



January 27th, 2021

CLUB SPORTS COVID-19 STATEMENT – SPRING 2021

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Club Sport Participants,

The Recreation and Sport Operations department and Club Sports program is once again excited to welcome its club sport members back to campus for the Spring 2021 semester. Last Fall, we persevered together through an undoubtedly disjointed semester and managed to continue to provide opportunities for engagement across our club program. At the conclusion of last semester, 27 of our 29 clubs conducted practices and/or gatherings in some capacity through enhanced safety protocols, physical distancing, the use of masks, and other necessary modifications. With the addition of Tennis, we now boast an even 30 clubs and we are excited to once again work with each club to provide opportunities for physical activity and skill development, leadership growth, and organizational and fiscal management skills – all in a safe and supportive environment that promotes and cultivates a sense of community. It is our goal to help ensure that each club can resume their internal operations as seamlessly as possible while adhering to the requisite COVID-19 protocols and guidelines. Through the continued utilization of masks, monitoring of symptoms and close COVID contact, tracking of attendance, commitment to enhanced testing procedures, and quarantining when necessary – we aim to press forward this semester and return to more standard operations as it relates to club practices and internal gatherings. Please read over the contents of this release carefully as it details the steps being taken to ensure a successful Spring semester.

The following protocols were made in conjunction with university and county health department policies, CDC guidelines, WIAC & WIAA athletic protocols, and sister institution benchmarking.

Travel + Competition

The biggest hurdle we continue to face from a club sport standpoint this semester is the realistic ability to travel to – and/or host – competitions with other institutions. As it stands, all travel and related expenses through June 30, 2021, are to be pre-approved at the division level. These generalized guidelines were enacted by the university to strictly limit travel and expenses. Further details regarding the current university travel policy can be found [here](#).

Travelling to, and/or hosting, a competition would also prompt a presumed need for increased testing – even more than will be required for the planned return of conventional practices. Based upon WIAC and NCAA standards, this would include being tested up to three (3x) times per week for contact sports – a standard we currently do not have the resources to meet. Club programs at other UW institutions find themselves working through similar circumstances with most institutions prioritizing a safe return to practice and some remaining unable to meet in person at all through the remainder of the year.



With this, the following scale will be utilized throughout the Spring 2021 semester to help illustrate the genuine possibility of travel to – and/or hosting of – competition. This scale is subject to change based upon the most recent COVID-19 data at the time and relative protocols and guidelines established by the university and Eau Claire County Health Department.

Spring 2021	Extremely Unlikely		Unlikely		Neutral		Likely		Extremely Likely
Likelihood of travel/competition		✓							

As identified above, the realistic ability to travel to – and/or host – competition is currently between unlikely and extremely unlikely. Any travel/competition requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Requests for travel will first require the submission of a [Shared Financial Service Travel Authorization](#) and the process will unfold from there. When submitting the travel authorization, please email Competitive Sports Coordinator Garrett Larson at larsoga@uwec.edu for funding string information and completion assistance. Remaining within the state of Wisconsin for future travel will be prioritized.

Practices

The ability to practice and connect as a team remains a vital component to our mission and we aim to further maximize the opportunities to gather, practice, and conduct internal competitions safely through the continued utilization of masks, monitoring of symptoms and close contact, tracking of attendance, commitment to enhanced testing procedures, and quarantining the club when necessary.

Beginning February 8th, clubs may return to conducting conventional practices. In this respect, clubs can resume operations that involve drills, activities, and/or intrasquad scrimmages in which physical distances of less than six (6) feet and contact between members is permitted. It is to be understood the inherent risk of contact sports in the era of COVID-19 remains high. Conducting club practices virtually – or in-person with physical distancing – remains an effective strategy in attempting to limit the spread of COVID-19. Notwithstanding, conventional practices shall be permitted on the grounds of a commitment of clubs to the following protocols:

1. Continued use of masks at all practices and gatherings.
 - a. Masks will be required through the duration of the Spring 2021 semester – indoor and outdoor.
2. Tracking of attendance at all practice and gatherings
 - a. Clubs will be required to continue to record attendance at all in-person practices and gatherings in their OneDrive through the enhanced tracking spreadsheet.



3. Reporting of symptoms prior to all practices and gatherings
 - a. Clubs members need report if they have any COVID-19 symptoms prior to participating in any official club practices or gatherings.
 - b. This will be recorded in the club's OneDrive through the enhanced tracking spreadsheet.
4. Reporting of close contact prior to all practices and gatherings
 - a. Club members need report if they have had any known close contact with someone who has COVID-19 prior to participating in any official club practices or gatherings.
 - b. This will be recorded in the club's OneDrive through the enhanced tracking spreadsheet.
5. Commitment to enhanced university testing protocol
 - a. All club members need to commit to the university's COVID-19 testing protocol.
 - i. On-campus students = 1x per week / Off-campus students = 1x every other week
 - ii. Off-campus students are strongly encouraged to get tested weekly if able.
 - b. Test dates need be recorded on a weekly and/or biweekly basis as needed in the enhanced tracking spreadsheet.
 - c. Students can register for tests at <https://www.doineedacovid19test.com/>
6. Club quarantine when necessary
 - a. Should a positive COVID-19 case occur within a club conducting conventional practices, the club will need to pause practices and quarantine for a minimum of ten (10) days from the date of the positive result.
 - b. If/when a club becomes aware of a positive COVID-19 result, please promptly complete the [Club Sport COVID-19 Reporting Form](#) and the Competitive Sports Coordinator will contact the club to help determine the best course of action.

Starting practices in earnest on or after February 8th allows clubs members to get properly tested as required by the university and make adequate practice plans for the remainder of the semester.

For reference, below is an exemplar of the enhanced tracking sheet that will be used to track attendance, symptoms, close contact, and antigen tests.

Spring 2021 Enhanced Tracking Sheet

			Week 1									COVID Test Completion Date
			5-Feb			6-Feb			7-Feb			
			Attendance	Symptoms	Contact	Attendance	Symptoms	Contact	Attendance	Symptoms	Contact	
Name	Email	Phone										



Positive COVID-19 Test Result Procedure

Should a club experience a positive COVID-19 test result while conducting practices, the following steps should be taken.

1. Positive test result is communicated to club leadership.
2. Club leadership pauses practices immediately and directs members who were present to self-isolate.
3. Club leadership member completes [Club Sport COVID-19 Reporting Form](#)
4. Club Sport Coordinator contacts club leadership to determine scope of the situation.
5. Club likely quarantines for a minimum ten (10) days and members get tested – if able – prior to returning to practice

Facility Reservations

With all campus antigen testing having moved into Zorn Arena, several clubs and the varsity basketball teams have had their activities displaced into McPhee. The month of February will see the McPhee Center extended to its use limits and engender practice reservation times that may not match what was requested based upon available space. We will discuss facility needs with each club in the individual meetings the first week of school and make every effort to help accommodate the needs of each club – including exploring and helping cover the costs of external facility options if needed.

Club Members

All club members should still be enrolled UWEC students except for CVTC students who reside in our residence halls.

Coaches

Coaches are permitted to attend practices and/or gatherings held by the club considering the completion of a coach volunteer form and criminal background check. Coaches must wear a face covering and should monitor symptoms and close contact. Upon successful completion of the coach volunteer form and criminal background check coaches are eligible to receive antigen testing through the university and are encouraged to do so on a biweekly basis.

First Aid/CPR/AED Certifications – Safety Officers

We will be proceeding with providing First Aid/CPR/AED certifications. All safety officers will be required to get certified if they are not already. If you hold a current certification that will last until at least 5/14/21, please send a copy of the certification to the Competitive Sports Coordinator at larsoga@uwec.edu. If you need to be certified, the Recreation department will be providing it at no cost to members. Please follow these steps if you need to become certified:



1. Complete the [ONLINE ADULT CPR/AED & FIRST AID TRAINING](#)
2. Sign-up for an in-person [skills check](#) date
 - a. Must bring online certificate to skills check session.

Club Sport Advisory Council Meetings

Our first Club Sport Advisory Council meeting for the Spring Semester will be held Wednesday, February 3rd at 4pm. We will discuss all these items at that time and answer any questions you may have. All CSAC meetings will continue to be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. The remaining schedule for CSAC meetings is as follows:

- February 3rd – 4pm
- March 3rd – 4pm
- April 7th – 4pm
- May 5th – 4pm

COVID-19 Resources

- [Black, Indigenous, and People of Color \(BIPOC\) Mental Health](#)
- [Cardiopulmonary Considerations for Student-Athletes](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Symptoms Information](#)
- CDC Quarantine Guidelines – Attached in email
- [Considerations for Youth Sports Administrators](#)
- [Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport](#)
- [Core Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Coronavirus and COVID-19 Information Hub - Local Statistics \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [COVID-19 and Mental Health](#)
- [COVID-19 Updates - Vaccines and Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#)
- Eau Claire [Community Expectations](#)
- [FAQ: Principles of Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball and Testing Considerations for All Sports](#)
- Governor Ever's [Emergency order #1](#)
- Governor Ever's [Emergency Order #94](#)
- High Risk Sports Considerations – Attached in email
- [NCAA COVID-19 Coronavirus](#)
- [Playing Sports](#)
- [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Action Plan Considerations](#)
- [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Checklist](#)
- [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition](#)
- [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition](#)
- [Respond Together Eau Claire \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#)
- [WIAA COVID-19 Guidelines](#)
- [WIAA Return to Fall Sport Considerations](#)
- [WIAA Winter Sport Considerations](#)

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The past ten months have undoubtedly been quite difficult, and the athletic arena has been disproportionately affected by the changes and protocols stemming from COVID-19. Everyone's continued patience and flexibility has been greatly appreciated and the suboptimal circumstances placed upon clubs from the pandemic and subsequent response is recognized. Club Sports remain integral to not only our thriving recreation department, but also to the continued success and growth of this university. We will continue to navigate these uncharted waters together and do so in a purposeful and successful manner. With the increase in testing and mass availability of vaccines on the horizon – better days are ahead and a return to the robust club sport experience is in sight. We will remain steadfast in our response to COVID-19 and see the other side of this. We look forward to welcoming all back to campus shortly and working with everyone once again. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Garrett Larson – Competitive Sports Coordinator
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