



NCCSA Statement Regarding Suspending NCCSA Athletics

As you are aware, concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) have begun to impact athletic events worldwide, nationally, statewide, and locally. On Thursday afternoon, March 12, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) [released a statement](#) postponing its 2020 basketball championships and suspending all interscholastic athletics beginning at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2020, through Monday, April 6, 2020. This includes all workouts, skill development, practices, and contests. In addition, the North Carolina Independent School Athletic Association (NCISAA) [announced](#) that all NCISAA athletics have been suspended for at least two weeks.

Although the NCCSA is not bound by decisions made by the NCHSAA or NCISAA, we respect their decisions and understand that this is a very fluid situation. Therefore, an abundance of caution must be taken.

As a result of this information, as well as the [information sent to NCCSA members](#) when making a decision to cancel the 2020 NCCSA Fine Arts Festival, **the NCCSA has made the decision to suspend all NCCSA Athletic contests in golf, girls' soccer, baseball, and softball starting at 12:00 p.m. (today) Friday, March 13, 2020, through Monday, April 6, 2020.**

Important Details:

- Schools are encouraged to take every precaution to protect student-athletes, coaches, and school families. Although the NCCSA cannot prevent teams from playing during this time period, **we strongly encourage each school to follow this decision and suspend all athletics during these dates.**
 - *For those that decide to continue playing, any games played during this suspended period will not count toward regular-season standings or seeding for the NCCSA state playoffs and tournaments if the season resumes.*
- Although this is not encouraged, schools are allowed to conduct practices at the discretion of each individual school.
- If the season is able to resume, schools should do their best to follow their existing schedules with conference opponents as much as possible. If there are open dates in your schedule, schools should schedule missed conference games when possible.
- Because of this suspension and in considering an already busy spring calendar, the NCCSA is encouraging schools to cancel any non-conference games to free up your calendar to participate in as many conference games as possible if the season resumes at a later date.
- The NCCSA will continue to monitor the situation and will communicate announcements accordingly. Currently, the NCCSA is planning to update the status of NCCSA Athletics on Monday, April 6. It is the NCCSA's desire to resume the season and conduct postseason tournaments as scheduled, but conditions at that time will determine this decision.
- If the season can continue, specifics regarding playoff seeding will be communicated at a later date.

Globally:

- The World Health Organization elevated COVID-19 to a pandemic status.
- In his address to the nation on Wednesday night, President Donald Trump restricted travel to the United States from foreign nationals who have recently been in certain European countries.

Nationally:

- President Trump [addressed the nation](#) regarding the ongoing COVID-19 situation and is taking further actions to curb the spread of COVID-19 here in the United States.
- Institutions of higher learning and colleges continue to cancel classes and are offering online instruction.
- The NBA [suspended the remainder of its season](#) after a player tested positive (a second player was included Thursday). In addition, the NHL, MLB, and MLS suspended their seasons indefinitely.
- The [NCAA](#) has canceled all remaining winter and spring sports including [canceling](#) the NCAA March Madness men and women's basketball tournaments.
- The ACC issued a [statement](#) that the remainder of the ACC tournament has been canceled. Other conferences have done the same. In addition, the ACC has canceled all spring sports.
- NASCAR issued a [statement](#) that upcoming races will have no spectators.
- The Little League issued a [statement](#) and is delaying the implementation of the Little League season until at least April 6.

Statewide:

- Additional COVID-19 cases continue to increase.
- Institutions of higher learning and colleges continue to cancel classes and are offering online instruction.
- Some private schools have announced plans to cancel classes and offer online learning opportunities.
- The NC DPI is meeting with the superintendents of the 115 school districts about the possibilities of online learning opportunities if public schools begin to close.
- The [list](#) of public and private event cancellations is growing daily in the Raleigh area.
- Governor Roy Cooper's COVID-19 Task Force has discouraged any gatherings of more than 100 participants.
- The NCHSAA (NC High School Athletic Association) and NCISAA (NC Independent School Athletic Association) either canceled the rest of their seasons or suspended their athletics until further notice.
- NCCSA member schools are canceling field trips, senior trips, school activities, etc.
- The NCCSA has canceled its annual Fine Arts Festival Competition. (The AACS has also canceled its 2020 AACS National Competition at Bob Jones University scheduled for next month.)

As we stated in the letter that communicated that the NCCSA Fine Arts Festival Competition was canceled, some may think that the NCCSA has caved to all the media misinformation and hysteria by suspending NCCSA Athletic Competition. Quite the opposite, we had planned not to disrupt athletic competition, but so much of what has transpired the last few days is out of our control. We realize there are those on both sides of the issue, and we have solicited input from many of these individuals.

Further information regarding NCCSA Athletics will be sent to NCCSA athletic-participating schools by Monday, April 6. Thank you for your cooperation.

NCCSA State Office