

2020 Fall Sports Update #1: August 24th, 2020

PIAA Says Fall Sports Season Is On!

On Friday August 21, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association voted 25-5 to allow the Fall Sports season to proceed beginning Monday 8/24 (for press release, click [here](#)). The declaration to “play on” appears to contradict the strong recommendation from Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, which states that school and youth recreational sports be postponed until at least January 1, 2021 (click [here](#) for more information). Ironically, the PIAA, PDE, DOH and Governor all agree the ultimate decision is to be made locally.

With PIAA’s final recommendation, Lancaster Mennonite School will move forward with the start of Fall sports. The Lancaster Mennonite School Administration and Task Force will continue to discuss, assess, analyze and evaluate the pros and cons throughout the season in case we need to make any necessary adjustments. There are a number of moving parts that may have an impact on our season and we want to be proactive toward the safety of our student-athletes.

For now, the fall sports season will proceed as normal with golf practice beginning today, Monday 8/24. In addition, off-season workouts may continue in preparation for the Fall sports season consistent with [LMS Athletics Health & Safety Plan](#).

LMS Athletics Health & Safety Plan Adjusted

Phase 3 of the LMS Athletics Health & Safety plan has been adjusted to reflect the start of fall sports. Based on input from LMS coaches, sports medicine staff and Administrators, the decision has been made to keep all workouts - including volleyball - outdoors until September 7th. Out of season sports including basketball plans could be subject to change in the future.

Information For Student/Athletes Regarding Sports Training Sessions

In order to participate* in the strength and conditioning sessions, student/athletes must:

- successfully pass the Pre-Screening process;
 - fill out [Acknowledgement Form](#) and [Underlying Health Condition Form](#) prior to arriving on campus. *These forms are a part of the PIAA Physical packet.*
 - pass the temperature check (individuals with temperature of 100.4 will not be permitted to participate)
 - fill out the COVID-19 Pre-Screen Form on the Google Form that your head coach has provided to you no sooner than 1 hour prior to workout/training session (hard copies will be available on site)
- adhere to strict social distancing guidelines at all times (coaches will enforce).
- wear a mask at all times except when engaged in athletic training/activity.
- come dressed appropriately (locker rooms not available).
- bring their own water bottle (LMS will not be providing water).

*individuals who have traveled to AL, AR, CA, FL, GA, ID, KS, LA, MO, MS, NV, ND, OK, SC, TN, and TX should be advised that the governor has recommended a 14 day self-quarantine.

In the event of inclement weather, the [LMS Athletics web page](#) will be updated by 8:00 AM.

Fall Sports Start Dates (Start Date of Official Practices):

- High School Sports - Friday September 4th, 2020
- Middle School Sports - Tuesday September 8th, 2020
- HS Golf - Thursday, August 27th

Participation Requirements

Students participating in LMS athletic programs at the HS and MS levels must have the following on file with LMS before they are permitted to participate in practice:

- 1. A completed physical on the [PIAA CIPPE Form](#) (includes 4 additional forms to complete):**
 - 1) Physical packets (PIAA Sections 1-6, LMS Student-Athlete contract, Substance Use, COVID release form, and the Pre-Screening Tool) are due to Miss Ann by Thursday, Sept 3. You can drop them off at the high school office, fax to the high school office, or scan in and email to Miss Ann. Please contact Miss Ann with any questions at seatonar@lancastermennonite.org.
- 2. Baseline Impact Testing** Baseline Impact tests have been sent via school email (or parent email if the student does not have access to their email yet) on 8/17/2020. This is for 9th, 11th, new high school students or high school students who did not reach a baseline in prior years who are participating in field hockey, boy's soccer, girl's soccer or girl's volleyball.

LMS Fall Sports Head Coaches Information

LMS Head Coaches will provide information regarding practice/game schedules as well as expectations for the upcoming season. LMS Head Coaches information:

- HS Field Hockey - [Karisten Buckwalter](#)
- HS Cross Country - [Lee Thurber](#)
- HS Boys' Golf - [Michael Natale](#)
- HS Boys' Soccer - [Fred Winey](#)
- HS Girls' Soccer - [Sean Boer](#)
- HS Girls' Tennis - [Dennis Maust](#)
- HS Girls' Volleyball - [George Avram](#)
- MS Boys' Soccer - [Fraser Kershaw](#)
- MS Girls' Soccer - [Alexa Esbenshade](#)
- MS Girls' Volleyball - [Christy Horst](#)

Fall Sports Co-op Head Coaches Information

- LCDS MS Field Hockey - [Heidi Stadel](#)



Fall 2020 Sports Season News & Notes

- LMS has entered a cooperative sponsorship agreement with Lancaster Catholic and Lancaster Country Day School in MS field hockey. LCDS will be the host school for MS Field Hockey.
- **The PIAA Fall sports meeting announcement will be included in Fall Sports Update #2: August 24th, 2020.**

Thanks & Go Blazers!

Marvin L. Sanders II, MS
Director of Athletics
Lancaster Mennonite School