



**MINNESOTA
TRACK & FIELD
COACHES ASSOCIATION**



– Minnesota Track & Field Survey Analysis – August, 2020

The Minnesota Track & Field Coaches Association surveyed T&F coaches from Minnesota August 10 – August 24. The Survey was sent to all coaches who are members of the coaches association. In addition, the survey was sent to all head coaches, whether they were members of the association or not, through association section representatives.

A total of 574 surveys were collected. The Breakdown of coaches includes:

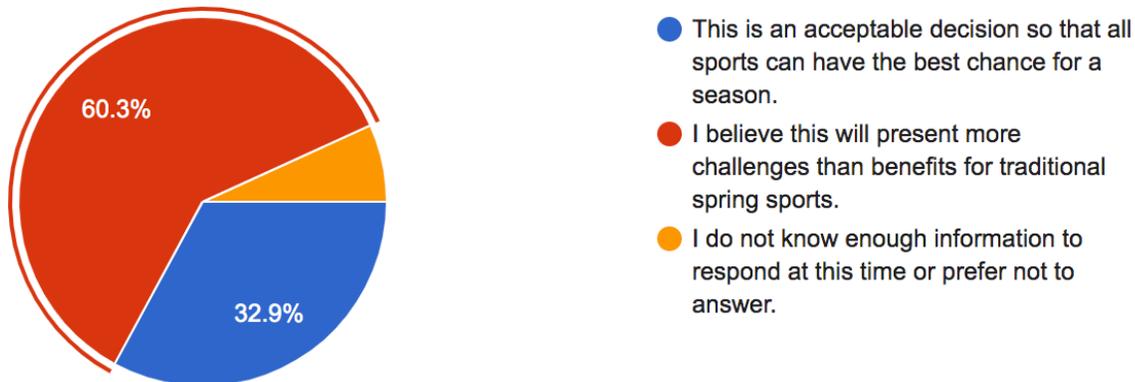
- By MSHSL Class:
 - 300 Class A Coaches (52.3%)
 - 274 Class AA (47.7%)
- By Coaching role:
 - 328 Head Coaches (57.1%)
 - 246 Assistant Coaches (42.9%)

Questions were asked within the following topics

- CoVid-19 Impacts on Track & Field in Minnesota
- MSHSL Classification
- Coaches Education
- Other Comments/Concerns

Section 1: CoVid-19 Impacts on Track & Field in Minnesota

Question 1: Due to CoVid-19, MSHSL has moved Volleyball and Football to the spring for the 2020-21 academic school year. This has moved traditional spring sports to a "4th season" delaying the Track & Field season to a May starting date with a late June or early July ending date. What has been your initial response to this decision?

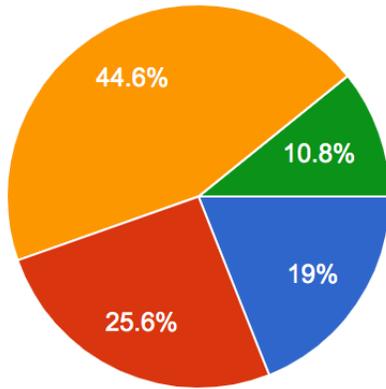


Responses:

- I believe this will present more challenges than benefits for traditional spring sports. 346 (60.3 %)
- This is an acceptable decision so that all sports can have the best chance for a season. 189 (32.9%)
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to answer. 39 (6.8%)

Conclusions:

Question #2: Although spring sports start/end dates are not officially established yet for the "4th season", how would moving the season to a May start date and late June or early July end date affect YOUR SCHOOL TEAM?



- My team will make any scenario work given this is the best decision so that all sports can have the best chance for a...
- It is better for our team to NOT have the seasons (Volleyball/Football and traditional spring sports) overlap, even...
- It is better to have the seasons (Volleyball/Football and traditional spri...
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to an...

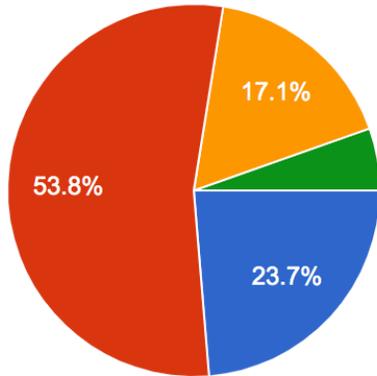
Responses:

- It is better to have the seasons (Volleyball/Football and traditional spring sports) overlap slightly to have an earlier end date for traditional spring sports. 256 (44.6%)
- It is better for our team to NOT have the seasons (Volleyball /Football and traditional spring sports) overlap, even if this means a later end date for traditional spring sports. 147 (25.6%)
- My team will make any scenario work given this is the best decision so that all sports can have the best chance for a season. 109 (19.0%)
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to answer. 62 (10.8%)

Conclusions:

Questions #3:

Although traditional spring sports start and ending dates are not officially established yet for the "4th season", how would moving the season to a May start date and late June or early July end date affect **YOUR PERSONAL** ability to coach your team?



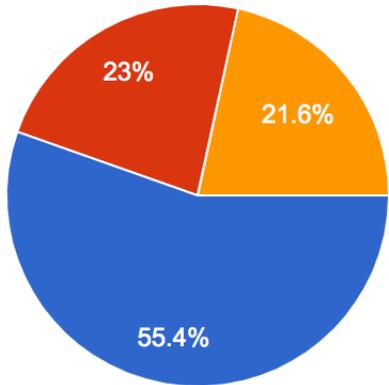
- This will present minimal challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I will be able to make arrangements to coach.
- This will present some challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I will likely be able to make arrangements t...
- This will present significant challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I...
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to an...

Responses:

- This will present some challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I will likely be able to make arrangements to coach. 309 (53.8%)
- This will present minimal challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I will be able to make arrangements to coach. 136 (23.7%)
- This will present significant challenges to my ability to coach this spring, and I will not be able to make arrangements to coach this upcoming season. 98 (17.1%)
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to answer. 31 (5.4%)

Conclusions:

Questions #4: Which of the following start/end dates would you like the Track & Field association advisory to advocate for to the Minnesota State High School League regarding 2021 season start and ending dates?



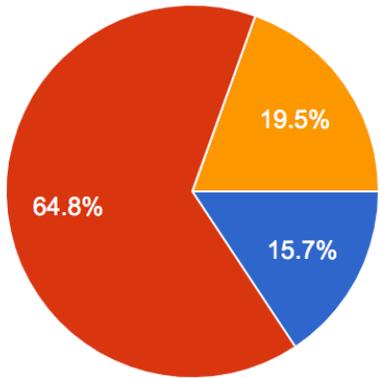
- Start the season May 3, knowing the season will overlap with football/volleyball, and ending in late June
- Start the season May 10, knowing the season will overlap with football/volleyball and ending the first week of July
- Start the season May 17, with no overlap of football/volleyball and ending the middle of July.

Responses:

- Start the season May 3, knowing the season will overlap with football/volleyball, and ending in late June 318 (55.4%)
- Start the season May 10, knowing the season will overlap with football/volleyball and ending the first week of July 132 (23.0%)
- Start the season May 17, with no overlap of football/volleyball and ending the middle of July. 124 (21.6%)

Conclusions:

Question #5: In your opinion, how much of an impact will the summer waiver period have on the "4th season" if it were opened next June during the 2021 T&F season?



- The summer waiver period will have little effect on track & field teams and other traditional spring sports if allowed to overlap with the "4th season"
- There should be no out of season summer waiver period until after the completion of the 4th season.
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to answer.

Responses:

- There should be no out of season summer waiver period until after the completion of the 4th season. 372 (64.8%)
- I do not know enough information to respond at this time or prefer not to answer. 112 (19.5%)
- The summer waiver period will have little effect on track & field teams and other traditional spring sports if allowed to overlap with the "4th season" 90 (15.7%)

Conclusions:

Questions #6: Additional Comments/Concerns regarding the “4th season” for 2020-21

- Small schools share many athletes between sports. Overlapping or making them chose will greatly harm track and field. In addition, I work a summer job, so finding time to coach during late June or July will be very difficult. Lastly, summer heat will be detrimental.
- Track later for Northern MN teams will be nice!
- I believe our numbers will be significantly impacted due to this decision.
- The MSHSL has effectively ruined the spring sports season for a second year. Their lack of forethought and only focusing on football will result in overall less participation in extracurricular activities.
- Concerned about our future moving forward.
- With Track & Field having missed the entire 2019 season, this heavily disrupts a 4-year coaching strategy and hinders an athlete's abilities and performance to improve through their high school career. Will coaches be permitted to hold OPTIONAL practices for athletes that are seeking additional training to accommodate the lost season? Normally coaches are not allowed to come into contact/hold training sessions out of season, (e.g. I cannot hold pole vault practice in the Fall and Winter). Will this be waived in favor of allowing one-sport athletes the opportunity to train with their coaches to make up for a full season of missing training? Especially with the season getting pushed back to a 4th season, not allowing so would severely hinder our athlete's growth and performance due to lack of practice and missing an entire season.
- nothing is perfect about this, there are going to be issues in every scenario. getting all the sports in if possible is best decision
- Since it was not safe to have spring sports and they were canceled, it seems very unfair that the unsafe fall sports are not only moved to a new season, but will also significantly impact the sports that were canceled last year.
- Not excited at all about this format. In a normal spring most teams have an indoor season because there is snow quite often on the fields and track. Not sure that it will benefit football to start in the middle of March. With graduation for many outstate teams in or before June, it will be a burden for many students to get rides, forgo jobs, and be prepared for the fall in just a few weeks. Coaches and teachers will need some down time after a very trying year. I have the impression many spring sports will lose coaches as a result.
- I would much prefer to start the track & field season at its regular time in March!!
- As someone who coaches speech and track, it's hard to answer these without knowing if speech will move or not.
- In rural Minnesota most of our athletes are multi sport athletes, so an overlap would hurt our track numbers. I would rather go later in the summer if that gave all of our athletes a full season.
- I will give my resignation due to coaching in the summer.
- There are many of us who coach multiple sports and I happen to coach volleyball and track so that will be a challenge, but I will make it work!
- Speaking of conflicts with other programs ... consider the conflicts that full time employment will present.
- Why must the spring sports schedules be drastically changed? Is it possible to move those fall sports to the 4th season, since they are already being moved?
- FB and VB were given the "best" scenario with the 3rd season, with the spring sports getting bumped later. Having a 4th season presents challenges for coaches who are parents, makes it a challenge for athletes/families as well. Having a summer waiver period in June would likely

result in many athletes skipping spring sports to train for FB. Therefore, I'd prefer that summer waiver period begins July 1st.

- I, like many coaches, run other programs during the summer and can't be in two places at once- the earlier the ending the better. Also, I don't think we will be able to keep seniors interest beyond late June.
- Moving football and volleyball to spring and moving track to a "fourth season" the wrong approach. I can't believe North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Wisconsin have it all wrong (albeit Wisconsin is starting football a couple of weeks late).
- I Coach both football and track, so that will have some challenges, I believe we will lose many kids due to track going into the summer, why not have it in the fall and combine cross country and track....
- In my estimate I feel we will be lucky to get 1/3 of the participation. We already lost one season and by basically losing another it may be very hard to rebound. Any track coach knows the challenge of coaching a spring sport to begin with. Motivation of seniors and all athletes in general can be a challenge in a normal year. I can't imagine what it will look like when we are not even in school. The extreme hot weather also concerns me not only for practice but for meets. In general I am disappointed that we are being put in this seemingly no win situation.
- Participation numbers will plummet for track and field. Hard to believe MSHSL makes this move without conducting this survey first.
- It is difficult for me to understand why the sports that already gave up an entire season are the same sports that have been pushed aside again. How are athletes going to get to practice once school is done? Where will football find a field in March? How will golf get on a course in June/July? Can athletes compete in summer league sports at the same time as their MSHSL sport?
- Cancel football and volleyball
- It's frustrating that spring sports are being put on the back burner two years in a row. I am also concerned about losing track & field athletes to summer club sports (soccer, basketball) or just wanting to have a free summer.
- For this strange situation, we need to figure out to make this work for our teens. They seem to be the ones having to bend more than anyone. Adults seem to be making this more difficult for them. Let's be positive and do this for the teens!
- We live in a small rural community where it will have some big impacts on our season. First transportation or lack thereof will decrease the number of younger athletes that will be able to make it into town for practice when both parents are working. If we are able to start sooner there is a chance we can retain those kids through June. The 2nd issue we will run into is we live in a poor community and many of our student athletes that are old enough need to get Summer jobs to help support their families. I have some concerns that our track numbers, with all the hurdles we will have next Spring, will be cut in 1/2 and may take years to recover the numbers we had started to build.
- This might affect our assistant coach availability the most
- To clarify some answers: besides our fall and spring athletes going back to back seasons or overlapping, I also head coach track and volleyball so an overlap would cause significant problems for our school.
- To be blunt, this is complete hogwash! What happens if basketball/wrestling get moved too. Moving football was/is short sighted and driven by a bias. Spring sports already got their entire seasons cancelled last spring, now we are going to smush them into a condensed one month

season during the summer (when students have jobs), so that football (which i coach and also love) doesn't have to miss a season. Hogwash! Bull honkey!

- I coach volleyball as well, so having the seasons overlap would be an issue. Also, having springs sports go through June and July could pose issues with family vacations and students needing to work in the summer.
- With the "4th season" it is going to be very difficult for our younger athletes who do not drive. When the school year ends it will be very costly for our school to continue some type of busing for our kids to make it to practices and meets. I also foresee issues with students summer work schedules and overlapping of other summer sports activities.
- Moving the traditional spring sports presents the issue of students/coaches having summer jobs/vacations/farming/etc... I see a significant drop in my number of participants because of this move.
- Many small schools have coaches that are head coaches in both fall and spring (I am Head Football and Head Track, Head VB coach is also Head softball) Also the late start will impact our spring participation numbers
- Track athletes paid the price of losing an entire season last spring. I feel it's grossly unfair to ask them again to disrupt their second season just for football and volleyball.
- I feel strongly that there should be no summer waiver period during this 4th season. As a small school this could cause some kids to choose to go those summer practices rather and the in-season track practice.
- I think it will be very hard to keep numbers up for teams with moving our season to the summer, kids go to college or just don't come out since they are done with school and would rather just be done.
- This decision is disproportionately impacting multi-sport athletes and small schools who depend on them. This is gonna be tough, but we gotta be positive and do what's best for our kids. I'll coach late if need be, but it is a significant impact on my family and what I'm sacrificing to do so.
- I feel that spring sports already suffered this past spring. Spring sports should have the fourth season and football and volleyball should have the 4 th season
- I think the biggest issue for our team and other in the same demographics will be transportation. We as a district I"m sure will not provide bussing for athletes. This is truly unfair to district like ours and others in our situation. This will allow other districts to continue to grow their programs and will will most likely have a hard time consistently field a team even with the large number of total students we have in the building.
- I strongly feel the summer waiver period should not be allowed until the 4th season is completed. It's only fair to not interfere with the traditional spring sports seasons, just because they are last on the calendar. All sports are sacrificing with the changes. Traditional spring sports already lost out on a complete season last spring and if you allow summer waiver period during the season it will hurt my teams numbers with kids wanting to work on other sports. It's already going to difficult to get kids to join with losing part of their summer vacation and them wanting to get jobs or having to work on the family farm. The summer waiver period next summer should also have to sacrifice some time. Especially because its an off season workout time and not an in season time.
- They should have had spring sports practice first this fall followed by football and volleyball due weather issues.
- Masks should be required on the field unless competing. Ex. Officials, coaches, sideline judges, staging areas

- We lost our 2020 season. With this, it seems like football and volleyball have been moved and this will effect students coming out for track. I expect that a third to half of our track athletes will not participate in a season that makes them sacrifice summer jobs and a summer in general.
- Moving Spring sports to a 4th season will make athletes choose between Summer Club sports and traditional Spring sports. At a time when we as a society are trying to shed light on privilege and eradicate inequity, I am appalled to see the favoritism that influenced this decision.
- Please don't eliminate relays. Provide teams with latex gloves and temporarily allow the use of them for baron exchange. Relays are the most popular and a terrific way of getting more in a meet.
- Track and field lost their whole season last spring. Since Covid is an issue yet and you say football and volleyball aren't safe to have, then so be it. They lose a season just like track did. Now track is getting hit yet again. Why can't football and volleyball be the fourth season? And why is it that football and volleyball can still practice this fall? Makes no sense.
- We have some kids doing basic training and won't compete.
- As I personally work construction in the summer, moving the season to a later date will affect my family income negatively.
- I am sure we will lose some kids this year for T & F. The end of the school year, and FB and VB at the end of the year, will cause some kids to just not go out this year.
- I'm disappointed that MSHSL moved so many sports just to benefit football and VB. 200-300 kids at a minimum are affected outside of the track teams by this move.
- I think the shortened season will affect the athletes' ability to train and perform to their full extent. This will especially affect seniors and those seeking college scholarships.
- Let's give all of the kids a chance to compete in any sport(s) they want.
- I really hope this doesn't hamper kids coming out for track or other spring sports. Hopefully kids will stick with the sport, even though they will be out of school already for a good share of the season. That's our biggest concern.
- Why couldn't FB and VB have an 8 week season from mid sept-mid Nov? Why mess up everything by throwing them into the spring. Spring sports lost last spring, and now they lose their season again and get bumped into summer? I don't think this is good for spring sports and these programs.
- This was a horrible decision. There will be no sports occurring from the middle of October to December. How come that wasn't used as a season? Shorten basketball? In northern MN no football team will have a field in March and April. Move their season to November. Keep track the same. If we go well in to June I will not be able to coach. Already have plans with my family. I need a break between spring and fall sports. The recommendation only gives about two weeks of a break.
- Traditional spring sports are getting unfairly short changed in this scenario. Fall sports will have had 2 full seasons before track and field will have one.
- I believe it was a rather arrogant to plan a 4th season without getting input from spring coaches about extending until mid-July. That is a rather significant adjustment for many coaches- particularly those who will only have a 4 week break before the start of Fall sports and teaching duties in the fall 2021 season. We all get it- football money is driving the decision, even if it drives spring coaches out of their job
- I worry that moving to a summer season will hurt our participation numbers: kids will want summer jobs and younger kids may struggle to get to practice (we're rural community where students come from about a 30 mile radius).
- Just worried about heat the later the season goes.

- I'm thinking for smaller schools the overlap would be horrible / and running into mid-summer would cause less participation so lose-lose but There doesn't appear to be a win-win or we'd be doing that I'm sure! Just wish it didn't feel like spring sports are getting shafted twice...first we miss an entire season and now this - we'll make the the best of it and be grateful we can compete again. Best of luck in your planning & thanks for listening.
- I feel as though spring sports took a very big hit last year. Because of that, they should be given high priority this year. I am concerned that this will affect team numbers. Serious athletes will still want to complete, but operating in the summer will DEFINITELY affect our overall numbers. Many students will choose to work instead, I'm afraid.
- The biggest concern I see is that the later the season would start, the less likely athletes will want to come out for a spring sport, especially seniors, which will greatly affect many teams. Also, for those that are in a fall sport and use the summer waiver time to be getting ready, the later the season starts the more that training will be affected as well, especially for Cross Country Runners.
- I believe we should be able to practice with athletes who are not in FB and VB much earlier, perhaps the middle of April or earlier., Also, this whole thing is a shot in the dark
- Fine and dandy. How are you going to control summer club. We already have to deal with it all spring on weekends.
- I think that Track has been cheated due to our not having a season last spring to now coaching in through the summer. I think that it stinks.
- My biggest issue is with the summer waiver period. I think a majority of my team will choose to train for a different sport rather than join track if they allow the summer coaching waiver. We already had our 2020 season cancelled and have to move our 2021 season to the summer so I think it's fair that we have no summer coaching waiver for 2021.
- I think the High School League should consider permanently moving to a 4 sport season. I think it lines up better with Minnesota climate and provides more affordable opportunities to participate in multiple sports.
- First, I understand that this is an extremely difficult challenge for the MSHSL. I believe that they are attempting to create opportunities for all of our student athletes to have a season. However, the idea of a "fourth season" That will be completed in the middle of July or later is problematic, especially for track and field. In my nearly 20 years of Coaching, I have seen her sport phase increasing challenges. As sport specialization and club sports have increased exponentially, it has become more and more difficult To convince student athletes to participate in track and field. On top of that, new spring sports for boys like lacrosse and volleyball are also siphoning potential athletes away. If our season does not start until the middle of May, I am concerned about the numbers of kids who will be unable or unwilling to participate in a sport. In addition to the usual competition with AAU basketball, Club soccer, and other off-season athletics, we will also be competing with summer jobs and travel. At the same time, starting our season at the beginning of May will also be a challenge. Our head football coach is our top assistant in track and field, and meanwhile our head girls coach and one of our throes coaches are also on staff for football. We work very closely with them to recruit football players to participate in track and field, And they are a significant part of our team. I am concerned that if we start practices without them, They may decide to opt out entirely. Ultimately, no matter what we do, this is going to be a very challenging season in 2021. Another thing that we have to consider is that the winter season may also be canceled or delayed. At present, we are moving forward as if the winter season is a given, and I doubt that it will happen at all. In other words, we may be facing an even more challenging situation if the winter season is delayed as well. So at this point, while

I am very concerned for the challenges that the pandemic and the MSHSL will create for track and field in 2021, I am just trying to stay positive and hopeful that we will get to have a season. We may lose athletes who choose to prioritize other things over track and field, but there are no perfect solutions.

- Once again, spring sports takes it in the shorts! Tired of getting dumped on.
- If they were going to move fall sports, they should have moved ALL fall sports and put spring sports during the fall. May kids are playing in baseball and softball leagues already, they could then continue that during this time. Track is outdoor; if CC can go, they track could have performed.
- None of the questions above indicate concern about a student's availability after early June. They already lost 2020 T&F, so let's not go through this again.
- The state said there will be spring sports practicing in the fall along with moved fall sports. How is this going to work?
- Athletes should not be wearing a mask while competing in track & field. The risk for heat exhaustion while wearing a mask in the middle of summer is too great!!!
- Why do spring sports have to make the huge sacrifice. We already lost an entire season - no one else did. How fair is that! I will have many kids just not come out.
- The decision making right now is problematic. We are in a pandemic. Cancel all fall sports. Make a decision on the winter season when we have more information prior to the season. Same with the spring season. To try to predict the future and restructure schedules is a fool's errand. I don't understand why spring sports would be impacted twice without more information.
- Considering so many of us as educators have additional obligations in the summer, it will be EXTREMELY difficult to coach into July.
- Keep in mind that Track and Field has already taken its share of the CoVid hit. lets hope we don't have to take another for the sake of a sport that has not.
- The spread of COVID 19 and its relative data (number of cases, rates of infection, hospitalization, etc) should determine any timeline for the safety of all coaches and athletes. I am uncomfortable now having to coach cross country this fall at the MS and HS level when all colleges and universities in the area have postponed and/or cancelled all of their fall sports including cross country. How are we different or better off or less at risk??
- I'm curious what covid-19 protocols will be put in place to protect the students and their family members.
- Having a summer waiver period will kill track. Football, soccer, XC, vball, etc will all have practices and keep track athletes from practicing. Moving the sport to the summer will also kill track. Students that graduate, go on vacations, are on club teams, or work will not be able to compete or practice.
- It's unfortunate fall sports get a priority. Spring sports were already lost last year and even fall sports were affected.
- As a Head Football Coach, I am very much against any overlap from FB/VB and traditional Spring Sports. We want our kids to be able to participate in as many MSHSL activities as possible. I know the push back of Spring Sports into the summer will create issues for both athletes and coaches but if it means we get to compete, I think all involved will be able to make it work.
- I doubt that we will get many kids to join our team. Other than the ones who feel it is their favorite sport, why would a middle of the road kid give up time in the summer to work or do other things?
- One big question we have is about the equity of allowing football and volleyball to effectively have 2 seasons (fall practices in addition to spring), where other sports (e.g. CC and T&F) are

getting the "short end of the stick" in a lot of ways. Aside from the revenue generated by FB and VB, why do they get to be "special"??

- I am very frustrated to have our spring sports moved to a 4th season. This will impact me personally in my starting my summer employment. I am very unhappy that they put spring sports in the 4th season.
- Summer jobs, family vacations and heat indexes would cause many hardships for athletes and team to consistently conduct practices and field team for meets. I would rather see spring sports stay the present time frame. I would rather lose a few athletes to other sports or have athletes double sport than fight summer activities.
- Summer weather will impact all athletes tremendously in a negative way.
- I don't like the overlap but I also do not like going into July - this option was not given above. I feel like once school is over we will lose our seniors and possibly many other members due to jobs.
- This will be very hard on the spring sports especially for the smaller schools. I do not think a lot of the athletes will be willing to extend their season into the summer. I think participation will be minimal.
- The decision to finish the track season in July is going to hamper the distance athletes. They already lost one track season. Now you are asking them (and the coaches) to train for track through most of the summer. Take maybe a week and switch over to CC. Track training and Cross training are different. So do they sacrifice another spring to be ready for Fall or do they go all in on a "spring" track season and sacrifice some potential in CC. This decision just punishes the spring sports again. How many coaches are going to be willing to coach most of the summer, get a week, and then here we go again.
- These most recent changes are unfair to both coaches and athletes involved in spring sports; the current setup appears to be driven primarily by the MSHSL's desire to preserve its finances and less by concerns over the health and safety of athletes, coaches, etc.
- I believe that this will create issues with Seniors and, if everything returns to some kind of normal, their end of the year activities such as Prom, Senior Skip Day, Graduation, plus for other athletes, jobs, family trips, etc. I am sure that if things do return to some kind of normal, after school ends, families and others will also want to return to their somewhat normal activities. Our belief is that family comes first and if they need to go, they go. Last year the Spring sports took the hit. Truly, I firmly believe that other sports should also have to make the same sacrifice. The Spring sports get hit twice.
- I'm concerned about the students not coming out for the 4th season due to summer jobs, vacations, and the seniors being done with school.
- I am not in agreement with a 4th season, it's unfortunate that football and volleyball cannot do their seasons. Spring sports should not have been changed to accommodate them.
- I feel this decision was very unfair to the Spring sports. It gives the athletes in volleyball and football more weight than track and field, lacrosse and baseball. A lot of athletes track athletes overlap with Football so this really affects our team. Also- our school has students drive in from all over the metro and they may not have access to drive into school for summer track and other students need jobs in the summer.
- While the changes do give everyone an equal opportunity to participate in the sport of their choice, traditional spring sports will take a significant hit because a good number of athletes in spring sports will not wish to compete into July on to have to turn around and go immediately into preparation for a fall sport. This puts a tremendous stress on athletes to go year round with little to no break.

- Our team would lose a significant number of athletes if the season overlaps. Our team will still lose a significant number of athletes if the season runs into the summer.
- Football had their season this past school year. Track did not. Now Track is not even taking the backseat, they are put in the trunk! Sports should have been left alone and where they normally were scheduled. We will lose a LOT of kids to summer jobs and seniors to jobs and getting ready for college. Many will not have the time for a summer sport once they graduate. This is a terrible thing that the MSHSL has done.
- I would like to see no out of MSHSL activity allowed during the fourth season (AAU< JO< CLUB) as we had to give up our spring season last year and now getting pushed into the summer next season.
- I'm concerned that athletes will not come out because of summer jobs, not wanting to tie up their summer with a sport, and I'm afraid we will lose coaches that don't want to give up their summers and also daycare concerns are going to be an issue for myself and my staff
- The fact that fall seasons push back the spring seasons is ridiculous. Spring sports gave up their season last year and now get bullied out of their regular season. Everyone knows that the season in the summer will have reduced numbers. There better be a hold put on volleyball and football camps during the late season especially if the spring sports get bullied out of their season.
- I think participation will drop drastically, especially in track and field.
- Why are we forced to accept that football and vb have to move into our season and we go into the summer Our kids will have lots of problems getting ther Seniors will not be there this will harm spring sports as we know it This is not fair to spring sports vovolley ball
- Numbers will be reduced drastically because of the late start of track
- In small towns like ours most athletes are 2-3 sport athletes. Most of our coaches coach 2-3 sports. This fall has crushed many hearts. We almost lost our two best athletes moving to South Dakota! I'm very scared for our programs!!!!
- Pushing out the traditional spring season into the summer will make it harder for other school programs that run during the summer, too, such as Community Education camps and programs. I'm thinking in terms of facilities and space because many districts face construction in the summer, which limits facilities use.
- I understand that it would be tough for football and volleyball to lose their seasons for many reasons financially and for the coaches athletes and fans. It WAS tough for track and field to lose our season in 2020. We should not have our season curtailed to fit football and volleyball.
- I coach multiple sports and overlapping of seasons and summer waiver periods would pose huge challenges. Many of our athletes are multi sport athletes and would likely opt for AAU (basketball, etc) rather than track. Our athletes do not have the means for transportation to and from school on a good day, let alone during a pandemic when they may not be in school if our season extends into the summer months. Track athletes and spring sports are really getting the short end of the stick.
- I would rather see us have the regular time slot, knowing full well that we will lose some athletes. If we move to any of the proposed "fourth season" options, I doubt if we will have enough athletes to field a team. School is out, and only a few would even come out for the sport. I am guessing many teams in our area would even field teams.
- Being that we have already lost a season we just really want to get back on the track. However, having spring sports during a "4th season" will definitely have its challenges and I fear we will lose athletes.

- I think you are going to find more problems than solutions by moving football and volleyball to the spring! We've already lost the 2020 track season and this presents more obstacles! To end a season on late July is not fair to the teachers because that will cut in to their vacation time! The decision to move football and volleyball was a mistake and I think it will bear fruit come spring.
- This may be addressed on further pages, but we are expecting a severe loss of numbers (30-40%, by estimation) in track participation, simply due to summer conflicts (work, vacations, other priorities). We are also expecting to have to replace at least 2/3 of our coaching staff, perhaps more.
- With the loss of the spring sports season last year, I don't understand how the fall sports are given the priority over spring sports this year. I would have liked to see spring sports stay their normal course and if something had to change, then fall sports should have been the one to take the hit. Now we are forced to make a decision to coach our teams in the summer or support our families/work our summer jobs/etc.
- My biggest fear is our seniors will be potentially practicing/competing for up to two months after they graduate.
- This has really hurt northern Minnesota Track and Field. Kids will not be out because of summer vacation and some kids have summer jobs. Plus the AAU's of basketball and JO's of volleyball we do not stand a chance to keep our Track and Field Athletes.
- Whatever sports will be pushed to the summer will be at a disadvantage because rides will be required to get there opposed to already being at school.
- I coach both football and track, so the spring is going to be very challenging going for me. I really dislike that we will be most likely coaching into July and then will likely be picking up with summer football right after that for the fall season...so no summer break really. I will absolutely be making it work to coach track because I love it, but it is going to pose plenty of challenges.
- I'm not at all for moving the spring sports back. This will create so many problems with coaches and athletes.
- In all honesty... although we want sports for the athletes.. it isn't safe. Realistically, I don't think we should have any season.
- We should be granted a winter coaching waiver so we can better support the athletes during this unusual time and delayed start to their spring season.
- We lost track last season, now with the 4th season, we are losing it again. I am not impressed with the MSHSL's decision and lack of input in making this decision.
- I personally run a business during the summer months that will make this a challenge for my family. It will also make it a challenge for those kids who need to work in the summer months. I think everyone needs to compromise some with this pandemic to give kids the ability to participate. As a coach, I am fine with football and volleyball players joining the team at a later date when their season is finished just so we can get started earlier with the track season.
- Fall. Sports belong in the fall. Track lost a season already and now will lose another. There will be few if any seniors, track athletes are multiple sport athletes and will have expectations put upon them by their other team sports, not to mention family vacations and summer jobs. This will result in very few athletes participating in track & field in the 4th season.
- Having a season into June will greatly affect our junior high numbers as many of these athletes do not have rides.
- Two biggest concerns. 1) Would like to allow kids not in football/volleyball to start conditioning right away. 2) The no contact should be extended until all spring sports are over.

- The seasons were changed but now athletes are signing up to play basketball and volleyball all fall. So we postpone seasons but big groups of players still getting together. And who can play football in March in northern Minnesota
- I'm concerned that we will lose many athletes, especially the seniors, if our season goes into the middle of July. I don't think it is right that our start and finished dates were changed due to other sports.
- Not a fan of the 4th season. Poor solution that doesn't make sense for track and field.
- The track teams have already lost one season. Football and volleyball did not lose a season in 2019. It would be the most fair to allow the track season to go on as normal with the adjustments each sport has made.
- Having the season extend into the summer months will be a challenge to retain any athletes that have a summer job.
- While we are an outdoor sport, I would still like the state league to be diligent in protocols involving athletes, coaches, or officials who may fall ill during the season.
- I think one part that will have an impact on the 4th season that wasn't discussed in this survey is the timing of graduation for each school and what is done during 4th of July that falls on a Sunday in 2021 and is normally a non-contact week for summer waiver periods, except for Baseball I believe.
- I am concerned that our participation numbers will be very low due to the summer conflicts of our student / athletes
- I hope that track can practice during Football and Volleyball if athletes do not play those sports
- It will be hard to get students out that have full time jobs and play other sports or go on vacations to dedicate themselves to our sport during the summer.
- I believe a 4th season will significantly impact the number of seniors that participate. I also STRONGLY feel there should not be any summer waiver period till the 4th season has been completed. Spring sports will be impacted two years in a row and I feel unfortunately if the waiver period is open in June some coaches will have the expectation that the athlete participate in their sport off season work while the spring sport season is still going on.
- Transportation will be the biggest challenge once school is out. We coop with another school which makes this even more difficult.
- We have a number of coaches who also coach football. In addition, likely 80-90% of our boys track team is also involved in football. Overlap would be extremely difficult. I have concerns from the girls side in that a season that extends that far past the end of the school year will likely turn off our seniors. The summer waiver period MUST be delayed to the end of Spring sports. We already have WAY too much, in my opinion, in appropriate pressure on athletes to focus on one sport. Some/most of that pressure comes from clubs/outside forces, but there is also considerable pressure felt by athletes if there is a camp in a sport they play and they don't attend. Track and Field will already likely take a large hit (numbers) from losing one season from losing a senior class and having a freshman class not even get a chance to start. Losing another (which is a strong possibility anyway) or having to compete with camps could be devastating. Even more devastating if it is caused by kids having to choose between track and a camp. Hard times for everyone, no doubt, but Spring sports have already lost a year. If we are fortunate enough to have a season this year, every effort should be made to not allow it to be minimized.
- Spring sports did not have a season in 2020. Affecting them by moving fall sports is highly unfair. As a 3 sports coach I feel not all the sports are treated with enough fairness.

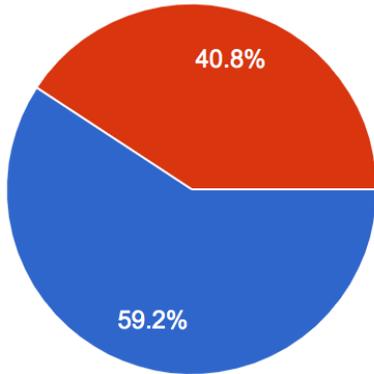
- Thanks for doing the best you can. Having overlap and an earlier 4th season end point will increase the number of seniors who come out for their spring sport. The further into the summer the season goes, the less seniors we will have as they prepare for college.
- T & F should have been moved to the Fall. No brainer. Small schools which easily number around 100 without x country will have zero sports to offer their athletes. We've run into heat issues with distance runners in May, Try late June/July.
- I think moving the season to when school is no longer in session will result in challenges in students attending practice and/or having other commitments (like a summer job) that will impact their ability to participate. It also results in a time where educators may get to be home with their children and will now have to pay daycare due to coaching and meets. Last thought, I'm concerned about Track and Field being greatly impacted by any overlap with other sports because it is often the "back seat" sport for other activities (like volleyball, football, etc).
- I felt that MSHSL did a very poor job of communicating this past spring, I hope that as we move forward in times of uncertainty that the league communicates and takes input from the Coaches Association before making sweeping reforms that could (and have) harmed student athletes.
- I would prefer the spring season be completed by July 2nd so families can celebrate summer and the 4th of July. Even though school athletics are important, the family time lost due to the extension of spring sports is also very important as well.
- The 2020 spring season was canceled. It is most important THOSE sports given full consideration and attention. Preserving the spring athletes' season should be top priority.
- I coach at a small rural school. I am the head volleyball and head track & field coach. If the seasons overlap, especially when we are still in school, I will have to choose between the two sports. This is an unfair choice to me and my athletes that I should not have to make.
- There will definitely be a loss of participation by kids and probably coaches wanting to take the season off.
- The decision to move fall sports to the spring is potentially devastating to my team. It is clear no one talked to schools in the northern part of the state about this. No matter when the start dates are or if there is overlap of seasons, I may not have a team this year because of this decision.
- Pushing the Track and Field season by moving it is disappointing. They already lost 2020 season, now have to make more changes and lose athletes and train/preform in the summer heat, is bad.
- Is there any chance that football would move to the 4th season and track stay the 3rd? Field conditions may be better for football during the 4th season.
- Athletes should not be encouraged to make decisions by having summer waiver interfere with spring sports
- Why not just run a traditional track season, and athletes that do other sports can start when they are done with the 3rd season.
- Try to eliminate sports conflicting with each other as much as possible.
- Allowing the summer waiver period to start prior to the end of the spring sport season would create a great disruption for spring sports. No other season would be forced to deal with this large of a disruption. It would also increase the potential for injury to our athletes.
- This presents challenges of students participating due to summer jobs and seniors being "done" after graduation.
- Starting early May and going into mid-July would be more favorable for a season.
- I coach football also.

- I cannot express my displeasure with the MSHSL for ruining another Spring sports season. It's obvious that money is their chief concern.
- Spring sports got cancelled in 2020, now spring sports are affected again...why not just cancel all fall sports like they did in the spring?
- Seems as though FB and VB were given GOLD status and the spring sports pushed to the side. Spring already missed a season in 2020. Now the MSHSL is planning to squeeze the 2021 season out as well.
- I am very sad that we have destroyed two seasons in a row for spring sports and other sports only are affected by one season. It's going to be so tough to get kids to participate in June and July when they work jobs!
- Spring sports are getting screwed 2 years in a row. With a lot of football coaches and athletes on track teams I'm not sure how we can start while the football season is still going. Also I would assume that numbers will drop for everyone and having other sports being able to do stuff via waiver will really hurt our sport.
- I think it is crazy to be starting some Fall sports right now
- 4 of the 6 coaches on my staff said they will most likely not be able to coach. There have been a number of athletes that have told me they will not be able to participate into late June or July.
- There is no easy answer and not right answer during this time, however spring sports are being put at the lowest priority in order to have football and volleyball. We have already lost one season. We deserve a full spring season at a reasonable time.
- I foresee participation challenges given a majority of the 4th season will be held outside of the 2020-2021 School Year.
- Volleyball should have stayed a fall sport. Gym space will be a problem in the spring for our school.
- It would have been nice to have the option to have a fall track season this year.
- The winter sport season is a very long one. Can't we shorten the winter sport. Start Volleyball and Football earlier and prevent the Track season from going on in the summer. Having the track season going into the summer is a huge problem with summer jobs and child care issues. I personally coach Track and Volleyball. This will be a very difficult year with this.
- I won't have a team. My kids will choose summer activities, such as summer leagues, over track. I may get a few kids that are event specific that will want to compete, but it won't be worth the \$150 per team entrance fee for the meets. These kids (and coaches) need a summer, too! I'm extremely disappointed with this decision!
- Winter sports should be reduced by 2 weeks just as the other sports have been, allowing the seasons 3 and 4 to start sooner. Track has already lost one season, and if we push the date too far into the summer, ie. after July 4, we will lose participants.
- It might be difficult to have the athletes come to practice if the school year has already ended.
- I believe the spring season should run as usual. Your team will be made up of athletes that do not play volleyball or football. This is a one-year thing.
- Realistically, I do not see football or volleyball happening.
- My biggest concern about the Spring sports going into the summer is would we lose kids to summer jobs and would seniors be interested in the Spring season if they are finished with school.
- During the school year we don't allow for coaching in off-season sports and we shouldn't during the summer until the "4th season" sports are finished. There will be plenty of conflicts already!

- Even if the summer coaching waiver period is extended until the completion of the 4th season, we'll still be dealing this club sports, summer jobs, and vacations, which seems inevitable with the extension to June/July

Section 2: MSHSL Classification

Question #1: 1. Considering the two options for dividing up the new classification, which scenario do you feel is best for Track & Field in Minnesota? (Note: all numbers below are based on 2018 enrollment numbers. Save the image to your computer to enlarge if need be)



- Option 1: Class AAA: 64 teams, Class AA: 96 Teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams (see graphic for details)
- Option 2: Class AAA: 96 teams, Class AA: 128 Teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams (see graphic for details)

Option 1:

Class AAA: Top 64 teams by enrollment, Class AA: Next 96 teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams.

- Top 64 - Class AAA
 - Enrollment Range 1234 - 3276, Schools over 2,800 are statistical outliers (3 Teams)
 - Largest class is reduced by 51% (131 teams in current largest class to 64 in new AAA)
 - Median school size = 1638, Mean school size = 1678
- Next 96 - Class AA
 - Enrollment Range 410 - 1228
 - 29 Teams will be transitioning to a larger class (current class A to new class AA)
 - Median school size = 658, Mean school size = 708
- Remainder - Class A (200 Teams)
 - Enrollment Range 0 - 409
 - Smallest class is reduced by 12% (228 teams in class A to 200 teams)
 - Largest team size is reduced 22% from 525 to 409
 - Median school size = 214, Mean school size = 213
- Strengths of Model
 - Significantly reduces the largest class.
 - Fewer teams transitioning from class A to class AA than other option
 - All classes should remain competitive.
 - Follows the model that was accepted for cross country
- Weakness of Model
 - Is not an equitable reduction of teams between classes, as the smallest class is not reduced in the number of teams comparable to the largest class.
 - More significant variation between the largest and smallest schools in class AA.
 - Not necessarily comparable to cross country as track & field has approximately 40 more teams.

Option 2:

Class AAA: Top 96 teams by enrollment, Class AA: Next 128 teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams.

- Top 96 - Class AAA
 - Enrollment Range 813 - 3276, Schools over 2,600 are statistical outliers (5 Teams)
 - Largest class is reduced by 27% (131 teams in largest class to 96 in new AAA)
 - Median school size = 1392, Mean school size = 1414
- Next 128 - Class AA
 - Enrollment Range 275 - 813
 - 93 Teams will be transitioning to a larger class (current class A to new class AA)
 - Median school size = 386, Mean school size = 431
- Remainder - Class A (134 Teams)
 - Enrollment Range 0 - 274
 - Smallest class is reduced by 41% (228 teams in class A to 134 teams)
 - Largest team size is reduced 47% from 525 to 274
 - Median school size = 172, Mean school size = 164
- Strengths of Model:
 - Significantly reduces the smallest class.
- Weakness of Model
 - Is not equitable between classes, as the largest class is not reduced in size comparable to the smallest class.
 - Significant number of teams transitioning to a larger class (Class A to AA)
 - Competitiveness in some events in the smallest class especially in technician events.

Responses:

- Option 1: Class AAA: 64 teams, Class AA: 96 Teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams (see graphic for details) 340 (59.2%)
- Option 2: Class AAA: 96 teams, Class AA: 128 Teams, Class A: The remaining balance of teams (see graphic for details) 234 (40.8%)

Conclusions:

Questions #2: Additional Comments/Concerns regarding classification.

Section 3: Coaches Education

Questions #1: The Minnesota T&F Coaches Association has sponsored the Women4Women coaching initiative for the past three years. Would you like to know more information about this? If so, please enter your preferred contact information in the text box below and somebody in the association will contact you.

- 79 Responses showed interest in participating (see survey for contacts)

Questions #2: The Minnesota T&F Coaches Association has sponsored the coaches mentorship program for the past two years. Would you like more information about this or would you like to volunteer to be a mentor in the future? If so, please enter your preferred contact information in the text box below and if you are looking for a mentor or to lead as a mentor.

- 42 Responses showed interest in participating (see survey for contacts)

Question #3: The Minnesota T&F Coaches Association, in an effort to promote inclusion in our sport, is launching an Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Coalition. Would you like to be contacted in being a part of this initial start up group? If so, please enter your preferred contact information in the text box below and somebody in the association will be in contact with you.

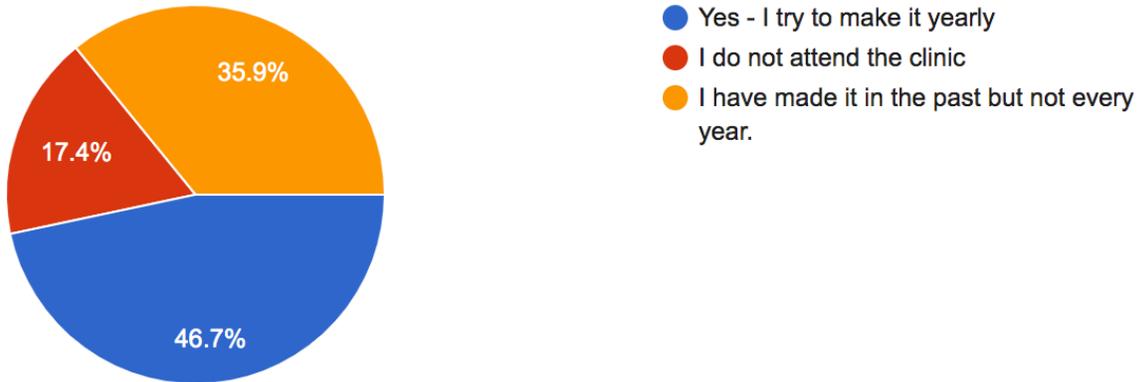
- 51 Responses showed interest in participating (see survey for contacts)

Question #4: Would you like to get involved with the Minnesota Track & Field Association True Team Committee? If so, please enter your preferred contact information in the text box below and somebody in the association will be in contact with you

- 33 Responses showed interest in participating (see survey for contacts)

Questions #5:

Do you attend the Minnesota Track and Field Coaches Association clinic?

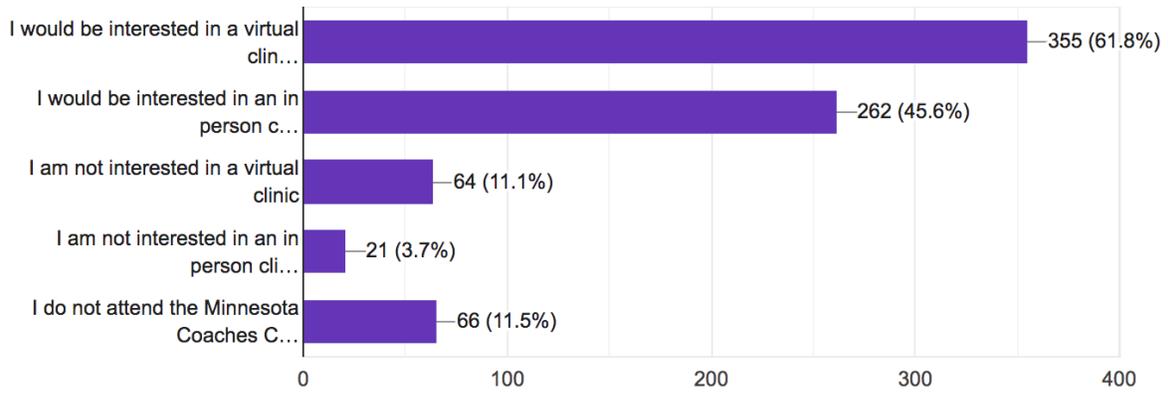


Responses:

- Yes - I try to make it yearly 268 (46.7%)
- I have made it in the past but not every year. 206 (35.9%)
- I do not attend the clinic 100 (17.4%)

Question #6: What changes would you like to see at the clinic that would make it better and increase the number of attendees? What kinds of speakers do you most like to hear from?

Question #7: If the 2021 Association clinic were to transition to a virtual clinic or hybrid between virtual and in-person due to CoVid-19, would you be interested in still "attending" sessions. (Select all that apply)



Responses:

- I would be interested in a virtual clinic 355(61.8%)
- I would be interested in an in person clinic based on the safety of attending according to the Minnesota Dept. of Health guidelines 262 (45.6%)
- I do not attend the Minnesota Coaches Clinic regularly 66 (11.5%)
- I am not interested in a virtual clinic 64 (11.1%)
- I am not interested in an in person clinic this upcoming season. 21 (3.7%)

Conclusions:

Section 4: Other Comments/Concerns

Question #1: Are there any other comments or concerns you would like to communicate to the Minnesota Track & Field Coaches Association? Thank you for taking this survey. We will post results on the T&F association webpage by the end of August.