



## **Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association**

1188 Victorian Plaza Circle • Sparks, NV 89431 • (775) 453-1012 • Fax (775) 453-1016 • [www.niaa.com](http://www.niaa.com)

April 23, 2020

To: NIAA Member Schools, Districts

From: NIAA Board of Control and Bart Thompson, Executive Director

Re: Cancellation of Spring 2020 Sports

At the Governor's press conference on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 it was announced that schools in the state of Nevada will continue distance learning through the remainder of the current school year. School campuses will remain closed. In-person instruction will not resume during the current school year.

In accordance with the closure of schools for the remainder of the school year to in-person instruction, and in the interest of helping to preserve the health and safety of all Nevadans, NIAA member schools through their representatives on the Board of Control have cancelled all remaining regular season contests and post-season tournaments/meets.

The teams that compete in sports administered by the NIAA are a part of the schools that field those teams. The sports programs at NIAA member schools are organized and operated to support the educational mission of the schools. Schools have found that students who participate in school sports programs graduate at a higher rate, have higher G.P.A.s, attend school more regularly, and have fewer discipline problems than their peers who do not participate. These are but a few of the many benefits derived for students in offering these programs. The education-based sports programs are an effective tool in educating students at NIAA member schools.

Given the need to curb the spread of COVID 19, Nevada schools have temporarily lost access to some of their most effective tools in providing education, including in-person instruction and the support of interscholastic sports programs. Having lost those tools, schools are working hard to continue to fulfill their charge.

It is understood that this is a tremendous disappointment for everyone connected in any way to education-based athletics. The passion associated with the programs and competition are what make it an effective tool in accomplishing the mission of our member schools. We particularly empathize with our student athletes, especially the Class of 2020, who are denied the opportunity of participation this Spring. We all look forward to the day when education-based sports programs safely resume. We will play again!

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The NIAA is an association of member schools organized to administer the program of interscholastic sports in the state of Nevada. It was created by the school districts in the state under the authority of Nevada statute authorizing those districts to create and operate the organization. The NIAA receives no direct state funding. Over-seen by the Legislative Commission which is made up of the superintendents of each of the school districts in the state, the Board of Control is the primary policy making body in the Association. Each of the nine members on the Board of Control represents the member schools located in the geographic region they represent.