible.
- We will have some kind of section volleyball tournament starting the week of November 30. Details TBD. The MSHSL / Section 2A are putting together the plans for postseason.

FOOTBALL:

- Football will play 6 regular season games, and a postseason – section tournament will start November 17 at high-seed. There will be 3 home, and 3 away regular season games.
- We will play on the Friday of MEA (Oct. 16).
- Concessions are highly discouraged, we will revisit that at a later time, if we have concessions, we would need to have concessions on the visitor's side as we want to keep communities separated. I will have a conversation with the Athletic Backers and see how this could work.
- We will have three groups of people at the games, competition groups, essential workers, and fans.
Tickets for fans: The District will give direction to the schools on how many tickets will be available to visiting team. We are allowed 250 total fans inside our complex, per the Governor's order. There will be more to come on how this will be handled. We will try to stream our games, and get you the information out if other schools are streaming their games as well.
- We will be asking our spectators to social distance themselves in the bleachers and around the field of play (family together). If that cannot be done effectively we will have to assign seating to you.
- Remember, it will probably be very cold when we get later into October and the month of November. Please make sure your son's are taking care of themselves and dress appropriately.
- **Masks:**
 - **All spectators will need to wear a mask.**
 - **All coaches will need to wear a mask.**
 - **Players not playing in the game will need to wear a mask.**
 - **Gaiters are allowed this year, and can be worn during the game.**

When spectators are allowed at outside events, they should not have access to student athletes during the competition. Social distancing should be practiced throughout the entire event and spectators may connect with participants following the completion of the event after they have left the complex.

A Few more items for all of our sports:

- Bus: One person per seat (unless you're in the same family than we will have two to a seat).
 - Athletes will need to sit close to the window to allow for social distancing to take place.

- We will work with Palmer Bussing to determine how many busses will be needed to transport our student athletes safely to our events.
- Students that have asked to go with Full-Distance learning are eligible to participate.
- The Schools play will work together in partner with the MDH to determine if our events can take place based on the recommendation of the county matrix and cases that are taking place within the school communities.

We will continue to update you as information is made available to the schools. The decision by the MSHSL this past Monday provides opportunities for many of our student athletes, but also requires everyone's responsible action in keeping students and communities safe. It will be critical that our families do their very best to enact protocols that maximize the safety of our students, coaches, and officials, to have the best chance of completing our fall season.

Once again, we continue to encourage all parents and athletes to follow the recommendations of washing your hands, social distance yourself from others, and wear your mask. This will help with the hope that we can make it through the season with no COVID-19 cases. St. Clair School District will follow the recommendation of the MDH if a case of COVID-19 happens to one of our players or coaches.

Thanks for your time and I look forward to working with many of your sons and daughters this fall.

Sincerely,

Brad O'Donnell: CMAA

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Activities Administrator
St. Clair Public School

PS: Please read the MSHSL COVID-19 Risk Management Informational Notice that is attached and on our website.