



University of Mary Hardin-Baylor Athletics Division Frequently Asked Questions

Fall sports

As part of a collective decision by the American Southwest Conference, UMHB has suspended competition in football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, and volleyball this Fall. Conference officials are working on potential schedules for those sports in the Spring.

The high-contact nature of those sports played a key role in the decision. Men and women will still be able to compete in tennis and golf this Fall in accordance with local, state, and federal health directives.

Information for student-athletes

If you are an incoming or returning student-athlete, the best source of information is your head coach. They are involved in the overall planning for Crusader athletics and are updated regularly on items that impact our teams. General questions may also be sent to Randy Mann, vice president for athletics at rmann@umhb.edu.

FAQs

1. Who made the decision to postpone Fall competitions?

The decision was made by the Presidents' Council of the American Southwest Conference, in consultation with the ASC Commissioner and the athletic directors at all of the conference institutions. They also took into account the guidance of state and local health authorities, governments, and medical professionals.

2. What sports are impacted?

The decision impacts the Fall sports of men's and women's cross country, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, and football. The ASC is working to develop a schedule for competition for all of these sports in the Spring. We will provide updated schedules as soon as they are available. Decisions have not yet been made for the Fall competitions for men's and women's basketball.

3. How will this decision impact a student's eligibility?

The NCAA recently passed a waiver stating that if teams compete but do not complete more than 50 percent of their normal schedule, students will not use a season of eligibility.

4. Will teams not competing still be able to practice and hold team activities?

Yes. We are holding training sessions and team activities during the Fall, although they will be modified based on current health guidelines. The only thing that will be missing will be outside competition.

5. When will a decision be made about Spring sports?

There are ongoing discussions about Spring sports. We will continue to monitor conditions for those sports and will communicate any schedule changes when they occur.

6. Will Spring teams be able to have a non-traditional season in the Fall?

The plan right now is for Spring teams to be able to have their non-traditional practices, but no competition. We will develop a facility schedule that works for all teams. This Fall, it will be more important than ever to coordinate practice schedules to ensure there is adequate time for cleaning and providing necessary athletic training services.

7. If a student does not participate in the Fall, will it impact their future participation?

While we are hoping that all of our students will join us this Fall for training and team-building opportunities, they must make the decision that is right for them. If a student chooses not to participate this Fall for any reason, they will still be welcomed back to our teams in the future.

8. What about using athletic facilities?

Mayborn Campus Center and Andersen Field House are open. New policies and procedures are in place to help keep people healthy and safe. Expect operating hours to be adjusted and occupancy limits. Also, in alliance with university policy, we will not be permitting anyone outside of the UMHB community to use our facilities.

Andersen Field House will be available for teams to train together as supervised by a member of the strength and conditioning staff. Teams and coaches must follow all safety and cleaning protocols set in place by the university.

9. Will students have access to the locker rooms?

Yes, but not in the same way as in the past. This comes down to being able to prioritize the cleaning of spaces. Locker rooms, which are often a social space for teams, will have occupancy limits and masks, and social distancing will still be expected.

10. Will students have access to the athletic training room and services?

Yes, properly socially distanced. Much like everything else, the athletic training room will operate differently than it has in the past. We will ask students to schedule appointments for treatment and close the space off during certain times to prepare teams for practice.

11. Do students still need to complete medical clearance information?

Yes. Before any student can participate in practice, they must complete all of the necessary medical forms.

12. Will athletes be required to sign a waiver to participate in athletic activities?

Yes. However, athletes will not be asked to sign any participation waivers specifically associated with COVID-19. Also, all UMHB students will be required to sign a CRU PLEDGE agreement to follow guidelines that will keep our community safe.

13. How often will members of teams be tested for COVID-19?

The university is working to determine if testing will be required and if so, under what circumstances, student-athletes will be provided with updates as more information emerges.

14. What happens if there is a positive test on a team?

If any member of a team tests positive for COVID-19, they will be asked to isolate away from others until they are well, and we will take our guidance from the local health authority. Any teammates identified as "close contacts" per the CDC guidelines will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. This could mean we shut down all team training for the duration of the quarantine period. We will also implement our enhanced cleaning protocols to disinfect all affected areas.

15. What options do students have if they choose to delay enrollment or take a leave of absence for all or any part of the 2020-21 academic year?

The financial aid and eligibility implications of these decisions are different for each student. We encourage you to speak with your coach and reach out to our financial aid personnel with specific questions if you are considering this option.

16. Will practicing this Fall affect my NCAA eligibility?

No. For Division III student athletes, participation in workouts, meetings, or practices during the fall semester will not trigger the use of a season of participation. For the 2020-21 academic year, all full-time enrolled student athletes who opt out (that is, the student athlete decides not to engage in any activity during or after the first contest) would get a two-semester / three-quarter extension.

17. Where can I find more information?

In addition to UMHB's [Safe Return to Campus Plan](#), a specific [Health and Safety Plan](#) for Athletics is available.