



Observer file photo
Max Rose, goalkeeper for the Eastern Oregon University men's soccer team, leaps to make a save during an October 2019 match against the University of Providence. The NAIA announced Tuesday, July 28, that it is moving the fall championships for men's and women's cross-country, men's and women's soccer, and women's volleyball to the spring of 2021, and will make a decision on football Friday.

NAIA moves fall sports championships to spring

51 NAIA schools shifted their fall schedules to spring

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics announced late Tuesday, July 28, the championships for all its fall sports with the exception of football will be moved to the spring of 2021. A decision on football will come Friday, according to the press release from the NAIA office.

“This decision still allows NAIA conferences to compete in the fall and winter, if they so choose,” the NAIA press release stated, adding the delay on the decision for football was because of “unique challenges surrounding football” and Council of Presidents “members decided they needed more time to obtain feedback from their colleagues.”

“Given the fast-paced and constantly changing nature of the current environment, the COP recognized that the likelihood of safely completing the fall sports season has decreased significantly,” Dr. Arvid Johnson, COP chair and University of St. Francis president, said in the press release. “This decision allows conferences to consider the regional impact of COVID-19 when determining the

appropriate time for regular season competition.”

According to the release, 51 NAIA schools already made a decision to move their fall sports — women's volleyball, men's and women's soccer and men's and women's cross-country — to the spring.

The Cascade Collegiate Conference delayed the start of its fall season and put a hold on any competition prior to Nov. 1. CCC Commissioner Rob Cashell said on Tuesday he commended the NAIA's move.

“Obviously were pleased with that decision because it mirrors the decision we made a couple weeks ago to move our season to spring,” he said. “Very pleased with that. It gives our student-athletes the best opportunity to compete not only for a conference champ but for a national championship as well.”

Cashell said when the NAIA announces what the parameters for the new “fall” schedule will be and when the championships will be, the CCC will set its schedule accordingly.

“Once the NAIA lets us know when they plan on having the championships that would have been in fall, then we'll be able to build our schedules around that championship date,” he said. “We need to know what those dates are going to be before we can zero in on what our conference schedules looks like.”



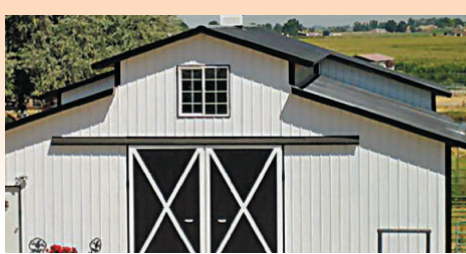
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How to handle social distancing at the park

(Editor's Note: Please consult your local laws and regulations before publishing this story to confirm its content aligns with mandates currently in place in your city.)

Social distancing has changed the way people live. But as many areas began to reopen on a limited basis, returning to some semblance of normalcy became possible.

Cabin fever has affected men, women and children since stay-at-home guidelines were issued in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. So it's no surprise that homebound adults and kids rejoiced when local parks reopened. Though parks may have reopened, the National Recreation and Park Association notes that it's still imperative that park visitors adhere to social distancing guidelines in place at the park.

- Avoid parks if you're exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 is urged to stay home and avoid public places, including parks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that people with these symptoms or combinations of these symptoms may have COVID-19:
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

In addition, the CDC says people with at least two of these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- fever
- chills
- repeated shaking with chills
- muscle pain
- headache
- sore throat
- new loss of taste or smell
- Follow the CDC guidelines on personal hygiene prior to visiting parks or trails. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before leaving your home to visit a park. If you sneeze or blow your nose en route to the park, apply a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol before getting out of your car. While at the park, wear a cloth face covering that fits snugly but comfortably against the side of your face. Make sure it can be secured with ties or ear loops and allows for breathing without restriction. In hot weather, avoid visiting the park if you do not think you can move around and breathe comfortably while wearing a mask.
- Share the trail. Share the trails and walking paths with others, letting them know when you plan



to pass and giving them ample space to pass if they need to. This includes following CDC guidelines on social distancing, which recommend maintaining a minimum of six feet from other persons at all times.

- Use the restroom before leaving your home. Many parks are limiting access to public restrooms to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. So it's wise for park visitors to relieve themselves at home before going to the park.
- Bring your own water. The NRPA notes that water fountains likely won't be accessible at the park. So visitors should bring their own water so they can stay hydrated during their hikes.

Visiting a favorite park while social distancing will be different. But there are many ways to stay safe and still enjoy the park for all it has to offer.

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