

## **Transcript of CC Safe Return to Campus: Online Town Hall for Student Athletes**

*This webinar was held on July 2, 2020.*

*This is an unedited transcript of the town hall.*

Jessica Bennett.: Good afternoon. We're just going to wait another minute to make sure that everyone can join us.

Jessica B.: Hello to those who have joined us so far. Thank you. We're going to wait another minute to allow all of the participants to join into the call. Thank you for your patience.

Hello and good afternoon from Colorado College Athletics. Welcome to today's town hall regarding our continued planning for the possible return of fall-authorized sports. My name is Jessica Bennett. Director of athletics marketing and co-advisor to our student athlete advisory committee and I'll be your moderator today.

We are recording this town hall so this will be available online afterwards for your convenience.

Our goal is to provide an update on current plans and to solicit the important questions that you may have. We have also shaped content to speak on some of the pre-submitted questions we have received.

As with many town halls to date, we do want to emphasize that plans are subject to change and are constantly evolving based on the reality of the environment we are in and based on changing guidelines and impacts. We will do our best to answer your questions today; however, if we cannot, we will note your question and come back to you when we have better information.

The athletic leadership is actively working through logistics and continuing discussions with several departments on campus to enhance a safer return to campus for athletics.

Jessica B.: To kick things off today I would like to welcome our panelists. First, Lesley Irvine, Vice President and Director of Athletics. Pedro de Araujo Vice-Provost and Faculty Athletics Representative. Greg Capell Senior Associate Athletics Director and Jason Bushie, Interim Head Athletic Trainer and NCAA Healthcare Administrator.

First up to speak is Lesley Irvine.

Lesley Irvine: Thanks, Jessica, and hello to everybody who has found the time to join us today. We are happy to be with you and I suspect that many student athletes, first-year student athletes and family are with us right now so we are eager to share the information that we have for you at this point.

What I want to do is thank Pedro and Jason and Greg, three leaders who are working through our plans that are developing on a daily basis. Thank you for joining us today, and they will help us communicate the plans to this point and help answer any questions that we may get today.

So what I want to share are just a couple of slides around how we're thinking about this just in a general sense. And really the first thing that I want to highlight, and this is a really important piece here, is the announcement that we made around NCAA athletics and fall authorized sports returning for block one is merely a commitment to the possibility of having athletics for those NCAA authorized sports, and the sports in question, and many of you should have this information as we are actively pushing this information to your coaches who will be a critical resource for you during this time.

But the sports that are authorized to return for block one would be soccer, volleyball, cross country, ice hockey, and tennis. And Greg will talk a little bit more, and we're still finalizing exact arrival details, but Greg will touch on some of the time periods that we're looking at where the assumption here is that not all of those teams will be arriving on the same day.

What I want to share, again, is the announcement speaks to a decision for us to continue to pursue this as a possibility. What I want to highlight there is at this point, as many of us are reading the news and seeing daily things play out, particularly in athletics, this is an active landscape and changing. So, really, our plans are evolving on a day-to-day basis and at this point, these are merely plans if it's possible.

Lesley I.:

What I can say is I encourage everybody to take this day-to-day approach and really encourage everyone to be patient with one another. I am absolutely, along with our leadership and our coaches, 100% committed to communicating information as we have it. I think that that's absolutely key in this current time with so much information and questions out there.

I've highlighted the importance of the coach and student athlete communication. Obviously, as a leadership, we're available to you with any questions that you might have, but as is typical for your daily interactions as student athletes, I really encourage you to work with your coaches on your specific questions, and part of our role will be to make sure that the coaches have the information that they need or that they have the lines of communication with us to make sure that we're getting all of the questions.

Another thing I want to highlight, just in terms of how are we making decisions. I want to emphasize that we are absolutely laser focused on State, NCAA, and conference guidance, and those are, again, evolving on a daily basis. But there are many people thinking about these things across the nation, and certainly in the athletic industry, and so we're certainly leaning on our colleagues and on those legislative bodies to make sure that we're meeting those requirements and recommendations.

Also to note is our coordination with our campus colleagues. Obviously, we're students, we're students first. There is a campus community response to COVID-19, and so everything that we're doing is being vetted and communicated through campus leadership in general and working closely, particularly with our Student Life colleagues as we work to support our students.

One of the things we've heard, and a lot of questions around this, which is absolutely understood here, as we live in Colorado Springs and in the great State of Colorado, and travel is one of those major factors that we really need to continually evaluate. Obviously, we have to travel and often get on planes in order to do what we do, and so we've had many questions come in on what the schedules will be, what the travel will look like. We will continue to monitor that as far as state guidance goes, and then obviously, undoubtedly, our schedules are going to be impacted and so we're working with our coaches on finalizing those things, and whether that will become restrictions around say, non-conference air travel or whether there are opportunities to just play more competition within driving distance, those are all things that we're absolutely looking at. And what I can say is that we are valuing if we have to prioritize our conference competition and NCAA and post-season conference, and so anything that helps us stay in good standing there.

Lesley I.:

What else, if you want to go to the next slide here, Jess. Thank you. I want to highlight it and Jason will also touch on this too, that we have formed a COVID-19 Athletic Action Team and that team has been active for a couple of months. This is an NATA and NCAA recommendation and ultimately what that is a decision-making body, it's a recommending group that has and is driven by medical team and medical guidance, our head team physician is on that group, and Jason Bushie as our Head Athletic Trainer actually Chairs that group and really what I'm highlighting here is the decisions that are being made around athletics are ultimately being driven about medical and health and safety in mind and at the highest priority at all times, and so that obviously leads to my next point.

And, again, an absolutely critical one, and that is that we will do -- we will prioritize and focus on the health and the safety of our student athletes absolutely first, and how that translates into decisions and how this evolves is yet to be seen, but we take that responsibility incredibly seriously and it's a team effort as we think about that.

What I want to share too, and I'm speaking directly to our student athletes here and the families, is this is not going to be a typical year. And so what I want to emphasize and we've had great conversations with our coaches around this, is we will have full transparent and open communication with you all about your concerns and your comfort levels around your participation in athletics. And what that means, ultimately, and we all understand because I was a former student athlete myself, that there are team rules and requirements to be committed to the teams, but this year, and I want to make clear, that there certainly will be no negative repercussions if as a student athlete you're not feeling comfortable in the environment or things that your team is making collective decisions to think about doing. So I want to be clear on that, I want to make sure you know we're accessible. You have resources such as Pedro is the FAR, myself, the athletic training room, the sports administrators, and so to talk to you around where are you on your comfort levels and those will be conversations that we'll be having every day.

One other thing I want to think about, if we consider participation in athletics this fall, is we're going to have to think about what that student athlete commitment looks like this year. And, again, I'm engaged in conversations with our coaches, who will have conversations with you as a team to talk about what does that -- what is the team expectation? What is the commitment to our community as student athlete leaders as we embark on potentially participating in practice and competition, and what that means in terms of returning to campus and the commitment with regards to social opportunities.

Lesley I.:

I think those are things that we really have to think about, and to predict the future there, I think that the commitment regarding athletics this year would be one that is likely to be a lot of sacrifice around what we would need to do in order to participate.

So I look forward to having more conversations with you about that. There have been a lot of questions come in just around what are we required to do to do this? And, again, I want to highlight, and I don't have all the answers but we're working closely with Student Life as we think about a commitment or pledge on campus to what, essentially, will be really a commitment to community and health. And then also working around language with code of conduct, and so we can be very clear to our students and our student athletes what the expectations would be.

One good example of that is being transparent and truthful about how you're feeling or any medical symptoms, will be absolutely critical during these times, and Jason will talk a little more about that.

So, I think at this point, what I'd like to do is pass the baton to Pedro. Pedro, thank you for being with us here and I look forward to answering questions as they come in.

Pedro de Araujo:

Thank you, Lesley. Thanks, everyone, for attending this. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to talk a little bit about some academic considerations, you know, related to student athletes. And in fact not just student athletes, to be honest. All other students should be thinking about these considerations as well.

As Lesley mentioned, one of the things that we have to be prepared for next year is that it will be an atypical year; however we want to define it. There is no way around that. You know, so even with students on campus taking classes, that's not going to look exactly the same. Right. So there are going to be a bunch of different things to put in place to guarantee there is less risk and so forth, and so hopefully this slide, and I'm just trying to provide some context and some advice for student athletes as they think about their schedules or they think about their fall semester. I know that student athletes overcommit, I know that student athletes are packed with all the sort of different activities, and really, I think the keyword here is flexibility. Right. Not only the college is going to have to provide flexibility, right, to be able to adapt to change but student athletes are going to have to do the same. Right.

Pedro de A.:

So one of the things that we can think about in this COVID world is that the advancement of all of these online and distance learning student support services, right, that will be available, that could be an advantage for student athletes, and so I think you can take advantage of that. So that is, you don't have to physically walk to a building to be able to receive some sort of support, and so I want you to think about how that or what that means for you as you're taking a class and what type of support is it that you're going to need. You don't have to necessarily, you know, be at one of these academic buildings to receive support, which gives you some room, you know, to think about how that's going to be done.

So think about that piece. It's very important as Lesley mentioned as well, that you're engaging with and communicating with all stakeholders, and it can start with faculty and utilizing their office hours. You should utilize those office hours remotely. A lot of what we're doing is remotely. What we're doing right now is an example of communication that is effective, right. We're giving you information, you're going to have opportunities to ask questions, and we're going to be able to answer some of them, right. So I think that you want to try to imagine yourself in this world where you're going to be meeting with your faculty remotely, and there is going to be maybe more flexibility for you to do that, right, throughout the semester. The other piece that I think student athletes, and especially with student athletes is that student athletes like to take classes in cohorts, they like to kind of study together, do all sorts of things. I would strongly encourage you to think about some distance learning study group, right. So I would strongly encourage you to try to figure out a way for you to kind of engage with each other but via some sort of distance learning platform, and that could be just as effective as sitting beside one another and you know, studying for an exam or things of that nature. Right.

And then, really, throughout the semester, constant communication with professors, coaches, your advisors, myself, Lesley, administrators about all sorts of different things. As Lesley mentioned, we understand that you are students first, right, and that there is – you're taking classes and you want to do well in those classes, and of course, you also consider athletic – your athletic responsibilities just as important, but we do understand that this is an academic institution and we're going to put that as students first, right. So what that means is you should think about your schedule, right. You think about courses that are potentially going to be offered with face-to-face components and courses that have distance learning. Think about what your travel schedule is going to look like.

Pedro de A.: You might have opportunities to have opportunities to take advantage of distance learning classes, for example if you're going away for competition, if you're away for competition, and if that happens there is an opportunity for you to still be engaged in that class, which in the past was impossible for you to do, right, if you were taking those types of class, and so think about your schedule, right, in a way that I think could accommodate, right, some missed class time.

So consider that plan or the plan for classes, you know, and work, given your travel schedule. I think that's very important.

I emphasize this to all student athletes so for those who know who I am and I meet with all teams before the season starts and I mention this, it's very, very, very important next semester to contact your faculty at least the week in advance, right, in terms of missed classes for competition. You know, we're going to have to adapt, right, and I think given faculty a segue, at least some breathing room to think about what that looks like in your case, would be incredibly important. So that's an advice that I give regardless of COVID or not, but I think it's very important, right, under COVID. And then honestly, take breaks. Don't overbook yourself. There is a lot of stress, a lot of anxiety, a lot of things that are happening with the changing world, you know, and today we have information and tomorrow information changes, right. Don't overcommit yourself next semester. You know, think about what are the priorities for you next semester and book your schedule and book your experience according to what that looks like, right. You will have chances, right, to commit to things later on in the year, but I think that next year, specifically, you know, should really think about and be conservative in terms of how you're committing to activities on campus.

And then, finally, of course, as FAR, I thought I would put my contact information here. I'm happy to receive emails from all students, you know, all student athletes about questions you may have on the academic side. My email is probably the easiest on campus because it's just my first name at Colorado College dot edu so I strongly encourage you to look out and I'm looking forward to answer questions later on and I'll turn it now over to Greg Capell.

Greg Capell: Sounds good. Thanks, Pedro, I appreciate it, and I appreciate all of your insights and all the stuff that you've done in the last weeks and months. I want to talk about a couple of different things, and start off with just some NCAA rules stuff since I know that's probably the first thing on everyone's mind every morning when they wake up are NCAA rules, at least that's what I have to deal with every day.

Greg C.:

As you can imagine, there have been a lot of NCAA rules changes that have taken place, temporary changes that have taken place in the last few months. And, generally speaking, the NCAA has been great about being permissive in their rule changes and their temporary rule changes, and particularly permissive as it relates to things like eligibility and also seasons and participation in seasons.

And, you know, one of the examples of those is the first bullet point that you see there. The virtual summer team meetings that many of you have engaged in in the last couple of months. Normally, we wouldn't be able to do that. Normally, there would be an NCAA rule against that, but one of the things that the NCAA has said is that they want to make it clear that they want athletes to be able to stay connected to their sport as best as possible.

This pandemic has, for many of you, has taken away part of your identity as an athlete, and we want to make sure that you don't lose that, and so our coaches, I know, have been working to try to make sure that you stay connected to your sport through some of these virtual summer team meetings, and the NCAA has extended our ability to do that at least through the end of July, so you can plan on continuing to do that with your coaches.

They've also changed some of the initial eligibility requirement, particularly those of you who are Division 1 athletes, one of the things that the NCAA did is they did not this year, they don't require that a student have a standardized test score, an ACT or SAT test in order to be certified as eligible, and so that's one of the changes that they've made to initial eligibility.

They've also given us flexibility in regard to pre-season start dates, and I'm going to talk about that when we get to our next slide. But they've given us flexibility about around what we can do prior to the start of the season, when students can arrive, and this not only includes our fall sports but also includes other sports.

I think, for example, of La Crosse teams and the non-traditional seasons or the fall ball that you guys participate in, usually starting at the beginning of the year. The NCAA has – they usually have pretty tight rules surrounding that and they've – they've loosened some of those to have fall ball in block 2 instead of usually starting in block 1. So that's one of the options we're looking at for La Crosse teams.

Greg C.:

Some students have had questions about using a season of eligibility, and do I use a season if I participate with my team and the team's season gets cut short? A lot of you know, particularly those you have who are in spring sports, know that the NCAA issued a waiver last year that said if you were in a spring sport and your season got cut short, then they would not count that as a season of eligibility for you.

The NCAA has recently allowed us to apply a similar rule to this year, or at least to this first semester, where if we start a season and the season gets cut short, depending on when the season gets cut short, we can get a waiver to get students eligibility back., and so they opened up the door for that. And also eligibility related to full-time status. I know Pedro and I talked a lot about this in the last few weeks. One of the things that we did when we created the new – kind of the new block plan, the temporary block plan was to add the J term, and most of you know that it is a half block, but we added the J term to include both half-block courses as well as full-block course, and that J term is considered to be part of the first semester.

One of the NCAA rules is that a student has to be in at least three blocks each semester. Usually, that's three out of the four blocks that we offer and this fall semester, it will be three out of the five blocks. So for example, a student could take a block off and still be eligible, and all of a sudden find out they get sick for example and have to take another block off and that still is not going to negatively impact their eligibility and that's one of the things that the flexibility of the block plan enables us to do.

Jessica, could you switch to the next slide for me? Thank you.

So, I want to talk a little bit about the start of the season and move-in possibilities. As I mentioned, the NCAA is allowing for more flexibility when it comes to the beginning of fall sports. For fall sports teams, the first day of full practice, we're hoping will be comparable to in previous years. For our first full day of regular practice.

What we're looking at now is a potential move-in that could occur 10 days prior to that first date of practice. This 10-day period will allow us to do a couple of things. It will allow us for a climatization, allow us to transition into practice, allow us to take care of the medical and safety protocols that we need to do, et cetera. There are a lot of things that would take place during that 10-day period.

The move-in dates will vary by sport. We're looking right now, and I want to make sure people don't put this on their calendars, but right now we're looking at a move-in day for women's soccer some time in late July, for volleyball and men's soccer, sometime in early August.

Greg C.:

And then cross country, probably mid-August, and then hockey and tennis, probably shortly after cross country, and so maybe slightly later in mid-August.

These are plans that we're working on right now. We hope to solidify them in the next few days, maybe early next week, but this is sort of what we're looking at right now.

A couple of people have asked questions about housing for that time. Women's soccer, because you will potentially be moving in before August 1, which is before the residence halls normally open up, we will likely have temporary housing for you for maybe the first week or so. After August 1, generally speaking, most students will be able to move in to their permanent rooms at that point, depending on when rooms open up. Some rooms may open up slightly later than normal, but I've been working with folks in Res Life and we've been talking through various scenarios, and so you will have housing. Women's soccer right now is the only one where we know absolutely that there will be temporary housing with the idea that you'll be moving into your permanent housing the week – the week after.

To, as I mentioned, other sports could move into their permanent rooms right away. Jessica, next slide. Thanks.

Moving on to events and contests, and Pedro has said it and Lesley has said it, the word that we want all of our coaches to understand is flexibility. Things are changing almost daily. I've had conversations with our coaches and our schedules are a moving target right now.

In regard to home contests, our game management staff and sports medicine staff are working really closely with Sidexo our campus custodial services to ensure cleanliness of athletic facilities, locker rooms, restrooms, the Reed Arena, all of those things. We'll be working on plans to set up our facilities in a socially distanced way so when for – so if and assuming that we can have fans, that the facilities will be set up in a way that is safe and socially distanced.

We've also been working with our conference and with the NCAA regarding a potential game protocol change. And as you can imagine, things like pre and post-game handshakes aren't going to take place if a while. You know, so that stuff is going to change.

Greg C.:

We've gone so far as to even talk about things like volleyball and not switching benches after every set but rather staying on the same side of the court for an entire match. There have been pages and pages of various things like that, and we're working through those and, obviously, there will be more information on that when it becomes more solidified.

And then we'll be closely following state and county guidelines related to fan attendance at events. There was some information that recently came out for the State of Colorado that for outdoor events right now the limit is total of 250 people, and for indoor events that total is 175. That's the total today.

Obviously, we know that could change, but right now we are hopeful that when we are able to have event, if we're able to have home events, that we can actually have fans there. So that's one of the things that we're shooting for.

Last thing I wanted to do before I turn it over to Jason is give a shout out to Andy Oblinger and a lot of you know him. He has been working day and night to work on our game management, our game protocols, working with Sidexo and he's been doing a fantastic job, so for those of you guys who know him, when you see him give him a properly socially distanced pat on the back.

And now I'll turn things over to Jason.

Jason Bushe:

Hello, everyone. I'll kind of reiterate what Greg is talking about there with Andy, boy, he's been fantastic and he's a member of the COVID Athletics Action Team that was assembled back in the spring, and also part of that team to make a push for a safe return to campus is our Athletic administrators, members of campus safety, sports meted sin team members. Chris star with recreation and fitness center and Andy with facilities who is directly connected into campus facilities in terms of managing the safety of the facilities in terms of cleaning and disinfecting, and so a lot goes into this. So we're really looking at the safe return as best as possible if we can move this thing forward.

Also, part of this team is our lead team physician Dr. Gerald Harol and he's been excellent in guiding and steering this from a medical perspective, and he is also part of a subcommittee with the State of Colorado who gives recommendations to the state in items of athletic play in the State of Colorado and so we're in good shape with our team.

Jason B.:

The theme here is things are always changing, and that's true here in medical plans as well. Here in Colorado, we're still meeting gates criteria from what I see in the data. Other states around us have a lot of spikes in it, so that's a concern and some recent spikes in Colorado but it's coming down a little bit in the air. There is still some optimism in the air, okay.

In terms of logistics of athletes coming in and hopping on a plane or traveling back, what we're going to do is start each student athlete with a COVID pre-arrival questionnaire. Okay. And this will be emailed to them, and what we'll have them do is fill that out and it has information on symptoms that they're currently experiencing or being symptom free, recent travel history, potential exposures that they've endured, and as a sports med staff, we'll evaluate those documents and seek to give advice on safer travel decisions before they even come to campus.

And in routine fashion, we're going to have medical pre-participation examinations, athletes on this call will know exactly what that's about. There will be some more COVID information that will be gathered at that time though.

Symptom inventories will be in place, temperature checks, basically gates of our facilities, routine athletic base, routine medical history exams, medical history updates and some things COVID related and obviously that we need to look at especially asthma in the population. And concussion based on routine form. Go ahead, Jessica, there.

So when we look at the resocialization back to campus and to sport, we're starting that off with a three-day self-isolation for students that come from, particularly, hot spots. This aligns with the campus policy, so we think that this is a good idea for a phase in so that we can resocialize you guys back into what we need to do.

There is going to be a 14-day quarantine for international students, and this is part of the CDC, so this is a Federal requirement and so that's something to keep an eye on. As mentioned, we're going to continue with daily symptom checking and screening in a very vigorous way.

In terms of testing, you know, there is a lot about testing and this is a controversial topic. There is no doubt. We're going to align with campus policy when it comes to testing, and we're going to be testing symptomatic individuals. UC Health which is a major hospital entity in our area is going to be coming in to set up shop in the area of Becher from what I understand, to provide testing to all students, all faculty, and all staff.

Jason B.:

Now, once again, that will be right here on campus.

So, we're looking at a real phased approach and something that's careful, and we are a ways away from getting back to, you know, nose to nose on the athletic fields and it's just something that we're not going to rush into. Our phased approach is going to start with engaging in some strength and conditioning sessions that will have a focus on physical distancing, sports-specific skills, and training with our coaches in small groups. Tolerable will be tactical work-through sessions and small group work all with social distancing in mind.

You know, a for sure timeframe of returning to fall practices does remain unclear at this time, and as previously mentioned, NCAA State and local decisions are to come. These will be coming in the next couple weeks and will give us further guidance.

In terms of the training room itself, athletes can expect some differences but services should be really similar. We're going to be functioning by appointment only for rehabilitation sessions and specific treatments. There will be 30-minute timeframes prior to practices that groups can come in to get taped and treated, et cetera. Masks will be mandatory, and of course in the world of medicine, we have closer contact with individuals so masks not only across campus and per the student code, but certainly mandatory in the training room, and I do want to reinforce that.

And we'll – we will have a capacity limit of 20 in the training room, so it's a pretty good sized training room, as you guys all know, so that falls well underneath the state requirements.

You know, what if someone tests positive? And that's very likely going to be the case. We're going to have cases here as we move forward. All of the institutions across the country who are opening up just for their workout sessions are having some cases. There are certainly some scenarios out there where there are some wins and some victories in the media in terms of very limited to no cases and so that is a silver lining for me at this point.

You know, so if an athlete does test positive, they need to expect an isolation period of 14 days, and during that period of time, that athlete will be followed closely by sports medicine staff and team physician staff and will be working closely with campus safety who will be providing a contact tracing program and they're directly tied into the El Paso county department of health and there will be spaces for isolation for students on on campus and meal delivery will be part of this, continued medical care, mental health support and other needs that the student might need if they have to go into the isolation period of time.

Jason B.: In terms of returning back to sports if an athlete contracts COVID, it's a little bit of a long haul. After the 14-day isolation, there is going to be 7 to 14 days of recommended continuing recovery, and around that week of time – a time of about a week and for mild cases and probably more up to a couple weeks for moderate cases, and again, there isn't a lot of information on this because we don't know a tremendous amount of what this looks like. For instance, if someone has a knee injury of the MCL, we have a good gauge of somewhere between 6 to 8 weeks. Well, since this is a novel virus and athletes are contracting this for the first time, we don't have a great overall sense. We just have some perspective guidelines here.

You know, of concern to athletes in terms of contracting this virus is a potential heart issue as they come back into vigorous activity. It's extremely rare but something we're keeping an eye on and an EKG will definitely be part of the return to play process. Somewhere along the time they start to ramp up and really get into intense activities. This is to make sure that there are no abnormal arithmias occurring from the virus which is known in some studies to permeate heart tissue and so we're going to keep a very close eye on that.

The forecasted total return to sport is going to be about a month, and that could be longer, but you know we're going to keep it an optimistic approach here and work together and all the department, staff, and team and do what we can for everybody. Back to you there, Jess.

Jessica B.: Thank you. Thank you to the four of you for speaking. There is a lot of great content. We do have a few moments for some questions that we have received. If there is no NCAA competition, will Colorado college consider safely managed team practices and inter-squad competition?

Lesley I.: Jessica, let me jump in on that. I mean, I think that's a really important question and what I want to speak to is the spirit of that and, you know, for us as we think about the unknown, we understand how important it is for our student athletes to be together as a team and whether that's competing, whether that's practicing, whether that's time off the field together, whether that's down in the varsity weight room with Scott and Emily and the team which I know is precious time.

Lesley I.: So I think to speak to the spirit of the question, I think that's exactly the thought, is if we aren't able to compete, if we aren't able to get on the planes, then we're absolutely committed to doing what we can in line with, obviously, our state recommendations to be able to provide meaningful experiences to our student athletes, and so we would be committed to that, and I think, you know, what does that look like? You know, access to the weight room. I've seen some questions also come in around spring sports and access to the weight room, and I think we're absolutely committed to doing that while also following, obviously, capacity, current capacity limitations around gym space, which are being set by the state as well, so we certainly understand the importance of these experiences and we're advocates for those, and we're committed to being creative around this.

Jessica B.: Thank you. Just a little bit more in depth to what you just touched base upon, Lesley, can you speak a little bit or someone else on the panel, please speak a little bit about what spring sports will be allowed to do. Are spring sport athletes allowed to be on campus in the fall, specifically in block one, can they use the weight room or do they have to wait until block two to return to campus?

Lesley I.: Yeah, and I'll ask Greg to kind of speak to the NCAA piece on that, but what I want to make clear is obviously per the campus announcement, it's first year's only for block one. We are thinking of ways, and I've had some coaches ask about the first year's incoming recruits and can we spend some time together as a team, and I know that the coaches are excited to welcome the first years to campus and I have no doubt that we'll be spending some time together, and whether that's in the weight room with voluntary workouts or whether that's just a picnic on the Quad to say hello and start bonding, then obviously that will happen.

From there, I would like to pass it to Greg just in terms of what are spring sports and, you know, basketball teams will be looking at in block two.

Greg C.: Yeah. So, in block two, the idea is for everybody to be back, at least that's the plan right now. So for block two, then as I touched on a little bit earlier, potentially at least for the La Crosse team, the idea would be to start their fall ball some time in block two. They would obviously have to go through medical clearance and some of the processes that Jason talked about, but that would be our goal anyway.

Greg C.: And then students will also have access to the facilities, so I'm thinking of students on the basketball teams who want to be able to get into the gym and just play pickup ball and that kind of thing. There will be a process, there will be a clearance process that you'll need to go through, but we quantity to make sure that our facilities are available, so by the time we hit October 15 which is the normal start date for the first day of basketball practice, that people will at least had some time both in the gym as well as in the weight room to be able to get prepared for the start of their season.

During block one, obviously, unless you're a fall sport athlete, it's first-year students only and we would want our first-year student athletes who are – who are in a winter sport or spring sport, to be able to start to engage with each other and things like that. There will be more to come on that, but we would want to at least give them a chance to start to get together and get to know each other, connect with each other, and start to engage in activities like working out in the weight room and that kind of thing during block one for our first year non-fall sports athletes.

Lesley I.: And I did want to pick up, Jess, I saw one of the questions with regard to swimming and diving as well on the same topic, and so just to address that. You know, there is current kind of a conference proposal around potentially looking at swimming and diving and moving the championship.

What I want to share there is that is very much in a proposal state and the SCAC athletic directors and administrators meet weekly on Fridays as we talk about the evolving landscape, and so we are yet to discuss that but that is on the agenda for this week. So currently swim and dive is being thought about and defined as a winter sport and so more to come on that, and I'll obviously work on that as those things evolve.

Jessica B.: The next question is, has several points here. Are there potential repercussions if you – excuse me, another question came in and I started to read the wrong one. My apologies.

Will there be negative impacts for our school if other schools in our conference are operating on different rules, and that's kind of related to hot spots. Actually, we'll just stick with that question for right now.

Lesley I.: Yeah. I think so. And I think, Jason, it would be good for you to kind of talk a little bit about how we're currently defining hot spots. It's not a perfect seasons, although our head team physician has provided some guidance around that just as a tool, and I think in addition to what I just shared with the SCAC athletic Director's meeting weekly, what I can share is that the head athletic trainers from all the SCAC institutions are also a group that meet regularly and there is also a COVID-19 group who are making recommendations to the group, so there is very much a coordinated approach. And as would be typical in any year, our athletic training rooms communicate with the athletic training rooms at our SCAC fellow institutions, and so we are going to have a strong sense of what is being prepared at those institutions in terms of a safe environment, and the point being is that we will do an analysis of that before we would think about putting student athletes on planes to those campuses, but there is a conference commitment to some best practices. Jason, did you want to touch on the hot spots?

Jason B.: Yes. And I'd like to follow up with your statement just really quickly on, you know, teams coming in in terms of conference and conferences being involved and some of that structure.

I know that some conferences are moving towards scenarios where there will be travel symptom checks, so it would be before that particular team starts their travel toward the host institution, and then also competition check, and so that way each athlete isn't in a case of trying to hide what's going on and they need to report symptoms, and that is what it is, but they would also get temperature checks and trying to keep this playing field level, per se.

In terms of hot spots, Lesley is right on that there isn't really an exact science to it. A good method is called the R naught value which can be seen on RTlive.com and what that does is it's a state-to-state comparison based on a mathematical type of epidemiological equation where if it's above 1, the virus is actively spreading in that state, and if it's below 1, it's actually coming down, so that's one resource that can be used.

Jessica B.: Can you speak a little bit about quarantine for the international students? Does it differ if the country is in a better position than the United States?

Jason B.: I particularly am not positive at this point. I know I looked up Canada, which is in a great situation compared to the United States and it appears to me that the CDC still does have that 14-day quarantine from any international spot.

- Jessica B.: Thank you. And will on-campus isolation rooms, quarantine rooms be available for students that have housing off campus?
- Lesley I.: Jessica, I believe that to be the case. Pedro, I don't know if you heard anything on that, but obviously if a student is required to isolate, whether they live on campus or not, there would be provisions provided for that.
- Pedro de A.: Yes, Lesley, that's my understanding as well.
- Jessica B.: Great. And is the on-campus testing free of charge to our student athletes?
- Lesley I.: I can jump in on that, and you know, the testing conversation as Jason talked about is one in which we're continuing to finalize details on. We are mirroring the campus approach which would be symptomatic testing. There are ongoing conversations that at the end of the day is very much committed to the ability to make those accessible to all, and so what that actually looks like, it remains to be determined but we're partnering strongly with UC Health on that and the goal is that anyone who needs a test can get a test at whatever point.
- Jessica B.: Thank you. More questions are coming your way. If a student athlete contracts COVID and is isolated, what are the resources available from physicians, and could parents come and get the student athlete and take them home for treatment?
- Jason B.: Yes. The student athlete who is in isolation will certainly have access to Colorado College Team Physicians, certainly via telehealth or any other means, so that will definitely be in play for that student athlete.
- Jessica B.: Thanks. Switching directions a little bit. Will student athletes on the same team be required to social distance? And we'll just keep it at that. Thank you.
- Lesley I.: Jason, could you, as I think about – because there are a couple of questions coming in just around what is social distancing look like realistically and how are teams going to practice and how does this look realistically? You know, to me in our conversations, that really speaks to the phased approach and then, obviously, the daily symptomatic multiple, you know, per-practice testing and in terms of symptoms, survey, et cetera. So could you maybe just drill down a little bit more about the phased approach because I think that that essentially speaks to the social distancing.

Jason B.: Sure, so as athletes come in and the resocialization process, the physical distancing will be part of the scenario, so there is going to be challenges. We certainly know that running drills without being able to be in close contact is certainly cumbersome so it's something we'll just have to kind of be creative with. In terms of how long we'll be social distancing, I don't have a great response to that, honestly, at this time. It's going to depend largely upon the state lifting some standards and making sure that we get through some NCAA regulations regarding some of the phasing into that.

The NCAA has three particular phases with the first being small groups of 10 with social distancing, the second is opening up the number of athletes that can be in an area to as many as 50, but with a continued social distancing. And then the phase three is getting back into contact play and close encounters with teammates and opponents, so those will need to be met. I think for that to happen, some cases are going to have to come down for that to occur, and the state is going to have to phase into that. Right now it's a phase to protect your neighbor with social distancing here still part of the conversation here in the State of Colorado.

Jessica B.: Great. We have several other questions that have come across but unfortunately we're running out of time, so we're going to conclude with just one more question for right now, and those of you that we have not been able to answer your question, we will try our best to get back to you with more information as soon as we can.

The next question, will decisions on training and competition be made for all sports in the specific season or will it be made sport by sport?

Lesley I.: Yeah. I think I can take a stab at that, and feel free to jump in on it, but for me, obviously, our athletic year is cyclical in nature and grouped by NCAA in terms of fall, winter, spring sports, and so I think so much of this in terms of our own decision-making will be driven by what's happening on the conference and NCAA level, and what we have been seeing is that these decisions are made in reference to fall or winter or spring sports, and so because they're tied to time periods as well.

I mean, of course, there has to be like any decision, as we think about things, we apply those to individual sports because, you know, there is nuances with sports. If you look at say hockey and swimming, they're both winter sports but they start up earlier. So we have to take a look at all of the sports specifically, but as we're seeing decisions being made at the national and conference level, we are seeing those categorized into the fall, winter, and spring, so highly likely that we would fall in line with that.

Jessica B.:

Thank you. And as I've already mentioned and others have, if you have additional questions, we do encourage you to reach out to your specific coaching staff. You can also email [Athleticleadership@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:Athleticleadership@coloradocollege.edu) that you can see and check our website at [cctigers.com](http://cctigers.com) and, of course, this goes out specifically to our student athletes and check your CC email as much as you can. We do want to thank everyone for joining us today and your patience and resilience as we work through in together.

We know, and please know that we're committing to communicating as much as we can during this time. On behalf of our department, thank you for joining us today and thank you for your thoughtful questions. We hope to see you all soon. Be well, stay safe, and go Tigers!

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