

Frequently Asked Questions - COVID 19

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- 1. What is the status of fall sports at Westmont?** Our fall sports seasons will now be extended into the spring term, so we expect that all fall athletes will have a full schedule of competition during this academic year. The NAIA has moved all fall championships to spring, and the GSAC has moved all of the regular-season conference schedules to spring. At present, there are state and county restrictions that prohibit most practices as well as organized collegiate sports (please reference the following releases for detail: [NAIA Announcement](#) [GSAC Announcement](#) [NAIA FAQs](#)). If those orders change, and the college is allowed to repopulate as planned in late September, we anticipate that teams could begin some organized practices during the fall term. There might even be opportunities for some non-conference competition in late fall, yet all of that will depend on permission from the county and state and assurances of adequate testing and health monitoring by all athletes and schools involved. The one unique case is cross country, which will hold its conference championship in the fall. Coaches will keep athletes informed about a specific timeline for a return to full team training and game play, which remain largely dependent on state and county restrictions.
- 2. Does our current situation change the mission of Westmont Athletics this year?** While the unprecedented circumstances of COVID-19 certainly have changed what this year will look like, Westmont Athletics remains committed to our mission. Westmont Athletics is a community committed to cultivating maturity of mind, body and spirit through the rigorous pursuit of athletic excellence, integrated learning and Christ-centered leadership. It is our belief that adversity can often produce in us our greatest seasons of growth. Our administrators and coaches remain as committed as ever to leading our student-athletes through this adversity with resilience and hope that is founded in Christ and His promises. It is our sincere desire that our student-athletes develop skills this year that will equip them to handle adversity that comes throughout their lives. We join with scripture in saying, "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." - James 1:4
- 3. When does practice begin for fall sports?** Although the NAIA officially allows practice to begin on August 15 and competition to begin on September 5, at this time the Governor of California's order and the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Officials' mandates currently do not allow sports teams to practice. Given the shift of most of the fall athletics calendar to the spring, practice start dates will be pushed back accordingly. Updates will be provided immediately following any changes to state and county restrictions.
- 4. What does the NAIA announcement moving fall Championships to spring mean?** It means that NAIA Championships for men's and women's soccer, volleyball and men's and women's cross country will be held sometime in the spring. The dates of those Championships have not been set by the NAIA. The ultimate goal in the move is to prioritize the health and safety of our student-athletes while still preserving their athletic seasons.

5. What has to happen before student-athletes may re-commence athletics at Westmont?

- a. The Governor of the State of California must allow sports teams to begin practice and live play. Currently, only professional sports are allowed.
- b. For certain sports, the Governor of the State of California must allow gatherings to increase in size. Currently, large gatherings are not allowed in California. Some sports could not participate unless rosters were restricted due to the number of people required to play and manage a game.
- c. It is likely that neither of the above will occur unless the County of Santa Barbara comes off the State Watch List for 14 consecutive days. For Santa Barbara County to be removed from the State Watch List, there must be fewer than 25 new cases per day, per 100,000 people. This means that the County needs to have less than approximately 100 new cases per day for 14 straight days. Also, the positive COVID test rate must be below 8%.

6. Will the move from fall to spring decrease the previously announced maximum number of contests allowed to be played by these sports (Soccer = 14, Volleyball = 22, Cross Country = 6)? We are not sure. We anticipate direction on this from the NAIA in late August.

7. I am a fall athlete and was planning on graduating early in December. I would like to play in the spring semester. How does that work? The NAIA is considering a rule change to deal with this situation. We anticipate further direction in the coming weeks. In the meantime, work directly with your coach and academic advisor to plan out your semesters appropriately.

8. Will eligibility rules remain the same as they have been? The NAIA is anticipating a number of COVID exceptions to the usual rules. We expect these new rules to be announced in the coming weeks. Please reference the [Eligibility Center FAQs](#) page for up to date information.

9. I have concerns about how this affects my eligibility and/or enrollment. What should I do? Contact your coach as soon as concerns come up and your coach will help you navigate the situation with the most current information they have as the NAIA and Westmont are currently working through various COVID-19 related solutions.