

Can college football come back this fall?

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On 17 June, NCAA Division 1 Council allowed a six-week practice plan and announced that the season will start on 29 August. Yet, a lot has been changed regarding COVID-19.

With rising numbers of Covid-19 cases in the country and the cases among the athletes, there is high doubt that if college football can come this fall or not.

Especially, since [at least 21 states declared that they will pause or tighten the restrictions around COVID-19 rules](#) after the United States saw record 50,000 new cases in 24 hours this Wednesday.

As of June 2, most of the states still struggling with increasing numbers, from players to the executives, many believe that college football is not feasible while the threat continues, at least not this fall.

Randy Cohen, Arizona's associate athletics director for medical services questioned the urge to bring college football and stressed the problem of resources and logistics

"We're trying to play football on the upswing of a global pandemic, Can we accomplish it? The odds are probably not very good," he said.



According to ESPN, 13 Texas football players have tested positive but the university of Texas is not the only school that has COVID-19.

It is announced by the following Universities that five Texas A&M athletes, six players at the University of Houston, and two Iowa State football players tested positive so far.

According to Dennis Dodd from CBS sports, there is also a concern of inconsistent testing and numbers so far even before the season starts.

Another announcement that has come as a shock, following the cases among student-athletes is that [Morehouse College announced they are canceling all sports this fall, including football.](#)

Although the major sports are set to come back, in terms of logistics and resources, college football is a little bit different and that is why the return of college football can not be on the same level with NFL or other major leagues.

There is no doubt that the NCAA is a major brand, and the comeback is necessary for the economic point of view, but it is also necessary to remember that these are universities rather than professional sports teams.

Contrary to sports teams, not every university has the same resources and economic power to adjust their facilities with test centers and quarantines.



Considering the lack of resources, economic power, and facilities in NCAA in comparison with major leagues, not having fans in the stadiums are not the only concern.

Not only players but also, the coaches, the staff, and the families are being put to risk if the NCAA football returns this fall.

According to Paul Finebaum, ESPN college football contributor, it is discussed privately around the league that the likelihood of NCAA football season to be delayed is “very likely”.

NCAA also said that there are “over 20,000 international student-athletes enrolled” and many of them are stuck overseas at the moment, because of the travel restrictions.

While this number is not only included football players, it also surfaces another problem for the Universities and college teams in terms of logistics.

Once again, these are different than the major sports organizations, because these are Universities and the players are also students.

Recently, Sen. Richard Blumenthal commented on NCAA football and the fight with COVID-19 regarding the universities and the new season.

Blumenthal said, “At least 150 Division I players have tested positive for the virus, and that number is likely much larger”.

While the logistics and the health issue remains, there are also some debates around the fact that [some universities are forcing student-athletes to waive their right to sue.](#)

Regarding the similar Ohio State document Sen. Blumenthal also added “That is, in effect, a waiver, from my standpoint as a lawyer”.

A waiver even for professional athletes is controversial right now, and the Universities ask student-athletes to agree on such a deal is highly unlikely.

Despite having precautions, even before the season starts, there is still the news of positive tests from NBA camps and from other major sports.

While there is still no final decision that has been made, many colleges started practice, while some said they canceled all sports this fall because of COVID-19.

Apart from the authorities, the student-athletes and the university medical personnel are not keen to return this fall.