**SMPC Discussion - The Future of Sports in the COVID Era**

Questions about the Return of Sports, Answered

[https://www.boston.com/sports/national-news-2/2020/04/08/return-of-sports-leagues-questions-answered (Links to an external site.)](https://www.boston.com/sports/national-news-2/2020/04/08/return-of-sports-leagues-questions-answered)

[https://www.si.com/college/tamu/baseball/safety-comes-first-but-covid-19-leaves-questions-unanswered-in-sports (Links to an external site.)](https://www.si.com/college/tamu/baseball/safety-comes-first-but-covid-19-leaves-questions-unanswered-in-sports)

Are we asking the Wrong Questions?

[https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/04/04/kurtenbach-were-asking-the-wrong-question-about-the-return-of-sports/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/04/04/kurtenbach-were-asking-the-wrong-question-about-the-return-of-sports/)

The Uncertain Return of Sports

[https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2020/04/17/seton-hall-poll-fans-coronavirus (Links to an external site.)](https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2020/04/17/seton-hall-poll-fans-coronavirus)

What about the Kids, Youth & High School Sports?

[https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/coronavirus-and-youth-sports/reports/2020/4/23/medical-expert-kids-need-gradual-return-to-sports-after-covid-19 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/coronavirus-and-youth-sports/reports/2020/4/23/medical-expert-kids-need-gradual-return-to-sports-after-covid-19)

[https://changingthegameproject.com/reimagining-youth-sports-in-a-post-covid-19-world/ (Links to an external site.)](https://changingthegameproject.com/reimagining-youth-sports-in-a-post-covid-19-world/)

[https://www.news-press.com/story/sports/2020/04/03/questions-fhsaa-faces-restarting-spring-sports-and-potential-answers-due-covid-19/5104658002/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.news-press.com/story/sports/2020/04/03/questions-fhsaa-faces-restarting-spring-sports-and-potential-answers-due-covid-19/5104658002/)

Will the Fans Return?

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/19/sports/will-fans-return-stands-after-covid-19/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/19/sports/will-fans-return-stands-after-covid-19/)

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-big-question-for-sports-when-will-you-feel-safe-around-20-000-strangers-again-11586084401 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-big-question-for-sports-when-will-you-feel-safe-around-20-000-strangers-again-11586084401)

[https://www.ajc.com/blog/mike-check/can-see-sports-returning-with-more-waves-covid-possible/1AIaVKeLKzCAG4YezQwICK/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.ajc.com/blog/mike-check/can-see-sports-returning-with-more-waves-covid-possible/1AIaVKeLKzCAG4YezQwICK/)

**Fauci sees path for sports to comeback**

[https://nypost.com/2020/04/20/mlb-anthony-fauci-offers-sudden-hope-for-baseball-fans/ (Links to an external site.)](https://nypost.com/2020/04/20/mlb-anthony-fauci-offers-sudden-hope-for-baseball-fans/)

[https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/04/how-anthony-fauci-made-himself-meme/610330/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/04/how-anthony-fauci-made-himself-meme/610330/)

[https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/2020/04/15/coronavirus-dr-fauci-sees-path-sports-comeback-without-fans/5136306002/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/2020/04/15/coronavirus-dr-fauci-sees-path-sports-comeback-without-fans/5136306002/)

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/15/nation/dr-anthony-fauci-lays-out-scenario-return-sports-but-only-fan-free-arenas/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/15/nation/dr-anthony-fauci-lays-out-scenario-return-sports-but-only-fan-free-arenas/)

[https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/bears/coronavirus-expert-dr-anthony-fauci-describes-how-sports-can-return-year (Links to an external site.)](https://www.nbcsports.com/chicago/bears/coronavirus-expert-dr-anthony-fauci-describes-how-sports-can-return-year)

[https://www.latimes.com/sports/story/2020-03-25/stephen-curry-to-host-coronavirus-discussion-with-dr-fauci (Links to an external site.)](https://www.latimes.com/sports/story/2020-03-25/stephen-curry-to-host-coronavirus-discussion-with-dr-fauci)

[https://www.espn.com/espn/story/\_/id/28871525/coronavirus-cancellations-reactions-sports (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/28871525/coronavirus-cancellations-reactions-sports)

**Here's a look at how the coronavirus is affecting sports in the U.S. and around the world according to ESPN:**

* [2020 sports calendar: Coronavirus impacted schedules (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/29011029/coronavirus-impacted-schedules)
* [Coronavirus, social distancing will change the way we attend games (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/29012886/coronavirus-social-distancing-change-way-attend-sports)
* [What to watch while sports are on hiatus (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/28908146/what-watch-sports-hiatus)
* [How athletes are spending their downtime (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/28913914/here-athletes-doing-globe-amid-coronavirus-outbreak)
* [Stars around globe lend support to medical world (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/28954733/stars-globe-lend-support-medical-world)
* [Sports stars rally to join raffle for virus relief (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/28972709/simone-biles-stephen-curry-other-top-sports-figures-join-auction-coronavirus-relief)
* [Thousands of stadium workers not covered by pledges of financial support (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/story/_/id/29073065/thousands-stadium-workers-sidelined-coronavirus-pandemic)
* [Experts reveal how to stay fit at home (Links to an external site.)](https://www.espn.com/espn/otl/story/_/id/28968781/how-stay-fit-safe-coronavirus-pandemic)

**Pro Sports**

**CNBC - Proposed Ideas for the NBA**

[https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/21/nba-schedule-could-be-on-the-verge-of-a-makeover-if-league-restarts.html (Links to an external site.)](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/21/nba-schedule-could-be-on-the-verge-of-a-makeover-if-league-restarts.html)

* One idea: have all final games as a tournament in Las Vegas and recoup some of the lost revenue through sponsorships and gambling dollars
* Next season could potentially restart next Christmas

**NY Times:** [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/sports/coronavirus-sports-economy.html (Links to an external site.)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/19/sports/coronavirus-sports-economy.html)

* “The NBA is responsible for roughly 55,000 jobs”

**CBS Sports - Major League Baseball Discussing Three-State Plan as Possible Start to Season**

[https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/mlb-discussing-three-state-plan-with-one-hub-in-texas-as-possible-solution-to-start-2020-season/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.cbssports.com/mlb/news/mlb-discussing-three-state-plan-with-one-hub-in-texas-as-possible-solution-to-start-2020-season/)

* Ideas being discussed would have all teams in Arizona; teams split between AZ and FL, or teams split between AZ, FL and TX
* Some players (Mike Trout and Clayton Kershaw) have pushed back against any plan that would require them to spend months in isolation away from their families

**College Sports**

**Forbes - Is the college student-athlete an endangered species in the Covid era?**

[https://www.forbes.com/sites/stephengavazzi/2020/04/22/the-college-student-athlete-endangered-species-in-the-covid-19-crisis/#45088d565b32 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.forbes.com/sites/stephengavazzi/2020/04/22/the-college-student-athlete-endangered-species-in-the-covid-19-crisis/#45088d565b32)

* Over 400,000 NCAA student-athletes; $14 billion in generated revenue annually
* Even before the pandemic, conversations happening about revenue-sharing with athletes
* NCAA announced an over $375 million in payout reductions to schools due to the cancellation of March Madness
* College football is king, largest revenue generating sport, but may not begin in the fall as scheduled

**Sports Illustrated - How the College Football Season Could be Shaped by the Coronavirus Pandemic**

[https://www.si.com/college/2020/04/08/college-football-future-2020-ncaa-coronavirus (Links to an external site.)](https://www.si.com/college/2020/04/08/college-football-future-2020-ncaa-coronavirus)

Good video clip and article drawing on a variety of sources

* Billions of TV dollars and ticket revenues in jeopardy
* Long-term changes could include conference realignment or formation of a super division
* What’s the safest amount of preparation time for a college football team? Probably somewhere between six weeks - 60 days
* Even if programs get back up and running, would coronavirus testing need to happen on a daily basis?
* Interesting look at the [revenue sources (Links to an external site.)](https://images.saymedia-content.com/.image/cs_srgb/MTcxNjkyOTk3Nzk1MTI4Mzk5/rev-comparison.png) for the SEC and Conference USA. All main sources of revenue -- media rights, tickets sales, student fees and state funding -- will be impacted by the pandemic’s effect on the economy
* The average Big 10 school loses $22.9 million on sports excluding football and men’s basketball. Football makes up for it, but without football revenue, it could mean cost-cutting and discontinuing some revenue-losing sports. But, obviously there are also Title IX considerations, and NCAA requirements that each school sponsor a minimum of 14 sports.
* In Power 5 programs, donations account for 25% of revenue, and some places, like Texas A&M, it’s as much as 40%. Donations will clearly go down.

Effect on Recruiting

**The Buffalo News:**[https://buffalonews.com/2020/03/29/coronavirus-covid-19-recruiting-college-athletics-greg-paulus-niagara-basketball-mark-schmidt-st-bonaventure-mike-ruechel-buffalo-softball-allison-daley-canisius-lacrosse-news-2020/ (Links to an external site.)](https://buffalonews.com/2020/03/29/coronavirus-covid-19-recruiting-college-athletics-greg-paulus-niagara-basketball-mark-schmidt-st-bonaventure-mike-ruechel-buffalo-softball-allison-daley-canisius-lacrosse-news-2020/)

* Without high school tournaments and AAU tournaments, it makes it challenging to recruit not just for next year, but 2 and 3 years from now
* Can’t do recruiting visits
* The extension of eligibility is great for existing college athletes, but also means less scholarships available

**Amateur Sports**

**New York Times - Youth Sports Worry about Weathering Pandemic, and Future Play**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/coronavirus-youth-sports.html (Links to an external site.)](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/20/sports/coronavirus-youth-sports.html)

* Current pandemic has disrupted the “Tournacation” circuit; normally generates $15 billion annually
* Summer is the big money season; family vacations planned around tournaments
* 45 million children that play in youth leagues and on club teams
* Most optimistic projections point to a late August return
* [Utah State University report (Links to an external site.)](https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/poth_slc/17/) from 2014 showed some families spend $20,000 or more on youth sports -- will be unlikely to continue with the drop in discretionary income

**Spectators in Sports**

**Insider - Bill Gates Says Sports will be Gone Longer than Fans Realize**

[**https://www.insider.com/bill-gates-sports-will-be-gone-longer-than-fans-realize-2020-4** (Links to an external site.)](https://www.insider.com/bill-gates-sports-will-be-gone-longer-than-fans-realize-2020-4)

* Gates says sports will likely be one of the last things to come back because sports events have a high chance of spreading coronavirus
* Might be lucky to have some sports by Thanksgiving according to some experts
* Fauci agrees that a “bubble” idea could work for sports, but that would be reliant on mass availability of COVID-19 tests

**MarketWatch - poll on how many fans would feel comfortable attending games**

[https://www.marketwatch.com/story/heres-how-many-sports-fans-are-ready-to-sit-in-a-packed-stadium-when-the-economy-reopens-after-coronavirus-2020-04-20 (Links to an external site.)](https://www.marketwatch.com/story/heres-how-many-sports-fans-are-ready-to-sit-in-a-packed-stadium-when-the-economy-reopens-after-coronavirus-2020-04-20)

* Poll conducted by Seton Hall’s Sharkley Institute:
  + 72% of Americans say they would not be comfortable attending games before a vaccine is developed
  + 12% would only go to games if people adhere to social distancing
  + 13% would feel safe
  + 76% would watch broadcasts of games with no fans

**Boston Globe - What will the sports fan’s experience look like after coronavirus?**

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/17/sports/what-will-sports-fans-experience-look-like-after-coronavirus/ (Links to an external site.)](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/17/sports/what-will-sports-fans-experience-look-like-after-coronavirus/)

* Possible changes once fans are allowed back at games:
  + Long socially distanced lines
  + Reduced seating capacity (could be ¼ of normal seats/tickets available) - maybe could have families still sit together
  + Health checks before entering games
  + Masks issued for every fan
  + Different approaches to food and concessions, probably no vendors waking around
  + More self-scanning of tickets (no ushers)
  + Fans may not be able to bring bags into games

-  LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, California Gov. Gavin Newsom, and NYC mayor Bill de Blasio have essentially ruled out the idea of fans in the stands before 2021

**Up to Date, KCUR segment - sports section starts at 51:05**

[https://www.kcur.org/2020-04-22/u-s-postal-service-travel-industry-disruption-wedding-industry-freeze-fans-without-sports (Links to an external site.)](https://www.kcur.org/2020-04-22/u-s-postal-service-travel-industry-disruption-wedding-industry-freeze-fans-without-sports)

* How many times can we re-watch our favorite sports memories?
* Sports is such a part of our country’s spirit
* ESPN has aired alternative sports - stone skipping, etc.