



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – DECEMBER 22, 2020
Upper Midwest Athletic Conference

UMAC announces spring semester sports update
[Link to Online Release](#)

ST. PAUL, Minn.---The Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) Council of Presidents and Chancellors supported a recommendation from the UMAC Council of Athletics Directors to continue pursuing conference competition in the sports of baseball, men's and women's basketball, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field and beginning UMAC competition no earlier than Jan. 30, 2021.

The Council stressed as part of its discussion related to this decision that numerous items will continue to be monitored and assessed leading up to the start of competition in January, including but not limited to the status and timeline of students returning to member institution campuses after the semester break, NCAA-governed decisions related to Sports Science Institute (SSI) recommendations and requirements and NCAA Division III Championships, testing access and availability, state and county restrictions related to competition, and the status of local communities of member institutions in relation to confirmed COVID-19 cases. The Council plans to reconvene in mid-January to reassess any changing circumstances that could impact the conference's ability to move forward as planned.

For the remainder of the 2020-21 academic year, beginning Jan. 1, 2021, UMAC institutions may compete against non-UMAC opponents in any sport for non-conference competition at the discretion of each institution, given an opponent is following the same testing and COVID-19 protocols as the UMAC. All UMAC institutions will adhere to the testing guidance and COVID-19 protocols outlined in the NCAA SSI [Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition](#).

In the sports of men's and women's basketball, conference institutions will plan to complete an eight-game regular season conference schedule with competition slated to begin Saturday, Jan. 30. Nine-team conference tournaments will begin Monday, March 1 with opening round games and continue on Tuesday, March 2 with quarterfinal contests. The semifinal round will take place Thursday, March 4. The championship games are set for Saturday, March 6 with the winners earning the conference's automatic qualifying bid to the NCAA Division III Championships. No doubleheaders will take place for the 2021 UMAC basketball season. Men's and women's teams will play at opposite sites with game times yet to be determined.

The UMAC intends to move forward pursuing conference-governed indoor track and field competition beginning Jan. 30. The UMAC Indoor Track and Field Championship remains as scheduled for Feb. 26-27 at the College of St. Scholastica but is subject to change. Additional competition prior to Jan. 30 is at the discretion of individual institutions.

UMAC-governed competition in the sports of men's and women's tennis may begin Jan. 30, 2021. The UMAC postseason tournaments remain on as scheduled the week of May 3-8.

Additional game day and event protocols for winter sports – including a decision related to spectator allowance at UMAC contests and competition – will be finalized and announced at a later date.

In addition to winter sport decisions, the UMAC Council of Presidents and Chancellors affirmed a commitment conducting competition in the spring for the fall sports of football, men's and women's soccer and volleyball, according to schedules previously approved and released. Additionally, a nine-team conference tournament for volleyball was approved. The conference leadership groups determined there will not be a UMAC conference championship for cross

country conducted in the spring segment. Cross country competition conducted at the institutional level in spring 2021 remains at the discretion of each institution.

UMAC conference decisions related to winter sports competition, testing and COVID-19 protocols have been guided by state and local public health officials, the NCAA SSI recommendations and requirements and campus policies. The health and safety of student-athletes, athletics personnel, and greater campus communities of members of the UMAC is of utmost importance. Ultimately, it will be the decision of each member institution as to whether it conducts athletic competition in a given sport in the spring semester (winter and spring sports seasons). The conference is prepared to adjust sport schedules and plans accordingly should any institution decide it is not feasible for its specific team(s) to participate.

The UMAC continues to monitor changing circumstances related to COVID-19. At this time, no adjustments to schedules for baseball, softball and men's and women's outdoor track and field have been made. Any further decisions for 2020-2021 made by conference governance groups will continue to be driven by available guidance from local and state health officials and the NCAA SSI and are subject to change.

Additional information related to the conference's decisions and impact on student-athlete eligibility, other compliance components and further details regarding winter and spring competition can be found on the UMAC Frequently Asked Questions page. UMAC COVID-19 related updates – including institutional announcements and decisions – will continue to be provided when available and can be found on the [UMAC COVID-19 Resource Page](#).

[2021 UMAC Winter and Spring Sport Schedules](#)

[2021 UMAC Winter Sports COVID-19 FAQ](#)

The Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) is an NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics conference with nine full member institutions in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The UMAC creates a vibrant community for student-athletes and institutions to thrive through intercollegiate athletics. It supports and celebrates the academic excellence and competitive success of members by providing outstanding service and creating pathways to national opportunities and programs.

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