



USAVolleyball

USAVolleyball.org

4065 Sinton Road, Suite 200 | Colorado Springs, CO 80907 | 719 228 6800

Jamie Davis | Chief Executive Officer

jamie.davis@usav.org

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(sent via e-mail)

Executive Directors
United States High School Associations

Dear Friends,

I hope that this note finds you safe and healthy during this turbulent time. I understand the challenges that you, your organizations, your schools and your communities are facing these days and know that your top priority for all is the safety of the students, faculty, coaches, staff and sports fans.

USA Volleyball has been closely monitoring the status of fall high school sports across the country in partnership with the NFHS and sees that the policies vary widely across different states and counties from “business as usual” to postponement of sports to the spring of 2021. We believe that this makes sense given the various stages of COVID-19 in the different locales.

With all of that said, USA Volleyball would like to help support you and your schools to still provide a vehicle for fall volleyball activity for our children. For those territories where volleyball has been delayed or postponed to 2021, USA Volleyball is proposing a strategy to move the indoor volleyball game outdoors onto the grass fields that would no longer be being utilized this fall. As we know, the coronavirus is much less transmittable outdoors and this *outside plan* would allow our youth to continue to play in way that minimizes risk. USA Volleyball has already published Return to Play Guidelines which were developed with the input of medical experts, the USOPC, the CDC and other NGB’s to provide the necessary safety protocols and would recommend that such guidelines be followed. Our policy furthermore insists that all of our clubs follow the most stringent federal, state or local regulations for social distancing and group sport activity.

We believe that if the schools were to establish courts on outdoor fields, high schools would be able to reinstate their volleyball programming with practices, scrimmages and even interscholastic play. Furthermore, these courts could serve as potential revenue streams in the form of rental opportunities for participation and competition by the nearly 5,000 USA Volleyball clubs across the country. USA Volleyball is developing all of the outdoor play guidelines as a resource for interested parties and would proudly serve as a free resource to help the schools configure the outdoor courts and play accordingly.

Proud Member



On another note, for those states where girls high school volleyball has been postponed to the spring, there is now an inherent clash in 2021 between high school volleyball and USA Volleyball's club season (including our qualifiers and championships). Our fear is that many girls will be forced to choose one over the other (versus playing in both as they currently do) which is a lose-lose for everyone – especially those young, impacted athletes. USAV kindly asks that we enter a dialogue with you and the NFHS to work together to address the impact of overlapping seasons on our student-athletes and coaches. USA Volleyball is happy to work with the affected school associations to develop a calendar which minimizes conflicting dates and affords the players the maximum playing experience in both programs while minimizing the risk of burnout and overuse injuries.

USA Volleyball only wants what is best for our young athletes and is looking forward to working with you to create unique, innovative and safe solutions during this pandemic. We look forward to working with you and ask that you contact us at saferoutside@usav.org to start the dialogue.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Davis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jamie Davis
President and CEO
USA Volleyball