

COVID-19

See ***Guidance for ACEL Sanctioned Contests During COVID-19*** available on the website for ACEL COVID guidelines for all ACEL events.

- Maintaining published state championship dates (and thereby not overlapping sports) is the primary consideration in our COVID planning for fall and winter sports.
- It is expected that games will be cancelled due to illness this season. Therefore, there will be no penalty for games that cannot be completed by the end of the season due to COVID-19. Prompt communication is required! Teams that fail to show for games without communicating with their opponent in a reasonable amount of time WILL be fined \$500 and the game will be recorded as a forfeit.

Officials

Many have expressed concern over the ability to secure officials. LHSOA officials are private contractors. LHSAA cannot dictate when or for whom officials works; therefore, officials should be available even if LHSAA has no sanctioned season concurrent with the ACEL.

The Schedule: Released August 3, 2020

The first day of the regular season is a bye week for all teams to help teams prepare for games given the late release of the schedule.

The first 7-8 games of the schedule are in-district games for the purpose of helping teams work through their COVID policies with teams that are geographically closer before out-of-district games begin. As always, teams are free to change the schedule as necessary. Remember that both the home and away teams must submit a schedule change form (located on the website) before a change becomes official.

Teams will play all in-district opponents twice and ***most*** out-of-district opponents once. Coaches indicated at last year's coaches' meeting that they preferred to play all out-of-district teams once. However, the necessity to push the start of the season back coupled with the odd number of southern teams makes it impossible to play all out-of-district teams in the time available.

Every effort was made to switch home/away games from last year for out-of-district games. There may be a few instances in which such a switch was not possible due to several new teams and the need to balance the number of home/away games.

Varsity teams have 15-17 games with 7-8 home games each depending on district. Jv teams have 9-12 games depending on both district and the necessity of balancing home/away varsity games.

All-State Voting Changes

All-State Voting remains October 17. All volleyball coaches are required to attend All-State voting. Plan on All-State voting taking more time this year than it has in the past.

There have been significant changes to our All-State Voting procedures. Please make certain to review the changes in the ACEL rules. All organizations committed to each sport are required to attend All-State voting this year. There is a \$500 fine for failure to attend.

Playoffs/ State Championship

It is expected that some teams may complete a nearly full schedule while others may only finish a few games. To cope with these expected inequities, playoffs will be an open tournament bracket for any ACEL team that wants to participate. Playoff seeding will be by power points. Playoffs will take place October 19-23.

The State Championship date remains October 30-31.

Only JV championship game at State

In an effort to shorten the length of our State Championship events, only the JV championship game will be played at the state tournament beginning in 2020-21. The JV playoff process will be published along with the JV schedules and is dependent on the number of teams participating.

Facility availability is the primary reason for the change. Sports such as basketball, with both girls and boys jv divisions, require two full days of facility access to accommodate JV playoffs within the state tournament. Even sports with only single JV divisions require start times on Friday before the end of the school day making the use of high school facilities difficult.

It is hoped that this change will give us greater flexibility and thus more options in facilities for our state championship events, while also helping our member organizations that have requested later start times for these events. JV playoff games will be played earlier in the week.

ACEL Standing Rules

Changes/amendments for 2020-2021

(see slides from the 2020-2021 Membership Meeting available on the members section of the website.)

Supplemental rules/ procedures/policies

The ACEL follows the rules and regulations set by the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS.) Exceptions to NFHS rules or supplemental policies not addressed in ACEL standing rules are listed below.

The Game

ACEL 18.1.2

Varsity volleyball matches between member schools/associations shall be decided by winning 3 out of 5 possible games. Jr. Varsity matches shall be decided by winning 2 out of 3 possible games.

The Court

Organizations participating in basketball or volleyball, must submit a diagram of all courts on which they regularly play home games along with their commitment forms this season. The *ACEL Court Diagram Form* is available for download under the *Forms & Downloads* tab of the website. Teams that do not submit a complete Court Diagram Form by the commitment deadline will not be added to the schedule.

Player Equipment and Uniform

No Spandex

Beginning in 2020-2021, spandex will not be allowed in the ACEL as outerwear. Shorts must have at least a 4” inseam so that undergarments are completely covered. (Soffee shorts and many of the current Nike shorts have a 3” inseam and are not allowed.) Please choose shorts that are not form fitting, as they can appear to be spandex even with a 4” inseam.

Officials

Two 2 patched officials assigned by your area assignment secretary are required at every ACEL sanctioned match.

Score Keeper/Clock/Line Judges/Libero tracker

- The official clock and scorebook must be manned by an adult 18 years or older (it may not be a student of the host school)
- Line Judges MUST be an adult
- Teams with liberos must also supply a libero tracker

Stat Keepers

Please adequately train your volleyball stat keepers. Volleyball stats are challenging to both understand and to record in real time.

- Refer to “statistical Definitions” located on the ACEL Volleyball page
- Consider using video to help record more accurate stats
- Have a “caller” for stat keeper

AED

The ACEL strongly recommends that all organizations have an AED at all ACEL events.

MaxPreps

Please upload stats to MaxPreps routinely throughout the season. Waiting until the end of the season makes it difficult for our other teams to link to your schedule and for stat reporting to be transparent.

NEW: JV Only Teams Allowed

By popular demand, ACEL members may commit JV teams to our sports with JV divisions without the requirement to also commit a varsity team in 2020-2021! It is our hope that this move will aid our organizations in growing their programs through younger athletes while at the same time yielding more teams overall for the league. However, due to the relatively small size of the ACEL, JV only teams will necessarily have some disadvantages that you will need to take into consideration before committing a JV team.

First of all, JV only teams will only be scheduled home games with other JV only teams. Scheduling away games for JV only teams will be handled in the same way that the girls' basketball schedule is intermixed with the boys' teams. JV only teams will be "plugged-in" to the schedule in instances where an organization's official JV team does not have an opponent due to its varsity team playing a varsity program without an official JV.

Secondly, districting and scheduling priorities must put varsity teams and varsity/JV combination teams ahead of JV only teams. Therefore, number of games for JV only teams cannot be guaranteed.

JV only teams will be eligible for postseason play.

Communicate with your Executive Director

Most problems and misunderstandings can be avoided simply through communication. Coaches, if you have a league concern please discuss it with your athletic director ASAP. In many instances athletic directors will have already received related information from the ACEL. Athletic directors, please do not hesitate to contact me with any league issue you may have. The more you all communicate with me, the better I understand what is actually happening within our league making me better able to act in the best interest of all our organizations. I cannot address what I do not know.

Sandra Merrow

ACEL Executive Director

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337-366-1394 (Leave a message, and I will get back to you.)