



Following the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's announcement that intercollegiate fall sport competition will not be possible at institutions within the WIAC, UW-Eau Claire has compiled this document to help student-athletes and institutional coaches and administrators answer questions that may arise as students make decisions about their enrollment and/or athletics participation options for the 2020-21 academic year.

This document will be updated as additional questions or issues arise and as additional guidance is received from NCAA, the WIAC, and the institution.

1. Q Will there be Fall sports?

A UW-Eau Claire will not be competing in fall intercollegiate athletics. Fall sports teams include men's and women's cross country, football, men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, women's soccer, and volleyball.

2. Q Will fall student-athletes return early to begin pre-season?

A Fall student-athletes will not arrive to campus early. If living in campus housing, student-athletes should sign up for a move-in time through the Housing e-mail they receive.

3. Q Will athletic teams that are not competing continue to function as teams? Will they have coaches?

A It is expected that coaches will be permitted to engage with their teams and student-athletes. We anticipate the opportunity to participate in meaningful activities with members of our coaching staffs that will prepare teams to be competitive when their sports return in the future.

4. Q Will there be different rules for contact and non-contact sports?

A Yes, each team's coach will communicate with them directly about their resocialization plan.

5. Q What will the athletic experience be like for the fall semester?

A Regardless of their location, they will be able to have athletic-related meetings online with coaches. Student-athletes not returning to full-time enrollment for the fall semester will not be permitted to participate in individual or small group in-person workouts. All activities will be held in accordance with NCAA, federal, state, local, and institutional safety guidelines. Workout plans will be provided.

6. Q How will practicing affect NCAA eligibility?

A While practicing normally triggers a season of NCAA eligibility in Division III, student-athletes would not use a season of eligibility in the Fall of 2020 because the team will not compete. Student-athletes who are enrolled full-time during the Fall of 2020 are considered to have used a semester within the permissible 10 full-time semesters allowed by the NCAA in which to complete their four seasons of participation. An NCAA waiver will be considered for any student-athlete who may need to exceed 10 semesters of eligibility as a result of circumstances beyond their control. Taking time off (gap year) is not necessary.

7. Q Can a coach engage in athletically related activity with their student-athlete if the institution does not sponsor competition for fall sports in 2020?

A Yes, provided that the athletically related activity is within the declared playing season.



8. Q If a student-athlete engages in athletically related activity within the declared playing season in which no outside competition will be conducted, will the student-athlete be charged with a season of participation?

A No. A student-athlete is only charged with a season of participation when the student-athlete participates (practices or competes) during or after the first contest in the traditional segment. If the student-athlete's engagement in athletically related activity does not include outside competition, the student-athlete may practice without being charged with a season of participation.

9. Q Can a student-athlete enroll at a junior college to save money and re-enroll Spring of 2021 or Fall 2021 if their season has been cancelled or postponed?

A This is permissible; so long as the student-athlete is enrolled part-time. To enroll full-time at another institution would trigger transfer status and all transfer rules would apply.

10. Q If the Fall 2020 season is moved to Spring 2021, does a student-athlete need be enrolled at UW-Eau Claire during the Fall semester in order to participate in the Spring of 2021?

A At this time, there are no plans for UW-Eau Claire to move the Fall 2020 season for football, volleyball, women's soccer and men's and women's cross country in Spring 2021. If another college or university is attended during the time not enrolled at UW-Eau Claire, transfer status would be triggered and all transfer rules would apply including reapplying for admission. If a semester is taken off, the student-athlete would need to reapply for admission. Not being enrolled full-time at UW-Eau Claire would also cause the student-athlete to be unable to participate in any team activity regardless if it is virtual or in person during the Fall.

11. Q When will students know if winter and spring sports are happening?

A Men's and women's basketball, wrestling, men's and women's hockey, gymnastics, men's and women's swimming and diving, and men's and women's indoor track and field engaging in competition in the Fall of 2020 is currently being evaluated by the WIAC COVID-19 Task Force and Chancellors. No decision has been made at this time. The decision to participate in intercollegiate athletic competitions during the Spring of 2021 will be made at an appropriate time and will be informed by an evaluation of the state of the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. Q Will spring sports have the opportunity to engage in their non-traditional seasons?

A The decision regarding non-traditional seasons has yet to be determined, but the goal is to provide those programs the opportunity to have meaningful participation in the Fall. In the event the non-traditional seasons are allowed, all institutional guidelines will be followed, including no competition. The department has instituted a COVID-19 Action Team, which will assess the feasibility.

13. Q Are all student-athletes allowed to participate with their teams this fall?

A Yes, all students who are permitted back on campus and enrolled full-time are allowed to participate with their teams.

14. Q Will all student-athletes be allowed to participate with their teams in the spring?

A This will be dependent on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic.

15. Q What happens to Golf and Tennis who have Fall and Spring seasons?

A The Fall season for Golf and Tennis has been postponed to the Spring to align with their NCAA Championship. The Spring season will be evaluated along with the other Spring sports as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds.



16. Q Does a student-athlete need to be enrolled full-time at the institution to participate in virtual practices conducted by the institution?

A Yes, for the 2020-21 academic year all existing eligibility requirements apply.

17. Q What athletic training, strength & conditioning, and locker rooms will be available?

A Athletic Training services will be by appointment only. Strength and conditioning will take place in small groups with appropriate spacing in designated time slots as per NCAA, State and local guidelines. Full-time enrollment is required to utilize these services. Locker rooms will not be available at this time.

18. Q Are there other Division III colleges, universities and/or conferences that have altered their fall semester varsity athletics programs/seasons?

A Yes. As of July 23, nearly 50 schools and 22 conferences have cancelled, suspended or postponed competition for the Fall of 2020.

19. Q. What testing procedures will be put into place for student-athletes?

A. Testing protocols will be established in accordance with Eau Claire County Health per forthcoming guidance from the NCAA.