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# NCAA committee aims for six-week calendar to start 2020 college football season on time

By [Dennis Dodd](#) 16 hrs ago • 2 min read

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College football's latest tenuous steps toward an on-time return are being taken. The NCAA College Football Oversight expects to submit a detailed four-phase plan later this month for football activities to begin in July.

*Sports Illustrated* reported Monday that a draft version of that plan includes a recommendation that coaches could begin interacting with players as soon as the first

week of July. Football activities leading to fall camp practice would be modeled for mid-July, Shane Lyons told CBS Sports last week. Lyons is the chair of the NCAA Oversight Committee and athletic director at West Virginia.

That would give teams starting Aug. 29 over six weeks to prepare for the beginning of the 2020 season. The vast majority of teams starting a week later would begin football activities on or around July 24.

"That's the model we're working on," Lyons said.

The recommendations are indeed in a draft state, Lyons stressed. Testing for the coronavirus is still largely a conference-by-conference enterprise as is the possibility of coaches possibly having to wear facemasks on the sideline during games.

The oversight committee recommendations have been shared with the conferences for input before they are sent to the NCAA Council for final approval on June 17. Lyons said the plan is for his committee to finalize all the summer activities leading up to kickoff with those recommendations.



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## 2020 preseason calendar (if approved)

| DATES | PERIOD | DETAILS |
|-------|--------|---------|
|-------|--------|---------|

|                |                             |                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| June 1-25      | Voluntary workouts          | Voluntary and virtual non-physical activities |
| July 13 onward | Team workouts               | Weight training, conditioning, film review    |
| July 24 onward | Walkthroughs, team meetings | 20 hours per week up from 8 hours             |
| Aug. 7 onward  | Practice                    | Preseason practice period                     |

Traditional two-a-days are not expected to be considered. Though the NCAA banned them in 2017, NCAA chief medical officer Brian Hainline recently said data did not conclude there was a negative impact on head trauma during two-a-days.

Lyons said any extension of the regular season would require a change in NCAA legislation. The 2020 season is scheduled to end Dec. 5 with the Army-Navy Game taking place the following week.

Extending the four-game redshirt rule is a consideration that would have to come at a later date. There was some thought that, in order to address possible depth issues, players could potentially play more than four games and still retain that year of eligibility.

The committee has not addressed the issue of fans in the stands. Lyons said the future is so uncertain that he is not sure he could fill West Virginia's 60,000-seat Milan Puskar Stadium. Attendance restrictions could be determined by the conferences.

"Even if they did say [we could fill the stadium], what percentage of people are interested in coming?" he asked. "... I don't believe we're going to have 60,000 even if they did allow us to. I don't think I could sell it out. We're all focusing on the start of the season."

*Sports Illustrated* reported part of the guidelines are a requirement for teams to practice for four weeks before playing their first game. If teams aren't able to get that much practice, the FBS commissioners have basically already spoken: The 10 conferences may not be in sync in terms of starting on time. Within those conferences, not all the teams may be on the same page, either.

Do not expect any replacements for the canceled spring games.

"We're taking the baby steps," Lyons said.

Schools were allowed to have athletes back on campus June 1. Several schools began voluntary workouts on Monday. Most programs will begin voluntary workouts by June 15.

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