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Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Announces Local School Systems May Officially Start High School Fall Sports Beginning October 7, 2020

September 24, 2020

For Immediate Release:
September 24, 2020
Contact:
R. Andrew Warner
Robert.Warner1@maryland.gov

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Announces Local School Systems May Officially Start High School Fall Sports Beginning October 7, 2020

BALTIMORE — Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. today announced the ability for each local school system (LSS) to officially start the interscholastic athletic fall season in Maryland secondary schools beginning Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

The decision of the State Superintendent was reached after recent discussions with the State Board of Education, the 24 local school system Superintendents, the Executive Director of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA), parents, and other stakeholders. Additional considerations included current health metrics and guidance provided by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) as Maryland continues to operate in the early portion of Stage Three of its Roadmap to Recovery plan.

Local school systems, at their discretion, may opt into commencing a fall competition season or playing all three sport seasons within the Two-Semester Plan option announced by the MPSSAA on September 11, 2020. By electing to begin fall sports now, LSSs have the ability to start competitions on October 27, 2020, and play into the second week of December. The decision also affords greater opportunities for winter and spring sport competition during the 2020-2021 academic year. Complete information about both options may be found at www.mpssaa.org.

The MPSSAA, on July 7, 2020, released a *Roadmap for the Return of Interscholastic Athletics* to guide LSSs in the immediate preparation for the anticipated return of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities. All LSSs are encouraged, as soon as possible, to begin conditioning sessions in preparation for the first official fall practice sessions.

For more information on safely reopening Maryland schools, visit http://governor.maryland.gov/recovery-schools.

Get the latest reliable information on the coronavirus outbreak from the Maryland Department of Health at https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/

Local School System Options

Date	October 7 Option	2nd Semester Plan Option
Fall Sports	**First Available Practice Date:**	**First Available Practice Date:**
Cross Country	October 7, 2020	March 15, 2021
Field Hockey	**First Available Competition Date:**	**First Available Competition Date:**
Football	October 27, 2020	April 5, 2021

Golf	(Golf October 7, 2020)	**Last Play Date:**
Soccer	**Last Play Date:**	May 8, 2021
Volleyball	December 12, 2020	**Available Competition Weeks:**
	Available Competition Weeks:	5 Weeks
	7 Weeks	
	Culminating Event/Tournament:	
	December 14 – 19, 2020	
Winter Sports	**First Available Practice Date:**	**First Available Practice Date:**
Basketball	December 14, 2020	February 1, 2021
Swimming and Diving	**First Available Competition Date:**	**First Available Competition Date:**
Indoor Track	January 4, 2021	February 22, 2021
Wrestling	**Last Play Date:**	**Last Play Date:**
	February 27, 2021	March 27, 2021
	Available Competition Weeks:	**Available Competition Weeks:**
	8 Weeks	5 Weeks
	Culminating Event/Tournament:	
	March 1 – 13, 2021	
Spring Sports	**First Available Practice Date:**	**First Available Practice Date:**
Baseball	March 15, 2021	April 26, 2021
Softball	**First Available Competition Date:**	**First Available Competition Date:**
Lacrosse	April 5, 2021	May 17, 2021
Tennis	**Last Play Date:**	**Last Play Date:**
Track and Field	June 5, 2021	June 19, 2021
	Available Competition Weeks:	**Available Competition Weeks:**
	9 Weeks	5 Weeks
	Culminating Event/Tournament:	

June 7-19, 2021

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Fall Athletics Update September 24 2020

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200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

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