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Executive Summary

Guided by the principles of safety and sustainability, several Horizon League groups collaborated in developing the League’s winter sports operating protocols, which informed the spring sports operating protocols (League regular season and championships for women’s soccer, men’s soccer, volleyball, tennis, softball and baseball and League championships for indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, cross country, golf, and swimming & diving). The Council has led the development of this approach which focuses first on safety measures and second, on the actual competition approach that must align with those safety measures.

Recognizing that several factors are outside the control of athletics departments yet can have a major impact on competitive decisions, the first section of this document identifies those factors. League staff will update this section to ensure all institutions are aware of NCAA, CDC, state, county, city and campus regulations that could have an impact on competition. The NCAA and sport governing bodies (e.g. ITA) continue to provide guidance, which will be inserted in this document and regularly updated as additional requirements, guidance, learning and best practices are shared nationally.

A significant portion of the protocols is dedicated to safety protocols required of every member unless stated otherwise. The protocols are League regulation in an effort to provide consistency across the League. The safety protocols include the following categories:

- Travel
- Screening/Testing
- Reporting
- Media
- Television/Streaming
- Attendance/Fans
- Officiating

The operating protocols are aligned with all noted safety measures and League schedules align with the League testing and safety protocols. The operating protocols require added costs, primarily for testing, when applicable, along with estimated savings due to NCAA recruiting restrictions and adjustments to the League schedule.

Similar to the winter, periodic updates will be sent to membership with the most recent operating protocols version and posted on the protocol landing page (https://bit.ly/3piQDfT).
1. **Updates from Prior Publication**
   a. Page 14  Expanded who falls under the CDC guidance of how to treat fully vaccinated individuals that are a close contact.
   b. Pgs. 45-46 Council approved bracket modification process and timing.

2. **Key Contacts**
   a. Please reference the below League office contacts for questions related to specific sections of the operating protocols:
      i. Governance/Submission of Documents: Kyle Fairchild, kfairchild@horizonleague.org
      ii. Screening/Testing: Rachel White, rwhite@horizonleague.org
      iii. Competition Spacing & Non-League Games: Kelley Ford, kford@horizonleague.org
      iv. Scheduling Framework: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      v. Physical Distancing/Mask/Cloth Covering: Cam Fuller, cfuller@horizonleague.org
      vi. Facilities/Operations: Dan Gliot, dgliot@horizonleague.org
      vii. Television/Streaming: Rachel White, rwhite@horizonleague.org
      viii. Attendance/Fans: Dan Gliot, dgliot@horizonleague.org
      ix. Media: Dan Gliot, dgliot@horizonleague.org
      x. Officiating: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      xi. Travel Requirements: Matt Waweru, mwaweru@horizonleague.org
      xii. Contingencies and Scenarios: Kelley Ford, kford@horizonleague.org
   b. Please reference the below League office contacts for questions related to specific sports:
      i. Cross Country: Kyle Fairchild, kfairchild@horizonleague.org
      ii. Women’s Soccer: Dan Gliot, dgliot@horizonleague.org
      iii. Men’s Soccer: Kelley Ford, kford@horizonleague.org
      iv. Volleyball: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      v. Swimming & Diving: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      vi. Indoor Track & Field: Kyle Fairchild, kfairchild@horizonleague.org
      vii. Tennis: Kyle Fairchild, kfairchild@horizonleague.org
      viii. Golf: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      ix. Outdoor Track & Field: Kyle Fairchild, kfairchild@horizonleague.org
      x. Softball: Chris Neuman, cneuman@horizonleague.org
      xi. Baseball: Cam Fuller, cfuller@horizonleague.org

3. **Principles**
   a. **Safety:** The safety of student-athletes, coaches and staff is paramount as we work to reengage in athletics activities.
   b. **Sustainability:** Structure regular season and championship experiences to provide member savings and prioritize League regular season and championship opportunities, subject to changing conditions.¹

4. **Background**
   a. **Background**

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¹Examples of changing conditions include, but are not limited to, COVID-19 surge, re-opening and closing of campus, remote learning, suspension of athletics, NCAA postseason decisions.
i. The spring sport protocols are built off the framework of the winter sports protocols, which were approved by the Horizon League Board of Directors.

b. **Protocol Updates**
   i. It is expected that new information, resources or guidance will become available and evolve throughout the season; therefore, these protocols will be regularly reviewed and evaluated and if policy changes are necessary, the Horizon League Council will have the authority to ratify any recommendations from the relevant stakeholder groups, unless it is determined that Board engagement is necessary. The League staff will have authority to make editorial/clarifying edits directly to the protocols. Any updates will be highlighted in the document.
   ii. The most recent version of the protocols can be found at the following link: https://bit.ly/3czG2cj

c. **Governance**
   i. Each school will insert a key contact including email and cell phone number for each institutionally sponsored sport HERE. As a starting point, League staff inserted each school’s sport administrator.
   ii. In advance of each spring League play week or championship for all sports, each school will sign off using an attestation form attesting that the school has followed all of the League protocols (i.e. testing, screening, attendance) for the specific sport or championship. The sport administrator or key contact (or designee) will place a check mark in the appropriate cell in advance of the play week using an institutional spreadsheet, and save the form in a shared folder which will be viewable by all League members. Click HERE to view the folder and complete attestation forms.
   iii. If a member institution is falling significantly short of the protocols, the respective chancellor/president and athletic director will collaborate with the League office to implement a written improvement plan to bring the institution into compliance. If non-compliance persists, a report will be provided to the Board Executive Committee for further action.
   iv. If a League contest is canceled due to weather or COVID-19, healthy teams will be allowed to reschedule League or non-League opponents (if permitted, based on the Council’s approved competition framework in section G). Contests must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the originally-scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit. Communication of the cancelled or rescheduled games will be among the participating teams.
      1. Home and visiting teams will coordinate on an external release.
      2. Home team will also notify the official’s coordinator (or officials if there is no coordinator) and League staff liaison (see key contacts).
   v. It is expected that League members will work together to resolve any issues regarding the information outlined in the protocols. If a resolution cannot be reached between the involved institutions, the Commissioner will render a final decision.

d. **NCAA/Sport Body Guidance**
   i. The NCAA has published several documents, and in December, Resocialization of Collegiate Sport: Developing Standards for Practice and Competition, Second Edition (Updated) was released. In January, the NCAA
also released NCAA Return to Championships Guidelines, with some of the guidance applicable for regular season competition, and are located here.

ii. In addition, sport bodies have published guidance including the ITA College Tennis Dual Match Safe Play Guidelines.

e. State/City Restrictions (Travel, Mandatory Quarantine, etc.)

i. Horizon League and the NCAA are sharing safety protocols/guidelines/best practices, with the understanding that state and local governmental public health guidance and/or directives must be followed and supersede League and NCAA guidance.

ii. Each state may have slightly different requirements; however, this overview is intended to provide a basic framework for anticipated requirements. For full details on 1) the definition of close contact, 2) how to manage a close contact with a positive case, 3) how to manage a positive test, 4) state travel restrictions, 5) state stay-at-home orders, and 6) other state restrictions/guidelines, please see the chart (in Tab 1) linked here. For details on state requirements currently affecting competition or visiting teams, please see the chart (in Tab 2) linked here.

iii. Overview of State/City Guidance for Close Contact, Close Contact with a Positive Case and Managing a Positive Case Key Takeaways

1. **CDC Definition of Close Contact:** The CDC updated its close contact definition on 10/22/20 to someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

2. **State Definitions of Close Contact** States generally agree that "close contact" includes being within six (6) feet of someone for approximately 15 minutes or was diagnosed with COVID-19 AND direct contact with infectious secretions from someone with COVID-19. Some states have not yet adopted the revised CDC definition. Thus, essentially, Tier I personnel at an institution (as later defined) will be in close contact with one another.

3. **Close Contact with a Positive Case:** States generally agree that a close contact with a positive case should quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the positive case, regardless of if that person receives a negative test. Thus, essentially, if someone classified as Tier I tests positive, all Tier I associated individuals must quarantine for the time period defined by their local health department (i.e. 14 days, 10 days, or 7 days), except for those, per CDC guidance, who’ve tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and do not have symptoms. (See Quarantine/Contact Tracing/Return to Play section for contact tracing considerations).

4. **Managing a Positive Case:** States generally agree a positive case should isolate for approximately 10 days since symptoms first appeared (10 days from specimen collection for asymptomatic cases), AND case is fever-free for approximately 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND symptoms have improved.

iv. **Travel Restrictions Key Takeaways**
1. In four (4) states within the League footprint, there are no statewide travel restrictions. However, best practice is to quarantine for 14-days after interstate travel.

2. In three (3) states and one (1) city (Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio; and Chicago) within the League footprint, there are travel restrictions. The travel restrictions Ohio includes a recommended, but not required, 14-day quarantine for those entering the states from an area with high rates of COVID-19 cases. For example, in Ohio and quarantine is recommended if you enter from a state with a positivity rate of 15% or higher. As of December 14, Kentucky revised its travel guidance to discourage all out-of-state leisure travel until further notice. If persons do engage in out-of-state leisure travel, they are urged to voluntarily self-quarantine for 14 days when they return to Kentucky. Pennsylvania’s travel restrictions require any individual entering Pennsylvania from another state (including Pennsylvania residents) to have a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to entering the state. Chicago divided each state into two (2) categories: Orange and Yellow. Those entering Chicago from an Orange state must either quarantine for 10-days or receive a pre-arrival negative test result (less than 72 hours prior to arrival). There are no travel restrictions for Yellow states. Currently, travel for intercollegiate competition does meet Chicago’s travel exemptions.

v. Stay-at-Home Orders
   a. In six (6) states within the League footprint, there are no statewide stay-at-home orders.
   b. In one (1) state (Wisconsin) within the League footprint, there are stay-at-home advisories. A November 10 Executive Order advised all individuals in Wisconsin to stay home as much as possible and only make trips when necessary.

vi. Other State Restrictions/Guidelines
   a. Indiana implements restrictions based on a county-by-county assessment, where all counties are divided into four (4) categories: Blue, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Marion County (Indianapolis) and Allen County (Fort Wayne) are currently labeled Yellow, which limits all gatherings to 100 people (50% attendance limit). IUPUI is currently going through an approval process to raise this 50-person limit. PFW has been approved to host gatherings with up to 100 people.
   b. Pennsylvania recommends institutions of higher education test students at the beginning of each term and after an extended break.

   e. Campus/Community Restrictions (as of 2/12/20)
      i. Cleveland State: Complete pre-visit health assessment, masks required at all times with exception of student-athletes in active competition.
      ii. Detroit Mercy: For contact sports (basketball and soccer) or activities where face masks cannot be worn, the following testing regimen is required for participants aged 13 years and up: 1) Unmasked activities in practice or competition can be performed only with a negative antigen test within the preceding 24 hours or negative RT-PCR test within the preceding 72 hours of the unmasked practice or play. 2) Athletes who test positive with an antigen test should isolate immediately and obtain a RT-PCR test within 48 hours.
Unless the athlete tests negative on that RT-PCR test, they must isolate and may not return to team play or practices for the duration of their infectious period as determined by current CDC guidance.

For soccer, if teams follow the above guidelines prior to travel, they will be permitted to compete and unmask. Detroit Mercy will move back to HL testing requirements and mask for practices, but test everyone prior to competition to unmask.

iii. **Green Bay**: State mask mandate when indoors.

iv. **Oakland**: For contact sports (soccer and basketball) or activities where face masks cannot be worn, the following testing regimen is required for participants aged 13 years and up: 1) Unmasked activities in practice or competition can be performed only with a negative antigen test within the preceding 24 hours or negative RT-PCR test within the preceding 72 hours of the unmasked practice or play. 2) Athletes who test positive with an antigen test should isolate immediately and obtain a RT-PCR test within 48 hours. Unless the athlete tests negative on that RT-PCR test, they must isolate and may not return to team play or practices for the duration of their infectious period as determined by current CDC guidance.

The MDHHS also notes that if college and pro teams have higher testing thresholds, then those teams must meet those thresholds.

For soccer, Oakland is unaware if each team is testing each SA once per week within the timeframes noted (either 72 hours for PCR or 24 hours for antigen). If not, the teams must test in this manner, but the testing 6x per week is no longer required.

v. **Purdue Fort Wayne**: Mask when indoors until further notice or updates from state.

vi. **Robert Morris**: Upon arrival, a designated Robert Morris trained staff member will perform a temperature screening using a TemporalScanner. If temperature reading exceeds departmental standard (99.6 degrees or higher), the sport specific athletic trainer on site will be notified. If step two and/or three of the temperature screening is administered, the League specified threshold of 100.4 or greater will be utilized.

vii. **UIC**: Visiting teams will be expected to follow institutional guidelines including symptom screening.

viii. **Youngstown State**: All visiting teams will be expected to follow campus protocols (health assessments, temperature checks, masking) and all visiting teams must follow NCAA Resocialization guidelines for testing.

f. **League Engagement.** Several League groups contributed to the winter sport operating protocols which provided the structure for the spring sport operating protocols:

i. Horizon League Board of Directors

ii. Horizon League Council – comprised of 12 athletics directors, one (1) student-athlete, one (1) faculty athletics representative and one (1) senior woman administrator
iii. Return to Safe Play Group – comprised of 22 individuals from all 12 campuses, including physicians and medical professionals.

iv. Senior Women Administrators

v. Faculty Athletics Representatives

vi. Competition Cabinet

vii. Facility Coordinators

viii. Streaming Coordinators

ix. Marketing and Ticketing Coordinators

5. Safety Protocols
   a. Screening/Testing
      i. Defining Groups: Tier I, Tier II, Tier III. The NCAA’s recommendation is to classify individuals participating or playing a key supportive role for competition as Tier I, Tier II, or Tier III individuals. The classification of an individual correlates to the recommended testing and screening applied to that individual. League institutions must adhere to this classification system per the following:

      1. Tier I includes student-athletes and essential team personnel whose job function requires direct access to players on a regular basis, specifically close contact (six feet or less) for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, as per CDC guidance. Examples of relevant individuals include student-athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and physical therapists, medical staff, equipment staff and game officials, which will be addressed in a later section.

          a. Institutions must include all individuals from the team’s travel party in Tier I. In addition, anyone that is in close contact to members of the team’s travel party, defined as six feet or less for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period as per CDC guidance, but does not travel with the team, must also be included in Tier I.

      2. Each institution will determine Tier II individuals which include other essential personnel who occasionally may need to be in close proximity to student-athletes and other Tier I individuals and who may need to access restricted areas periodically. Examples of relevant individuals include certain team staff (e.g., executives) and certain operational staff (e.g., table crew personnel, security, event staff and League staff). Screening requirements for this Tier are addressed in the following Screening section of the document.

      3. Each institution will determine Tier III individuals, which is the lowest exposure tier and includes individuals who provide event services but do not come into close contact with Tier I individuals (and should this occur, would be reclassified into Tier II). Examples of relevant individuals include certain operational staff (e.g., housekeeping, catering, sanitation and transportation) and media/broadcast. Screening requirements for this Tier are addressed in the following Screening section of the document.

      4. Each institution must keep a detailed list of personnel within each Tier, including a travel and rooming list should it be required for contact tracing.
Screening

1. **Institutional Screening.** Daily screening of student-athletes and athletic personnel consisting of a temperature check and symptoms survey is required across the Horizon League. Institutions are using a range of approaches for the administration of the screening including self-administration by the student-athlete, staff administration, or a combination of both.
   a. Institutional screening must take place prior to departing campus for a road competition.

2. **League-Level Screening.** The following is a League-wide standard for competition-day screening that would disqualify a Tier I individual from participation. The host team physician is responsible and accountable for the administration and oversight of the screening program/process. Any of the screening protocols, which includes temperature checks, can be administered by a trained staff member and does not need to be a team physician or athletic trainer. If an individual fails any part of the screening process, he/she must be referred to the team physician for final determination. It is expected that the host team physician will be available by phone at least 90 minutes prior to game time. The following summarizes the protocols for Tier I.
   b. **Timing of Screening.** The screening procedure must be administered on the day of the contest prior to entrance into the competition venue (e.g. when team departs hotel). Note that local/state regulations may require a secondary screening upon arrival.
   c. **Temperature Standard.** The CDC guideline of 100.4 degrees or higher must be used as the Horizon League threshold for disqualifying a student-athlete from competition.
   d. **Method of Temperature Standard Administration.** To ensure accuracy, a three-part protocol is designed to confirm a positive temperature screening as follows:
      i. **Part 1:** For the initial temperature screening, an institution may use its standard method of temperature screening (e.g., infrared scanner, kiosk, oral thermometer) while avoiding contact. This shall be conducted by a trained staff member. Next steps based on Part 1 readings: If reading is 100.4 degrees or greater, proceed to Part 2.
      ii. **Part 2:** The second temperature screening will occur at least 15 minutes after the screening described in Part 1 and be conducted by a trained staff member – if reading is 100.4 degrees or greater, proceed to Part 3.
      iii. **Part 3:** The third temperature screening must be conducted by a trained staff member via an oral thermometer – if reading is 100.4 degrees or greater, student-athlete is medically disqualified.
from that day’s competition and will be referred to the team physician for final determination.

b. **Screening Questions.** The screening questions must be completed upon arrival with confirmation provided to each school’s team physician to expedite arrival (note that local/state regulations may require a secondary screening upon arrival):
   i. Known contact with an individual who has tested positive or is in isolation/quarantine;
   ii. Testing for COVID-19 (due to symptoms or as a result of contact tracing) and awaiting results;
   iii. Having tested positive for COVID-19; or
   iv. Experiencing any of the following per CDC guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom(s)</th>
<th>Criteria for Game Day Disqualification from Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Fever or chills</td>
<td>A fever of 100.4 or higher would result in elimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cough</td>
<td>Experiencing only one of these would result in elimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New loss of taste or smell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fatigue</td>
<td>Experiencing at least three of these would result in elimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Muscle or body aches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Headache</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sore Throat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Congestion or runny nose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nausea or vomiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diarrhea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

v. Those that are flagged during the screening process must be immediately referred to the team physician (or host team physician as below) for evaluation and final determination.

3. **Visiting Team Administration.** It is expected that visiting teams will travel with an athletic trainer. Teams must be screened through a temperature check prior to departing campus (see section III.a.ii.1.a). If an athletic trainer does not travel, the visiting team must notify the host athletic trainer that the team will need support by the host athletic training staff, under supervision of the host team physician. As noted in the League-Level Screening section, any of the screening protocols, which includes temperature checks, can be administered by a trained staff member and does not need to be a team physician or athletic trainer. The visiting team must abide by the decision of the host
team physician who has the final decision making authority. It is acknowledged that under no circumstances should the final status of a student-athlete be determined by a coach or athletic trainer.

4. **Primary vs. Secondary Contact Decisions.** The team or host team physician (if the team physician is not available) must determine via contact tracing if other individual(s) are disqualified from competition following the elimination of a symptomatic member(s) of Tier I.

5. **Officials and Essential Personnel.** All game officials, which are considered Tier I, and Tier II individuals (other essential personnel, e.g. table crew) must also complete temperature screening and screening questions on the day of the contest prior to entrance into the competition venue. The host team physician is responsible and accountable for the administration and oversight of the screening program/process. Any of the screening protocols, which includes temperature checks, can be administered by a trained staff member and does not need to be a team physician or athletic trainer. If an individual fails any part of the screening process, he/she must be referred to the team physician for final determination. Game officials will also have a testing protocol addressed in the next section.

iii. **Safety Considerations**

1. In order to participate in the League season, all Horizon League institutions must follow the following regarding testing:
   a. Testing for all sports will begin one (1) week prior to the first regular season League contest.
   b. All teams must follow the regular season testing frequency for one (1) week following its final League contest (either regular season or League championship).
   c. Note that testing sequencing will be updated based on updated guidance from the NCAA.
   d. See the competition framework section for championship testing sequences.
   e. Below are the approved in-season testing sequences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Current Transmission Risk</th>
<th>In-Season League Testing Sequence</th>
<th>Other Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>League regular season scheduled. At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel</td>
<td>Volleyball will be universally masked. In baseball and softball, catchers, batters, base runners, and first base (when runner is present) will also be universally masked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Track and Field</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>No League regular season. Must follow NCAA guidance during regular season (25%-50% surveillance testing every one (1) to two (2) weeks on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>League regular season schedule. Must follow NCAA guidance during regular season (testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country, Golf, Outdoor Track &amp; Field, Swimming &amp; Diving</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>No League regular season. Must follow NCAA guidance during regular season (testing performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If away travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three (3) days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one (1) day before travel must be administered.

**If outdoor sport is moved indoors for games/practices, the school must evaluate size and ventilation of indoor space and determine if testing frequency should increase. For contests where this move occurs in advance, it is expected that the host school determines testing/masking implications and communicates to the opposing team.

2. If an individual has symptoms suggestive of or consistent with COVID-19, symptomatic testing performed via PCR is required.
3. For asymptomatic surveillance screening during countable athletically related activities, the preseason, regular season and postseason, testing should be considered via PCR or antigen testing.
   a. If an asymptomatic individual tests positive via antigen testing, the individual is presumed positive. A single PCR test may confirm or overrule a positive antigen test for an asymptomatic individual (e.g., if PCR is negative, individual is cleared to participate and close contacts no longer have to quarantine), unless deemed otherwise by local health officials.
   b. Individuals that test positive via PCR will be presumed positive and may not be re-tested for clearance purposes.
c. As new testing methodologies are approved by the FDA, those may be used for asymptomatic testing as well.

4. Tier I individuals must have clearance to participate in League games and related practices at the game facility.
   a. Clearance is satisfied by achieving a negative test result from the latest test administered for each individual. For example, for Saturday competition, and if a school tests the individual as part of surveillance testing on Friday, the Friday test must be negative (see below on how to treat inclusive test results) prior to entering the game facility for practice/games.
   b. Inconclusive test renders those specifically affected “not cleared” until a negative test result is achieved. An individual that receives an inconclusive test must be re-tested via antigen or PCR meaning that the re-test result replaces the inconclusive test result.
   c. An inconclusive or delayed test does not render the entire Tier I group “not cleared,” only the affected individual.

5. Return to Campus Protocol for Tier I Individuals:
   a. If student-athletes and other Tier I individuals leave campus for any non-athletically related reason, schools must provide written instructions as to how to continue strict health/infection control precautions while on break.
   b. When an individual that leaves campus returns, they must self-quarantine (until a negative test is received) and re-enter normal school testing protocols. It is recommended that the first test administered upon return be PCR.
   c. See note below for those that have previously tested positive below.

6. CDC guidance provides that individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 90 days (for example, even after a close contact exposure) as long as they do not develop symptoms again. Per CDC guidance, any individual who has been a close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated against the disease within the last three (3) months and show no symptoms. However, these individuals should continue to follow all risk mitigation strategies. If such individuals develop symptoms during this 90-day window, testing should be considered if an infectious disease or infection control expert cannot account for another explanation for the symptoms. After 90 days the individual will move back into the active testing protocol.
   a. Note that after 90 days, the individual that previously tested positive will re-join the Tier I testing protocol, regardless of where Tier I is within the testing regimen. The individual is cleared for that week’s competition so long as they test with the Tier I individuals after the 90-day period is completed.
b. Positive test after the 90 day exemption period:
   i. This test is treated as a positive and the individual is isolated.
   ii. All close contacts are immediately quarantined and conduct contact tracing will commence.
   iii. At the discretion of the school, the following policy can be utilized to confirm the first test.
      1. The positive individual will be tested a second time via PCR. If this second test is negative, the individual will be tested 24 hours a third time via PCR. If the third test is negative, the first test will be considered a false positive.

iv. Testing Options
   1. Current testing options researched by the League staff available to institutions can be found here.

b. Management of COVID-positive Individual or Symptomatic Individual
   i. Host schools should make a best effort to have diagnostic testing readily available for symptomatic or suspected cases of COVID-19 for the home and visiting team.
   ii. For cases on-campus, each school must identify short-term isolation and quarantine rooms that are ready to be used until arrangements can be made to transport the individual back to campus. Isolation rooms are for newly positive cases or evaluation of individuals with COVID-19 symptoms. Quarantine rooms are for close contact exposure individuals of newly infected or symptomatic individuals. For cases at the hotel, the individual should remain in their hotel room and follow hotel policies. Local health official reporting protocols should be followed.
   iii. If an individual from the visiting team tests positive for COVID-19, the team should transport the individual back to its campus as soon as possible in an N95 mask and a face shield while physical distancing from any other individuals in the mode of transportation.
   iv. The same protocols must be followed if an individual has been disqualified in the pre-competition screening.
   v. Once the individual arrives back to his/her own campus, the institution’s quarantine/isolation policy must be followed.

c. Quarantine / Contact Tracing / Return to Play
   i. When a Tier I individual tests positive, all Tier I individuals are immediately quarantined for the period defined by their local health department, except for those, per CDC guidance, who’ve tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and do not have symptoms, and contact tracing should proceed expeditiously to determine which individuals should remain in quarantine and if there are additional individuals who may have had a close contact exposure to an infected individual. Ultimately, the applicable public health officials have jurisdiction to make these determinations. At present, there are no considerations for testing out of quarantine.
1. Please see the officiating section for the process that schools must undertake regarding contact tracing an official.

ii. Per approval from the League’s Board Executive Committee, schools are allowed to use any of the three CDC-approved quarantine options (as of 12/8/20) contingent upon compliance with local health department regulation. The CDC-approved quarantine options are as follows:
   1. Option 1: Quarantine can end after a period of 14 days.
   2. Option 2: Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
   3. Option 3: Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen must be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

ii. If an individual is in quarantine they are removed from the League required surveillance testing protocol. If they were a close contact and did not test positive, they must re-enter the testing protocol once they are released from quarantine and they must receive clearance prior to competing.

iii. After a Tier I individual exits quarantine, they may return to League play after the institution’s team doctor has cleared him/her for play based on CDC, local, school and NCAA recommendations/protocols, including fitness.

iii. A Tier I individual that tested positive may return after a 10-day isolation period and the institution’s team doctor has cleared him/her for play based on CDC (e.g., Infected asymptomatic individuals and infected symptomatic individuals have different protocols), local, school and NCAA recommendations/protocols.

iv. All Tier II personnel who test positive must comply with isolation guidelines to be eligible for participation in any future League competition.

v. Close contact is defined as an individual that has had close contact with an infected person (six feet or less) for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated, per the CDC. Ultimately, the applicable public health officials have jurisdiction to make these determinations.

vi. The Council discussed the following best practices regarding contact tracing on 1/5/21:
   1. The athletic director should provide notice if his or team is undergoing contact tracing and provide the results to their next opponent.
   2. Contact tracing should have a second layer of review meaning one individual is not making a final decision.

vii. Schools must have trained on-site personnel in contact tracing through accepted courses such as the Coursera class. Each certified individual must work in conjunction with their local health department.

d. Reporting
   i. Positive test results of any individual who came into close contact with any member(s) of any opposing team(s) played during the preceding 72
hours shall be shared as quickly as possible (see below for contacts), along with the following details:

1. Number of tests that have occurred since the completion of the game.
2. Symptomatic and test positive or screening test positive.
3. When applicable, indicate in which group the individual is classified:
   a. Group 1: Primary Student-Athlete - Participated in more than 15:00 minutes of game play.
   b. Group 2: Secondary Student-Athlete- Participated in less than 15:00 minutes of game play.
   c. Group 3: Staff in bench area (coaches, athletic trainers, managers, strength coaches).
   d. Group 4: Administrators, game day or other staff.
4. The infected individual’s role (e.g., setter, goalie, coach, athletics trainer) and a summary of their interactions with the opposing team (e.g., played in the second half) shall be included in the information sharing. Unless authorized by the individual or otherwise required by law, the individual’s name may not be disclosed.
5. The head athletic trainer will inform the prior opponent’s head athletic trainer. The school will also notify the official's coordinator (or officials if there is no coordinator) and the Horizon League sport administrator (see key contacts). If the notification occurs via phone, an email confirmation will also be sent.
6. The next scheduled League opponent must also be notified of a positive test within the Tier I group.
7. Public reporting of positive cases will be at the discretion of each institution.

e. **Exercise in Quarantine**
   i. Consistent with the NCAA Resocialization Standards, Second Edition, student-athletes that are placed in quarantine after contact tracing reveals that the athlete meets the criteria for a close contact with someone who has COVID-19, athletic departments may consider the following with respect to individuals in quarantine:
      1. Individual exercise in quarantine may be appropriate where such exercise does not cause cardiopulmonary symptoms.
      2. Group exercise in quarantine is not recommended.
      3. Individuals monitor for symptom development during quarantine.
      4. If symptoms develop, with or without exercise, test must be administered.
      5. Under some circumstances, continued exercise during quarantine may allow the athlete to shorten or avoid a more significant transition period before returning to play after quarantine.
   ii. Institutions will adhere to isolation and return-to-sport guidance provided in the NCAA Resocialization Standards, Second Edition for individuals who test positive, including the provisions related to pre-participation cardiac screening, testing and exercise, which is available on the AMSSM website.
f. Physical Distancing/Mask/Cloth Covering
   i. As noted in the NCAA Core Principles of Resocialization, physical distancing and masks/cloth face coverings are an integral part of safety in athletics, and must be practiced whenever feasible, including strength training and conditioning.
   
   ii. The second version of the NCAA Developing Standards document notes that practice of universal masking could reduce the spread of the virus but would mean that all individuals engaged in athletics activities (student-athletes and athletics personnel) would wear a mask/cloth face covering during all phases of activity that involve proximity to other individuals. This practice could present a physical challenge to the student-athlete during activities when there is contact to the head or face, strenuous exercise is involved or the mask is likely to get wet. Where a mask/cloth face covering cannot be safely tolerated, schools should consider implementing physical distancing protocols that encourage at least 6 feet between individuals. Teams should also consider working in functional units and utilize electronic whistles/whistle covers.
   
   iii. During League competition, only those student-athletes who are actually participating in active competition are excused from wearing a mask/cloth face covering and only while on the court in competition. Please note that volleyball student-athletes shall be masked while on-court competition. In baseball and softball, catchers, batters, base runners, and first base (when runner is present) shall also be masked while on the playing field.
   
   iv. Universal masking and physical distancing, including those that have already tested positive for COVID-19, are the rule except in the competition area (unless sport has on-field masking considerations), regardless of role or function. All individuals will always wear a mask/face covering prior to entry and within the competition venue. This includes outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible (for example, an outdoor sporting event). The type of mask/face covering and the proper way to wear it should be consistent with CDC recommendations.
   
   v. Physical distancing and universal masking must be observed while on the bench. All non-participating student-athletes and all coaching/support staff members must be masked.
   
   vi. NCAA guidance notes that the use of a face shield, an emerging consideration as either an alternative or supplement to a face mask/cloth face covering, may mitigate spread of virus from an infected individual to a non-infected person. However, a face shield may supplement a face mask/cloth face covering but does not replace a face mask/cloth face covering.
   
   vii. Note that local health departments may issue face covering requirements.

   g. Competition Plan
   
   i. Spacing
      
      1. Five (5) days are required between a new League opponent to allow for a surveillance test between different opponents and virus incubation to convert to positive test (if present) in volleyball, soccer and tennis.
      
      2. Exceptions to the five-day window in sports of volleyball, soccer and tennis must be approved by both League teams’
presidents/chancellors along with an accompanying risk mitigation strategy. Any risk mitigation strategy must include, but is not limited to the following:

a. The team competing against the non-League opponent submits negative PCR test results for all Tier I individuals after the non-League game but prior to the League game.

b. A limitation of one (1) non-League game in any week.

c. Additional risk mitigation may include same-day travel restrictions.

3. So long as physical distancing occurs, a prescribed gap between new opponents in baseball and softball is not required. This assumes mitigation strategy where all umpires, catchers, batters, base runners, and first base (when runner is present) are universally masked.

4. If baseball, softball or soccer is played indoors, a 5-day gap between new opponents is required. Flexibility should be granted if an outdoor competition is scheduled within the 5-day gap but due to weather, is moved indoors.

5. Although the League does not publish a regular season schedule for cross country, golf, swimming & diving or outdoor track & field (all low exposure sports), due to the location and contact risk of the sport, so long as physical distancing occurs, a gap between opponents is not recommended.

ii. Scheduling Framework (Including Testing and Competition Spacing)

1. As noted in the testing section, the following principles are in place for testing:

a. Testing for all sports will begin one (1) week prior to the first regular season League contest.

b. All teams must follow the regular season testing frequency for one (1) week following its final League contest (either regular season or League championship).

c. Note that testing sequencing will be updated based on updated guidance from the NCAA.

d. If away travel cannot take place with physical distancing and masking, then PCR testing within three (3) days before travel departure, or antigen/rapid PCR testing within one (1) day before travel must be administered.

e. For those sports that note “start of competition” related to team testing two days prior to championships, testing must occur within two days of a Tier 1 individual entering the competition facility either for practice or competition instead of within two days of competition beginning. For example, if a full team is scheduled to be in the competition facility on Thursday for practice, the team must test on Tuesday at the earliest. If a team is splitting up in different travel parties, the institution must track when the individuals will be entering the competition venue and test accordingly.
f. The host institution (or League office, when the host) will coordinate and manage officials testing based on the testing sequence below. Each host will determine if they will utilize institutional resources or a third party vendor. Logistics will be communicated by the host (ex. tournament director) to the officials, officials’ coordinator and the League office staff liaison. If a school cannot test based on the process noted, they will waive their right to host the championship.
   i. The League office will subsidize officials testing costs at championships. Actual costs should be provided to the League staff liaison as part of the post-championship budgeting process.

g. At championships, essential game day staff personnel and/or other staff members (ex. Tier II individuals) must be tested within three days of competition facility either for practice or competition.
   i. The host school will be responsible for the testing.
   ii. The League office staff will follow this sequence and administer testing through Mako.

2. Softball
   a. Non-League
      i. Non-League competition permitted February 11 – March 7 on weekends only with no mid-week competition.
      ii. Allowed to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19. Contests must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit.
   
b. League Regular Season
      i. NCAA first date of competition: February 11, 2021
      ii. League first date of competition: March 12, 2021
      iii. League contests: 40 games
      iv. Nine (9) weekends of four (4)-games series (round-robin)
      v. Two (2) mid-week doubleheaders (March 23 and April 6)
   
c. Competition Days
      i. 4-game series played on Friday & Saturday.
      ii. Mid-week doubleheaders played on Tuesday.
   
d. Intermediate transmission risk: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel.
   
e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: So long as physical distancing occurs, a prescribed gap between opponents is not required. This assumes the mitigation strategy where umpires, catchers, batters, base
runners, and first base (when runner is present) are universally masked.

f. Operating Regulation 15.5.6
   i. Suspend the flipping site language.
   ii. Allow the use of an alternate site.

g. Modify Operating Regulation 15.5.4
   i. If mid-week doubleheaders are canceled they can be made up on April 20 and May 4.
   ii. Rescheduling negotiations must be done in the order of cancelation, but the doubleheader does not have to be played in the order of the cancelation.

h. Operating Regulation 15.5.2.2
   i. Sunday (including Easter Sunday) can be used as a make-up day.
   ii. Four (4)-Team Double Elimination Championship
      i. Competition Days: Thursday-Saturday
      ii. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
      iii. Officials Testing: Officials not behind home plate: No testing. Home plate officials: PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition. If testing is conducted on the day of competition, the entire crew must be tested each day.

3. Baseball
   a. Non-League
      i. Non-League competition permitted February 19 – 28 on weekends only with no mid-week competition.
      ii. Allowed to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19 or during a bye week. Contests must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit.
   b. League Regular Season
      i. NCAA first date of competition: February 19, 2021
      ii. League first date of competition: March 5, 2021
         1. League contests: 40 games
            a. 12 play weeks
               i. 10 weekends of four (4)-games series with two (2) byes
               ii. Week 1 will only have four (4) teams playing
   c. Competition Days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday
      i. Friday (single game), Saturday (doubleheader) and Sunday (single game).
1. Single game: Nine (9)-inning game.
2. Doubleheaders: the first game will be a seven (7)-inning game and the second game will be a nine (9)-inning game. If game one of the doubleheader goes into extra innings, then game two would be a seven (7)-inning game.
3. Game sequence may be altered within weekend (ex. due to weather) if agreed upon by the involved institutions’ athletics directors or his/her designee.

d. Intermediate transmission risk: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel.

e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: So long as physical distancing occurs, a prescribed gap between opponents is not required. This assumes the mitigation strategy where umpires, catchers, batters, base runners, and first base (when runner is present) are universally masked.

f. Operating Regulation 10.4.5
   i. Suspend the flipping site language.
   ii. Allow the use of an alternate site.

g. Championship
   i. Four (4)-Team Double Elimination Championship
      1. Competition Days: Thursday-Saturday
      2. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
      3. Officials Testing: Officials not behind home plate: No testing. Home plate officials: PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition. If testing is conducted on the day of competition, the entire crew must be tested each day.

4. Men and Women’s Tennis
   a. Non-League
      i. Institutional discretion. No non-League matches within five (5) days of the start of League play.
      ii. Allowed to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19 or during a bye week. Contests must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit.
   b. League Regular Season
      i. Play each institution twice at same location
ii. Women’s Tennis – 12 contests over seven (7) weeks [includes one (1) bye week].

iii. Men’s Tennis – Eight (8) contests over five (5) weeks [includes one (1) bye week].

c. Competition Days: Saturday/Sunday

d. Low transmission risk: Testing is performed in conjunction with a school plan for all students, plus additional testing for symptomatic and high infection risk individuals as warranted.

e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: Five (5)-day gap between new opponents is required.

f. Championship

   i. Four (4)-Team Championship
      1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning.
      2. Officials Testing: Host (League office) will test all officials within three days of competition beginning.

5. Women’s Soccer (11 weeks from first permissible contest to NCAA selection. Six (6) minimum contests.)

   a. Non-League
      i. Permitted to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19. The rescheduled contest(s) must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit, and rescheduled contests will not count in the League standings.

   b. League Regular Season
      i. NCAA first date of competition: Wednesday, February 3
      ii. League first date of competition: Wednesday, February 3
         1. League contests: 10 matches

   c. Competition Day: Wednesday
      i. Play dates must be adjusted later in the season to maintain five (5) days between new opponents during the League Championship.
         1. Week 9: move from Wednesday, March 31 to Tuesday, March 30
         2. Week 10: move from Wednesday, April 7 to Monday, April 5
         3. Semifinals: move from Monday, April 12 to Sunday, April 11

   d. Intermediate transmission risk: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel.
e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: Five (5)-day gap between new opponents is required.

f. Championship
   i. Top four (4) teams
      1. Semifinal matches hosted at two highest seeds (Sunday, April 11th)
      2. Championship match hosted at the highest remaining seed (Saturday, April 17th)
      3. Team Testing: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel
      4. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

6. Men’s Soccer
   (11 weeks from first permissible contest to NCAA selection. Six (6) minimum contests.)
   a. Non-League
      i. Permitted to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19. The rescheduled contest(s) must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit, and rescheduled contests will not count in the League standings.
   b. League Regular Season
      i. NCAA first date of competition: Wednesday, February 3
      ii. League first date of competition: Thursday, February 4
         1. League contests: 10 matches [one (1) bye week]
   c. Competition Day: Varies
   d. Intermediate transmission risk: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel.
   e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: 5-day gap between new opponents is required.
   f. Championship
      i. Top four (4) teams
         1. Semifinal matches hosted at two highest seeds (Sunday, April 11th)
         2. Championship match hosted at the highest remaining seed (Saturday, April 17th)
         3. Team Testing: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel
         4. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning
7. Volleyball (masked) (10 weeks from first permissible contest to NCAA selection. 10 minimum contests.)
   a. Non-League  
      i. Permitted to play non-League contests if a League contest gets canceled due to weather or COVID-19. The rescheduled contest(s) must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit, and rescheduled contests will not count in the League standings.
   b. League Regular Season  
      i. NCAA first date of competition: Friday, January 22  
      ii. League first date of competition: Monday, January 25  
         1. League contests: 16 matches  
            a. Nine (9) weeks  
            b. One (1) bye week for each team  
            c. Week 9: doubleheader for participating teams (Monday, March 22)  
               i. A minimum break of 90 minutes between the end of the first match and start of the second match during a volleyball doubleheader is required. Competing institutions can agree to a longer break.
   c. Competition Days: Monday and Tuesday  
   d. Intermediate transmission risk: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel.
   e. Spacing between new opponents during League season: Five (5)-day gap between new opponents is required.
   f. Championship  
      i. Top four (4) teams  
         1. Semifinal matches hosted at two highest seeds (Sunday, March 28)  
         2. Championship match hosted at the highest remaining seed (Saturday, April 3)  
         3. Team Testing: At least 25% surveillance testing every one (1) week on athletes and Tier 1 non-athlete personnel  
         4. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning  
   g. For those with a disability documented by a physician that prohibits the use of a face covering, a volleyball individual
must increase their testing to three times per week on non-consecutive days (instead of once per week) to forgo the full use of a face covering during competition. Communication must be provided to the opposing team in advance.

8. Swimming and Diving
   a. Championship
      i. The Council approved to postpone the League Swimming & Diving Championship from Sunday, February 14 - Saturday, February 20 to Sunday, April 4 - Saturday, April 10 at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis. The championship format will split the swimming & diving portions of the championship over the approved dates.
         1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
         2. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

9. Indoor Track and Field
   a. Championship
      i. The championship will be a four-day meet (at least midday Friday, Saturday, Sunday, midday Monday) with practice window on Thursday evening for those teams that arrive the day prior to the start of the meet. There will be a limit the amount of events that are contested on each of the four (4) days by dividing the meet into sessions so that the number of individuals in the competition venue at one time is reduced. Sanitization breaks will also be included between sessions. Genders compete concurrently.
         1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
         2. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

10. Men's and Women's Golf
    a. Championship
       i. The championship will be hosted at Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex at Purdue University. Practice round will be conducted on Saturday, April 24 and competition rounds will be conducted Sunday, April 25 – Tuesday, April 27.
          1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
          2. Supports pairings within the same team to reduce exposure
          3. Officials Testing: Host (League office) will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

11. Outdoor Track and Field
a. Championship
   i. The championship will be hosted by Youngstown State University Friday, May 7 – Sunday, May 9.
      1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
      2. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

12. Cross Country
a. Championship
   i. The championship site and date are yet to be determined, but will likely take place the first week of March 2021.
      1. Team Testing: Test Tier I within two days of competition beginning
      2. Individuals will mask at the start line and finish line
      3. Officials Testing: Host will test all officials within three days of competition beginning

13. Championship Awards Ceremonies
a. As supported by Return to Safe Play, all elements of the championship awards ceremony will be contactless, universally masked and physically distanced.
b. The team champion trophy will be placed on a table for the team captain to accept. The champion team will take a team photo and net cutting (where applicable) will occur.
c. For sports with event awards for the champion (ex. track & field), the award will be placed on a table for the winner to accept, followed by a photo opportunity. A picture with the top finishers, so long as a. is followed, is acceptable.
d. All other ceremony elements will be eliminated and any other trophies will be provided to the team administrator/coach for dissemination (ex. runner-up team trophy, all-tournament team, etc.).

14. NCAA Spring Championship Entrance Testing
a. Please reference NCAA championship publications for testing prior to arrival. As of 2/24/21, the plan for spring sports, which is subject to change, is as follows:
   i. Low and intermediate risk sports: Tier I individuals must have a negative antigen within one day of arrival or a negative PCR within two days of arrival.
   ii. High risk indoor sports: Negative antigen or PCR three times the week prior to arrival on non-consecutive days, as well as a negative PCR within 2 days of arrival.
b. Note that the NCAA volleyball championship will not require masks, meaning the sport is high risk during the NCAA championship.

iii. Travel Party Limits
1. The Horizon League Council has implemented student-athlete travel squad size limits (visiting team only) for League regular season competition and championships. The 2020-21 League travel squad size limits serve as a guideline for non-League competition.

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<th>Sport</th>
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<th>Previous Years’ Championship Regulation</th>
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*League visiting team travel squad limit is equal to NCAA championship maximum team size limits.

^League championship travel squad is equal to previously implemented League championship entry limits.

~Baseball travel party limit is for home and visiting rosters. Rosters will be exchanged at home plate prior to the first game of the series and cannot be changed during the series.

iv. **Game Times.**

1. Game times will be set by the host institution. However, it is the expectation of the League that the host and visiting institutions communicate prior to finalizing the start time to allow flexibility for same day travel and cost savings.

v. **Practice Times.**

1. League Operating Regulations related to practice times have been amended/suspended for spring 2021. Institutions are required in all sports (except men’s and women’s basketball, which is governed separately) to provide equivalent practice opportunities on the day of competition (site and duration) for both the home
and visiting team. However, the day before competition, the requirement of equivalent practice opportunities has been suspended. Practice opportunities do not have to be equivalent for the home and visitor the day before competition. For example, if on the day of competition, there is no other practice slot available for the visiting team, but the home team has a two-hour practice booked, then one hour of the two would need to be offered to the visiting team. Visiting coaches should request these sessions with the host institution at least 48 hours in advance of the game time, and should inform the host institution should they wish to cancel or alter the session time.

vi. Uniforms.
1. All teams are required to have a set of uniforms available for each contest that is played. The home team is responsible for communicating to the visiting team which color uniform it will wear for each contest. The visiting team is responsible for having uniforms which contrast the home team’s uniform for each contest.

h. Facilities/Operations
i. Facility Plan.
1. All facility/game operations/game management personnel will follow campus/local/state regulations for screening and facility entry.

ii. Communication
1. All institutions will provide visiting teams and officials (see officials section) with information pertaining to their facility at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled game. This document will include:
   a. Which entrance to use to enter/exit the facility.
   b. Any screening requirements needed prior to entry.
   c. Availability of locker room and/or meeting space.
   d. Protocol for use of the athletic training facility, if needed, and satellite/ancillary training space.
   e. Any restrictions on fan attendance.

iii. Personnel
1. All individuals necessary to host a home game should be divided into three tiers, as described in section 3.a. All individuals should wear masks/face coverings and physically distance whenever possible.
2. Spectators are not part of Tiers I, II or III, and, if present, should observe local health official mandates and guidance with seating clearly separated from these tiered individuals at all times, and as per below, with the first row of fan seating a minimum of 12 feet from the end of the playing surface.
3. Each host institution’s athletics health care administrator will maintain contact with local and state health officials regarding operations within the competition venue, including oversight of the daily screening log and any health developments of attendees.
4. No one outside of Tier I and Tier II individuals shall be allowed in the team areas (e.g., athletic training room, locker rooms, locker room hallway) when student-athletes are present.

5. Tier I and Tier II individuals will not enter guest and public areas of the competition venue (e.g., stands, concession stands, concourse, ticket office).

6. Tier II individuals may interact directly with those in Tier I only as minimally necessary and upon approval. All parties must wear masks/face coverings and maintain 6 feet of physical distance.

7. Tier II individuals, including other essential personnel who occasionally may need to be in close proximity to student-athletes and other Tier I individuals and who may need to access restricted areas periodically, must observe masking and physical distancing at all times and be prevented from interacting with any of the bench individuals unless physical distancing and masking are in place for all.

8. Medical staff will follow strict hand sanitization, especially during sessions with student-athletes. Athletic training staff and student-athletes they are treating should maintain masking/face coverings and physical distancing.

iv. Cleaning and Disinfecting

1. Competition venue cleaning staff shall ensure all team and game officials areas are cleaned prior to each practice and competition. This includes, but is not limited to, team and official locker rooms, coaches’ rooms, restrooms, team bench areas, the playing surface (where applicable) and the scorers’ table surfaces.

2. Time between practices and games will be adjusted to allow orderly ingress and egress and necessary cleaning protocols to be fully executed. Teams will be restricted to specific entry and exit times to allow cleaning.

3. Regular cleaning will occur by competition venue staff of all high-touch areas, including, but not limited to, restrooms, handles, call buttons, chairs and workstations.

4. Athletic training areas, including treatment tables, stools, high-contact areas and equipment, shall be disinfected after each use.

5. Teams and officials will be reminded to follow personal health guidelines (e.g., wash hands frequently; do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth; use hand sanitizer; maintain physical distance and wear masks whenever possible).
   a. Hand sanitizer provided must contain at least 60-percent alcohol.

6. All individuals will minimize physical interactions, such as high-fives, fist bumps and hugs, with members of other teams.

7. Hand sanitizer stations and disinfectant spray bottles and/or disinfecting wipes will be provided in each team locker room, bench and scorer’s table.

8. Recommend the elimination of ball persons who are not Tier I individuals and designate to a member of the host institution.

v. Hydration and Towels
1. **Hydration**
   a. Team members will drink only out of their own cup/personal water bottle.
   b. Water bottles should be labeled for individual use.
   c. Contactless water dispensers may be used.
   d. Each team will have its own set of hydration coolers (two — one for water, one for sports drink), water bottles and bottle carriers. Cooler carts may remain behind the benches, but coolers shall be replaced once competition concludes.

2. **Towels**
   a. An allotment of clean towels will be placed in the locker room prior to the arrival of the visiting team.
   b. Towels will be used by only one individual for one practice or one half of competition, then laundered.
   c. Multiple towel bins will be needed to discard used towels (locker rooms, athletic training room, bench area, game officials).
   d. An alternative is the use of disposable towels and appropriate disposal container.

vi. **Team Benches**
   1. Benches, when applicable, must be staged to ensure appropriate distancing between each seat. Seats should be assigned to specific players and coaches.
   2. Teams should keep their same bench for the duration of the contest.

vii. **Press Box/Scorers’ Table Layout**
   1. Universal masking and distancing address infection control mitigation. As noted in Physical Distancing/Masks/Face Covering section, Universal masking and physical distancing are the rule except in the competition or medical care areas.
   2. Even if a face shield is worn, masks must also be worn.
   3. Setup will be adjusted to allow for physical distancing. If spacing allows, use multiple rows of seats with appropriate distance between each seat. Only Tier II staff at scorers’ table.

viii. **Facility planning — movement in/around areas.**
   1. Pre-season and pre-game training session.
      a. All institutions will conduct pre-season and pre-game training session with arena personnel (including contractors/sub-contractors) to review safety protocols.
   2. Entry/exit.
      a. All entrants shall be subject to local health official restrictions and guidance, including health screening and temperature checks, before entering the competition venue.
      b. Entrants will be advised not to enter the venue if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, feeling unwell or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.
c. Head count controls must be in place at each entry point if local guidelines restrict competition venue capacity as needed.
d. Entry and exit procedures for the competition venue, back-of-house areas and courtside areas will be clearly marked.
e. Loitering will not be allowed in back-of-house hallways or common spaces.
f. Entry tunnels/doors to and from the court must be kept clear; no standing in tunnels/doorways.

3. Fan seating.
   a. Subject to local health official restrictions and guidance, along with Horizon League policies.

4. Isolation/quarantine rooms and Diagnostic Testing.
   a. See Positive Test Response/- Management of COVID-positive Individual or Symptomatic Individual section for more information.

5. HVAC recommendations for indoor venues.
   a. Consider taking steps to improve ventilation in the building, in consultation with an HVAC professional, based on local environmental conditions (temperature/humidity) and ongoing community transmission in the area:
      i. Increase the percentage of outdoor air (for example, using economizer modes of HVAC operations), potentially as high as 100% (first verify compatibility with HVAC system capabilities for both temperature and humidity control, as well as compatibility with outdoor/indoor air quality considerations).
      ii. Increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces, if possible.
      iii. Disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy.
      iv. Consider using natural ventilation (for example, opening windows if possible and safe to do so) to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air when environmental conditions and building requirements allow.
      v. Improve central air filtration: > Increase air filtration to as high as possible without significantly diminishing design airflow. > Inspect filter housing and racks to ensure appropriate filter fit and check for ways to minimize filter bypass.
      vi. Consider running the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for two hours before and after occupied times, in accordance with industry standards.
      vii. Generate clean-to-less-clean air movements by re-evaluating the positioning of supply and exhaust air...
diffusers and/or dampers and adjusting zone supply and exhaust flow rates to establish measurable pressure differentials. Have staff work in “clean” ventilation zones that do not include higher-risk areas such as visitor reception or exercise facilities (if open).

b. Consider using portable high-efficiency particulate air fan/filtration systems, known as HEPA systems, to help enhance air cleaning, especially in higher-risk areas.

c. Ensure exhaust fans in restroom facilities are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied.

d. Consider using ultraviolet germicidal irradiation as a supplemental technique to inactivate potential airborne virus in the upper-room air of common occupied spaces, in accordance with industry guidelines.

ix. Locker Rooms
1. All individuals, regardless of role or function, will always wear a mask/face covering within the competition venue.
2. Once Tier I individuals reach the team bench, masks/face coverings may be removed for only those individuals on the playing surface.
3. Student-athletes and team bench personnel will wear masks/face coverings within their assigned team locker room.
4. If spacing allows, a 6-foot spacing between seats within the home and away team locker rooms will be utilized.
5. Warmup:
   a. Masks/face coverings must be worn while transitioning to and from the locker room and playing surface.
   b. On-court players must replace their masks/face coverings before leaving the court to return to their designated locker room.
6. Showers:
   a. Team members will shower at their hotel after the game, as opposed to at the venue (if applicable).

x. Handling Equipment
1. Where applicable, each team will have its own rack of the same game balls for use while in the venue. The game balls should be cleaned by a designated member of the host institution’s game operations staff (Tier II) according to manufacturer’s recommendations with dish soap and water, and not with a disinfectant.
2. Replace the game ball each time a ball goes out of bounds and is touched by an individual not in Tier I or II. Game balls will be cleaned during timeouts, halftime and each period break with dish soap and water.

xi. On-Court/On-Field Operations
1. All physical contact between any coach/official/scorers’ table physical contact (e.g., handshakes, fist bumps) will be eliminated.
2. The postgame handshake line involving the two participating teams will be eliminated. Consider some act of sportsmanship, such as congratulatory waves to each other.

3. Time allotted for any pre-game, halftime and/or timeout promotions will be eliminated to allow the court to be cleaned.

4. Work areas for the media will be assigned to minimize the need for cleaning workstations until after media representatives have exited the venue.

xii. Catering.
1. In-venue catering for workers, media, etc., will be limited to packaged, grab-and-go-type options. No catered buffets. See team travel section for more information on team meals.

i. Media
   i. Screening. Media will follow campus/local/state regulations for screening and facility entry.
   ii. Physical Distancing/PPE/Masks
      1. All individuals, regardless of role or function, always wear a non-medical grade mask/cloth face coverings prior to entry and within the competition venue.
      2. All media will be considered Tier III.
      3. Tier III members may not interact with Tier I and may interact with Tier II minimally while both parties are wearing appropriate PPE and maintaining the 6 feet physical distance.
      4. No one outside of Tier I and Tier II individuals shall be allowed in the team areas (e.g., athletic training room, locker rooms, locker room hallway).
   iii. Postgame Press Conference
      1. Only virtual press conferences are permitted.
      2. Visiting Team SID will work with media directly to conduct postgame interviews, if necessary.

j. Television/Streaming
   i. All crew members will follow campus/local/state regulations for screening and facility entry.
   ii. All crew members will wear a mask/cloth face covering and physical distance (a minimum of six feet) from each other and any Tier I personnel, before, during and after the event.
      1. Some longer cables may need to be purchased to operate all equipment in a physical distant manner.
   iii. Cameras must be spaced at least six (6) feet apart.
   iv. All cameras with operators must be off the playing surface and/or at least 12 feet from the playing surface. All operators will need a radius of 15 feet from spectators.
   v. Radio/Television talent on-site will be located off the playing surface and/or at least 12 feet from the playing surface and at least 15 feet from fans if allowed in the venue. Talent on the same broadcast will maintain 6 feet physical distant.
vi. Talent conducting interviews must maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from any Tier I individuals (e.g. players and coaches). Any pre-game interaction with Tier I individuals must be done via phone or virtually.

vii. Ideally, headsets will be used by the same worker for each event, but if there are an insufficient number of headsets, a sanitation process must be developed to clean headsets between uses or an alternative form of communication, (e.g. Zoom) should be used in lieu of headsets.

viii. The replay monitor and controller must be in a place that allows for physical distancing from bench and scorer’s table personnel and procedures must be in place to ensure the replay controller, monitor controls and headsets are adequately cleaned and disinfected after each use.

1. Disposable masks, gloves and hand sanitizer must be readily available to officials at the monitor station.

2. Where applicable, consider requiring the instant replay technician to operate the monitor review controls.

ix. Institutions have discretion as to whether to play artificial crowd noise through broadcasts being produced on campus.

k. Attendance/Fans

i. Host Institution

1. The Horizon League Board of Directors, as a part of its role of overseeing League-wide safety protocols focused on consistency and clarity for all League competition, decided that all indoor League sports will be played without fans. This policy extends to team pass lists, complimentary tickets and band/sprit squads.

2. **Indoor Sports:** For all sports played indoors, restrict attendance to essential personnel only consistent with the basketball regular-season policy. This policy would apply to volleyball, indoor track & field, swimming & diving, soccer matches moved to indoor facilities, and tennis matches moved to indoor facilities.

3. **Outdoor Sports:** For all sports played outdoors, each institution will determine attendance policies in accordance with state, local, municipal and campus guidelines, noting that if non-essential personnel are permitted, risk mitigation strategies will be documented and submitted to the League office. Risk mitigation strategies will include, but are not limited to, mandated universal masking, physical distancing, and a significant buffer zone of at least 12 feet between any spectators and student-athletes/essential personnel. This policy would apply to cross country, soccer, outdoor tennis, golf, outdoor track & field, softball and baseball.

l. Officiating

i. Safety Considerations

1. The following safety considerations for officials are in place during the regular season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Officials not behind home plate: No testing, if masking maintained.</td>
<td>Home plate officials:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td></td>
<td>PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td></td>
<td>PCR: Within three days before first scheduled competition for that week; or Antigen/rapid PCR test same day as each competition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Track and Field</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball (with masks)</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Transmission Risk</td>
<td>Testing of officials during League regular season</td>
<td>Masking strategies for officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td>Masks during competition and while on-site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td>Masks during competition and while on-site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Track and Field</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td>Masks during competition and while on-site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming and Diving</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td>Masks during competition and while on-site. May need to have multiple masks due to humidity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>No testing.</td>
<td>Masks during competition and while on-site. Ball handlers: Masks during competition and while on-site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii. **Screening**
   1. As noted in the League-Level Screening Section, all game officials, which are considered Tier I must complete temperature screening and screening questions on the day of the contest prior to entrance into the competition venue. The host team physician is responsible and accountable for the administration and oversight of the screening program/process. Any of the screening protocols, which includes temperature checks, can be administered by a trained staff member and does not need to be a team physician or athletic trainer. If an individual fails any part of the screening process, he/she must be referred to the team physician for final determination.

iii. **Communication**
   1. Host institutions must proactively communicate with officials about venue information at least 48 hours before the scheduled game and should consider including, among other pertinent information:
      a. Recommended time of arrival for officials.
      b. Designated point of entry for officials to use to enter/exit the facility.
      c. Testing (if applicable) and screening requirements/protocols needed before entry.
      d. Availability of locker room and/or meeting space.
      e. Availability of showers, towels and water bottles.
      f. Protocol for use of the athletic training facility and services.
2. If applicable for each respective sport for regular season and/or championships, host institutions will secure single occupancy rooms for officials, with hosts responsible for costs.

iv. **Pregame**

1. **Locker room.**
   a. If spacing allows, a 6-foot spacing between seats within locker rooms will be utilized or additional space may be provided.
   b. Procedures to ensure game officials’ locker rooms and/or meeting areas are adequately cleaned and disinfected before officials’ arrival and that, once cleaned, no access is given to anyone other than the officials.
   c. Adequate supply and access to hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray bottles and/or disinfecting wipes in the officials’ locker room.
   d. Clean towels assigned for each official, as applicable, for use in the locker room or on the court and procedures to ensure they are only handled by the official to which they are assigned.

2. **Captains meeting.**
   a. The format of pregame meetings will be modified to include only the head official and one student-athlete (or one coach, when applicable) per team. Universal masking and physical distancing must be adhered to. Individuals should refrain from physical interactions, such as high-fives, fist bumps and hugs. League will also have the option to eliminate the captains meeting.
   b. Reminders to captains and coaches about the importance of compliance by all individuals with all applicable masking and distancing requirements and that physical contact with officials is prohibited at all times, including during player introductions.

3. **Coaches greeting.**
   a. Reminders to coaches that handshakes/fist bumps and other physical contact between officials and coaches has been eliminated.

v. **In-Game**

1. **Interaction with the student-athletes, coaches and scorer’s table.**
   a. Officials will mask and, as possible, maintain adequate physical distance, when communicating with student-athletes, coaches and scorer’s table personnel.
   b. Officials will avoid physical contact with players during altercations and that verbal direction and multiple sharp blasts of the whistle should be used, alternatively, to aid in restoring order.

2. **Replay**
   a. The replay monitor and controller must be in a place that allows for physical distancing from bench and scorer’s table personnel and procedures must be in place to ensure
the replay controller, monitor controls and headsets are adequately cleaned and disinfected after each use.

b. Disposable masks, gloves and hand sanitizer must be readily available to officials at the monitor station.

c. Where applicable, consider requiring the instant replay technician to operate the monitor review controls.

vi. **Postgame**
1. If postgame meals are provided for officials, it must be prepackaged grab-and-go items that are accessible to officials while permitting them to adhere to physical distancing protocols.

vii. **Contact tracing/quarantining for officials in sports other than basketball**
1. When an official tests positive, they are immediately quarantined for 14 days, contingent upon compliance with local health department, except for those, per CDC guidance, who’ve tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and do not have symptoms. The host school must assess the officials’ risk of exposure in their contact tracing efforts, which should proceed expeditiously to determine if the officials should remain in quarantine. Ultimately, the applicable public health officials have jurisdiction to make these determinations. At present, there are no considerations for testing out of quarantine.

2. The results of the risk assessment must be provided to the League staff liaison (see key contacts), which will provide to the officials coordinator or officials.

3. An official that tested positive may return after a 10-day isolation period and the official is cleared to return to work by a doctor. Documentation of this doctor’s clearance should be provided to the officiating coordinator and the League office.

4. Close contact is defined as an individual that has had close contact with an infected person (six feet or less) for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated, per the CDC. Ultimately, the applicable public health officials have jurisdiction to make these determinations.

6. **Travel**
   a. **Travel Requirements.** The following requirements apply to team travel and where applicable, the home team:
      i. All individuals must have clearance to travel with team. If the results from the latest test administered have not been received prior to departure, the individual(s) may travel with the team but the school must have a plan in place should a positive result be received while on the road. Test results from the week must be received prior to entering the game facility for practice/games.
      ii. Universal masking must be observed during all segments of travel.
iii. Schools must collaborate with their transportation company to ensure that protocols meet department and League standards regarding cleaning, masking, physical distancing and sanitization.

iv. Hotel rooms and transportation seating assignments must be grouped by home roommates/practice pod mates.
   1. Ideally, only two individuals will be in each sleeping room and should be strategically placed (e.g. cohort previously uninfected individuals with those who have been previously infected/recovered; maintain pods and tiers that are used during practice; assign by home roommates)
   2. Overnight stays should be minimized to reduce exposure points. If possible, ensuring a room has been vacant for 48 hours, is preferable.

v. Tier I individuals must limit activity outside of their sleeping room to team organized events. In all other instances, Tier I individuals must remain in their sleeping room. Exceptions must be approved by the institution’s athletic director and president/chancellor.

vi. Each member school will provide a list of preferred hotels and take-out establishments.

vii. Each member school will have one meeting with the preferred hotels to ensure necessary precautions are undertaken to mitigate risk.

viii. Public restaurant dining is prohibited (meals must be take-out and should be eaten in the sleeping room. If eaten on the bus or in private hotel ballroom, see recommendations below) during travel or at destination campus/city.

b. Travel Recommendations. The following recommendations apply to team travel:
   i. Teams should consider “grab and go” type meals instead of gathering for team meals to avoid un-masked time.
   ii. If group meals must occur, please consider:
      1. Using “grab and go” options.
      2. Limiting mealtime.
      3. Staggering flow and controlling spacing in food service lines.
      4. Seating charts with strategic placement of individuals.
      5. Physical distancing whenever feasible.
      7. Requiring masks except while eating.
   iii. When drinking indoors or during travel, using a straw under the mask.
   iv. Stops should be minimized (fuel, restrooms, etc.).
   v. Bus and Charter flights are preferred public modes of travel.

7. Contingencies and Scenarios. The following contingencies, which were adopted by the Council for men’s and women’s basketball, are revised for spring competition. This section was reviewed and approved by the Competition Cabinet on 1/19/21 and 1/26/21.

   a. Competition Thresholds.
      i. Should there be a threshold for minimum number of regular season contests played to be eligible for the League Championship? If so, what is that number?
**Men’s & Women’s Soccer**

Response: To be eligible for the League Championship, a team must have played a minimum of five (5) regular season contests.

**Volleyball**

Response: To be eligible for the League Championship, a team must have played a minimum of nine (9) regular season contests.

**Baseball**

Response: To be eligible for the League Championship, a team must have played a minimum of 13 regular season contests (combined non-League and League).

**Softball**

Response: To be eligible for the League Championship, a team must have played a minimum of 13 regular season contests (combined non-League and League).

**Men’s & Women’s Tennis**

Response: To be eligible for the League Championship, a team must have played a minimum of five (5) regular season contests (combined non-League and League).

**Rationale for All Sports:** All teams that qualify for the League Championship would be eligible to compete in their sport’s respective NCAA Tournament should they win the League Championship. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

ii. What if a team fails to reach the threshold for minimum number of regular season contests played?

Response for All Sports: Teams that fail to reach the NCAA-mandated threshold for minimum number of regular season contests (combined League and non-League) played will be ineligible to compete in the League Championship. (See below for requirements regarding minimum number of regular season contests played in the event that the League Championship is canceled.)

Rationale for All Sports: A team that fails to reach the NCAA-mandated threshold for minimum number of regular season contests (combined

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2The NCAA DI Council mandated minimum number of contests for fall sports played in the spring and spring sports for teams to be eligible for postseason NCAA Tournaments. The Horizon League Championship counts as one (1) contest.
non-League and League) played would not be eligible to compete in the NCAA Tournament. Thus, allowing this team to compete, with no opportunity to participate in the NCAA Tournament would be counter to our League principles of safety and sustainability. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

iii. Can a team that fails to reach the threshold for minimum number of regular season contests played apply for a waiver to compete in the League Championship?

Response for All Sports: Currently there is not a waiver process in place. However, in the event that there is a waiver process, a team that fails to reach the threshold of regular season contests (combined League and non-League) played due to factors outside of its control (i.e. scheduled opponents are in quarantine, etc.) would have the opportunity to file that waiver with the NCAA in an attempt to gain NCAA Tournament-eligibility. If the NCAA waiver is approved, that team would become eligible for the League Championship, and would be seeded accordingly.

Rationale for All Sports: The rationale for ruling a team that fails to reach the minimum threshold of regular season contests (combined non-League and League) played ineligible to compete in the League Championship is that the team is also ineligible for the NCAA Tournament. However, if that team receives a waiver which makes it eligible for the NCAA Tournament, there is no longer any reason to deny that team the opportunity to compete in the League Championship. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

iv. Should there be a threshold for minimum number of student-athletes available per team for the game to be contested? If so, what is that number? Should it be dependent upon position or scholarship student-athletes?

Response for All Sports: The team physician has ultimate sign off to determine whether available players for a team, regardless of number, are cleared to compete.

Rationale for All Sports: This provides institutional autonomy to do what is necessary in the best interest of student-athlete health and safety. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

v. Should there be a threshold for minimum number of coaches available per team for the competition to be contested? If so, what is that number?

Response for All Sports: A team must have a minimum of one (1) countable/designated coach available for a contest to be started. If that coach is unable to complete the contest for any reason, the institution
may temporarily replace the countable coach with only an individual who has been previously-designated as a replacement coach.

**Rationale for All Sports:** A coach on the sideline helps manage and administer the game. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

vi. Should there be a threshold for minimum number of officials for the competition to be contested? If so, what is that number?

**Response for All Sports:** See the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>HL Officiating Regulation</th>
<th>NCAA Minimum Number of Officials Needed to Start a Contest</th>
<th>NCAA Minimum Number of Officials Needed to Complete a Contest</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men’s and Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>One (1) referee, two (2) assistant referees, and one (1) fourth official.</td>
<td>One (1) referee, two (2) assistant referees is preferred.</td>
<td>One (1) referee if an injury occurs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Two (2) referees and two (2) line judges.</td>
<td>Two (2) referees and two (2) line judges.</td>
<td>Two (2) referees and two (2) line judges.</td>
<td>Each institution should identify an emergency official who can step in on short notice, if necessary, so the match can be played.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s and Women’s Tennis (Regular Season)</td>
<td>Three (3) ITA certified officials. If unable to secure three (3) ITA certified officials, at minimum two (2) ITA certified officials and one (1) USTA official shall be secured for each regular season league match.</td>
<td>Two (2) ITA certified officials required for a Division I match.</td>
<td>Two (2) ITA certified officials required for a Division I match.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s and Women’s Tennis (Championship)</td>
<td>Six (6) ITA certified officials.</td>
<td>Two (2) ITA certified officials required for a Division I match.</td>
<td>Two (2) ITA certified officials required for a Division I match.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>One (1) plate umpire and two (2) base umpires.</td>
<td>One (1) plate umpire and one (1) base umpire.</td>
<td>^One (1) umpire because of an unforeseen circumstance for League games.</td>
<td>^Participating coaches will need to agree for non-League games.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>One (1) plate umpire and two (2) base umpires.</td>
<td>One (1) plate umpire and one (1) base umpire is preferred. One (1) umpire can start or complete a game.*</td>
<td>One (1) umpire can start or complete a game.*</td>
<td>*2021 NCAA waiver.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Rationale for All Sports: This response is aligned with current NCAA regulation. Additionally, the Competition Cabinet agreed that in this environment, every effort should be made to contest safe competition when possible.*

b. Seeding.

i. How will teams be seeded for the League Championship?

*Men’s & Women’s Soccer*

Response: See Attachment A.

*Volleyball*

Response: See Attachment B.

*Baseball*

Response: See Attachment C.

*Softball*

Response: See Attachment D.

*Men’s & Women’s Tennis*

Response: See Attachment E.

*Rationale for All Sports: Modifying the current seeding and tie-breaking formula was determined by the Competition Cabinet to be the best way to manage potentially inequitable League schedules for the spring 2021 competition seasons. Additionally, this solution is aligned with how many peer conferences are managing this scenario.*

ii. What if the League Championship is canceled? How will a League Champion/AQ be determined?
Response for All Sports: The modified seeding and tie-breaking formulas listed in Attachments A-E will be used to determine the League Champion/AQ.

Rationale for All Sports: The team that would have been the #1 seed in the League Championship, had it not been canceled, is most deserving of representing the League in the NCAA Tournament.

c. Impact of Team(s) Quarantine on Competition Schedule/Reschedule.
   i. What if a League contest is canceled?

Response for All Sports: If a League contest gets canceled for any reason (COVID-19, weather), healthy teams will be allowed to reschedule League or non-League opponents. Contests must be scheduled on the same day(s) as the originally-scheduled League contest(s). Institutions are responsible for rescheduling contests as they see fit. Furthermore, if a League team is rescheduled, that contest will not count in the League standings.

Rationale for All Sports: This provides institutional autonomy to do what is necessary in the best interest of safety and sustainability and aligns with the Council-approved spring competition framework.

   ii. What if a team has to quarantine leading up to or during the League Championship?

Response for All Sports: Only teams that have been cleared by a physician to compete at the scheduled time of the competition will be permitted to compete in the League Championship. Additionally, all League testing protocols must be satisfied.

Rationale for All Sports: Allowing otherwise would be counter to the health and safety protocols adopted to guide competition this season. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

   iii. The bracket modification process will be as follows (approved by the Council 3/25/21):

**Bracket Modification Timing for Volleyball & M/W Soccer**

**Semifinals**
- If a team’s status changes to non-participating prior to 72 hours before the scheduled semifinal start time, the bracket will be reseeded with only healthy, available, and qualifying teams. (i.e. If one of the top four seeds’ status changes to non-participating during this time frame, the 5th seed, assuming that team is healthy, available and qualified from a minimum number of contests played perspective, will enter the bracket.)
• If a team’s status changes to non-participating less than 72 hours before the scheduled semifinal start time, the bracket will remain and the opponent of the non-participating team advances to the championship.

Championship

• If a team’s status changes to non-participating any time between the conclusion of the semifinal games and the start of the championship, the opponent of the non-participating team will be declared champions of the Horizon League Championship.

Bracket Modification Timing for M/W Tennis, Softball & Baseball

League Championship

• If a team’s status changes to non-participating prior to 72 hours before the scheduled start time of the first game in the League championship, the bracket will be reseeded with only healthy, available, and qualifying teams. (i.e. If one of the top four seeds’ status changes to non-participating during this time frame, the 5th seed, assuming that team is healthy, available and qualified from a minimum number of contests played perspective, will enter the bracket.)

• If a team’s status changes to non-participating less than 72 hours before the scheduled start time of the first game in the League championship, the bracket will remain and the opponent of the non-participating team advances.

iv. What if the team that wins the League Championship is not able to compete in the NCAA Tournament due to COVID-19?

Response for All Sports: The Return to Safe Play group discussed that teams must follow the regular season testing frequency for one (1) week following their last contest (either regular season or championship). In the event the team that wins the League Championship is not able to compete in the NCAA Tournament due to COVID-19, the League Championship runner-up will participate in the NCAA Tournament as the Horizon League’s AQ representative. In the event that the runner-up is also not able to compete in the NCAA Tournament due to COVID-19, the Horizon League’s AQ will be awarded to the better seeded team that lost in the semifinal round of the League Championship.

Rationale for All Sports: This approach allows for the most qualified/deserving healthy team to represent the Horizon League as the AQ in the NCAA Tournament. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.

v. What if local/state health regulations prohibit League Championship contests from being held at the site of the better seeded team and/or predetermined site?
Response for All Sports: The highest remaining seed whose university/local/state health regulations allow for the League Championship to be conducted (and has facility availability) will host the contest. Note: The facility at which the competition(s) would be contested must meet minimum facility requirements for each sport, if applicable.

Rationale for All Sports: This approach rewards the highest seeds with the opportunity to host League Championship contests within the context of university/local/state health regulations. Additionally, this is consistent with how this scenario was managed in men’s and women’s basketball.
Attachment A: Men’s & Women’s Soccer Modified Tie-Breaking

Seeding. Qualifying teams will be seeded in descending order according to Horizon League points per match. Seeding shall be based upon the season rankings. Only League matches shall be considered in the seeding/ranking process. Points shall be awarded as follows:

**Wins.** Three (3) points shall be awarded for each League win.

**Ties.** One (1) point shall be awarded for each League tie.

Bracket. Announcement of the Championship bracket/seeded positions will occur at the conclusion of the regular season.

**Tie-Breaking Policy.** Ties in points per match, and thus for seeding positions, shall be broken according to the following principles and formula utilizing head-to-head competition and results against common opponents.

**Tie-Breaking Principles.** The following overriding principles shall apply to the tie-breaking procedure *(Revised 08/20/19)*:

(a) All ties will be broken in the order in which they occur, from top to bottom, in the standings unless there is a tie that can be broken using head-to-head competition only. If there is a tie that can be broken using head-to-head competition only, that tie shall be broken first. Remaining ties shall then be broken from top to bottom. If there are more than two (2) tied teams, each time a tie is eliminated, the formula will be applied to the remaining tied teams, beginning at the top of the formula. The elimination of ties will be used for tournament seeding and bracketing purposes only.

(b) Only regular-season Horizon League games, exclusive of tournament and/or exhibition games, will be used in the tie-breaking formula.

(c) When comparing tied teams against positions LOWER in the standings which are also tied, those LOWER TIED POSITIONS shall be considered as a SINGLE POSITION (unless the tie between the teams in the lower positions has already been broken using head-to-head competition per Principle (a)) for purposes of comparison (Example: Team A and Team B tied for second would compare against Team X and Team Y tied for sixth as follows: Team A would compare its combined record against BOTH X and Y against Team B’s combined record against both X and Y).

(d) If three or more teams are tied, compare the combined record of each of the tied teams against the other teams involved in the tie until an advantage is gained (Example: Team A’s combined record against both Team B and Team C as compared to Team B’s combined record against both A and C, etc.).

(e) If the provision of (d) above fails to resolve a tie involving three or more teams, compare each of the tied team’s points against the team occupying the highest position in the standings and continue down through the standings until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie or is cleanly broken amongst all tied teams. If the tie is still not resolved, proceed to the tie-breaking formula.

**Tie-Breaking Formula.** *(Revised 06/05/19)*

(a) Overall points based on League record in head-to-head competition amongst all tied teams.

(b) Result against commonly-played League teams (stepladder, from top to bottom).

(c) Goals scored vs. goals against by each team in League competition. The team with the higher margin shall be the higher seed.

(d) The most goals scored per match by a team in league play. The team with the most goals scored during league play is the higher seed.

(e) Fewest goals allowed per match in League play.

(f) RPI report published by NCAA.org, as of the last day of the regular season.
Attachment B: Volleyball Modified Tie-Breaking

18.10.4 Seeding. Seeding positions for the League Championship shall be determined on the basis of the final regular-season Horizon League standings. Qualifying teams shall be seeded in descending order according to Horizon League winning percentage.

18.10.4.1 Failure to Complete Regular-Season Schedule. A team that does not complete the entire League double round-robin schedule shall not be considered for the Championship seeding purposes, unless circumstances beyond the control of the institution prevented the completion. The institution shall retain eligibility for the Championship.

18.10.4.2.1 Tie-Breaking Principles. The following overriding principles shall apply to the tie-breaking procedure (Revised 08/20/19):

(a) All ties will be broken in the order in which they occur, from top to bottom, in the standings unless there is a tie that can be broken using head-to-head competition only. If there is a tie that can be broken using head-to-head competition only, that tie shall be broken first. Remaining ties shall then be broken from top to bottom. If there are more than two (2) tied teams, each time a tie is eliminated, the formula will be applied to the remaining tied teams, beginning at the top of the formula. The elimination of ties will be used for tournament seeding and bracketing purposes only.

(b) Only regular-season Horizon League matches, exclusive of tournament and/or exhibition matches, will be used in the tie-breaking formula.

(c) When comparing tied teams against positions LOWER in the standings which are also tied, those LOWER TIED POSITIONS shall be considered as a SINGLE POSITION (unless the tie between the teams in the lower positions has already been broken using head-to-head competition per Principle (a)) for purposes of comparison (Example: Team A and Team B tied for second would compare against Team X and Team Y tied for sixth as follows: Team A would compare its combined record against BOTH X and Y against Team B’s combined record against both X and Y).

(d) If three or more teams are tied, compare the combined record of each of the tied teams against the other teams involved in the tie until an advantage is gained (Example: Team A’s combined record against both Team B and Team C as compared to Team B’s combined record against both A and C, etc.).

(e) If the provision of (d) above fails to resolve a tie involving three or more teams, compare each of the tied team’s record against the team occupying the highest position in the standings and continue down through the standings until the tie is reduced to a two-team tie or is clearly broken amongst all tied teams. If the tie is still not resolved, proceed to the tie-breaking formula.

18.10.4.2.2 Tie-Breaking Formula.

(a) If two teams are tied and if one of the two teams won both matches, that team would receive the higher seed.

(b) If two tied teams split in two games during the regular season, compare sets won ratio, which is the total number of sets won divided by the total number of sets lost in all League matches played between the tied teams. The team with the higher ratio would receive the higher seed.

(c) If two teams are still tied after (a) and (b), compare each tied team’s record against the commonly-played team occupying the highest position in the standings and continue down through the standings for common teams until one team gains the advantage, thereby winning the higher position.
(d) If three or more teams are tied, compare sets won ratio, which is the total number of sets won divided by the total number of sets lost in all League matches played between the tied teams. The team with the higher ratio would receive the higher seed.  
(e) If the tie is still not broken, compare points scored ratio, which is the total number of points scored divided by total number of points lost in sets played between tied teams. The team with the higher ratio would receive the higher seed.  
(f) If the tie is still not broken, the team with the higher RPI as of the last day of the regular season will receive a higher seed (Source: NCAA RPI).
10.9.5 **Seeding.** Seeding positions for the League Championship shall be determined on winning percentage based upon the final regular-season Horizon League standings of teams. Qualifying teams shall be seeded in descending order according to Horizon League winning percentage.

10.9.5.1 **Tie-Breaking Formula.** Ties in winning percentages, and thus for seeding positions, shall be broken according to the following criteria (in order). If there are more than two (2) tied teams, each time a tie is eliminated, the criteria will be applied to the remaining tied teams, beginning at the top of the criteria. *(Revised 08/20/19)*

   (a) Head-to-head competition during the regular-season among the tied teams.
   (b) Winning percentage versus commonly-played ranked League teams (stepladder, from top to bottom).
   (c) Win-loss percentage against Division I competition.
   (d) Regular season games ending in a tie will be counted as one-half win, one-half loss.
Attachment D: Softball Modified Tie-Breaking

15.9.5 Seeding. Seeding positions for the League Championship shall be determined on the basis of the final regular-season Horizon League standings. Qualifying teams will be seeded in descending order according to Horizon League winning percentage. Seeding will be done by the League office the Sunday prior to the start of the Horizon League Championship, based upon the statistical data. If multiple teams are tied for first, they share the Regular Season Champion Title.

15.9.5.1 Tie-Breaking Criteria.

(a) In all tie situations, teams will be compared starting at the top of the criteria and working down the criteria until one team is eliminated. If there are more than two (2) tied teams, each time a tie is eliminated, the criteria will be applied to the remaining tied teams, beginning at the top of the criteria.

(b) Teams that do not complete their entire 24-game League schedule are not eliminated from being the #1 seed.

(c) The following criteria shall be applied in the order listed below:

(1) Head-to-head competition during the regular-season among tied teams.
(2) Winning percentage versus commonly-played ranked League opponents (stepladder, from top to bottom).
(3) Average number of runs allowed in League play.
(4) Run differential.
(5) RPI report published by NCAA.org, as of the last day of the regular season.
Attachment E: Men’s and Women’s Tennis Modified Tie-Breaking

17.7.4 Seeding and Pairings. Qualifying teams will be seeded in descending order according to Horizon League winning percentage. Seeding for the Championships shall be based on comparative records.

17.7.4.1 Tie-Breaking Formula. In the event of a tie in the regular season standings, the following will be utilized to establish seeding for the Horizon League Tournament. If there are more than two (2) tied teams, each time a tie is eliminated, the formula will be applied to the remaining tied teams, beginning at the top of the formula. *(Revised 09/17/19).*

(a) Head-to-head meeting.
(b) Combined record vs. tied teams (Team A vs. B and C, B vs. A and C, C vs. A and B, etc.).
(c) Combined points between the tied teams. (If team A beat team B 5-2, Team B beat team C 5-2, and Team C beat team A 6-1, then the tiebreaker standings from this scenario would be: Team C with 8 points against the other two; Team B with 7; Team A with 6).
(d) Team points against other commonly-played teams, starting at the top of the standings and working down.
(e) Coin flip.