

The Corona Virus and its effect on Athletics

The Coronavirus, a deadly illness, has caused a global pandemic and University institutions in Ohio to shut down causing sports to be delayed and/ or canceled.

[Coronavirus](#) is a respiratory illness that is capable of producing severe symptoms and in some cases death especially in older people and those with underlying health conditions. This illness had been first identified in China near the ending months of 2019.

On March 12 2020 Ohio Governor Michael DeWine told U.S News “We are announcing today that children in the state will have an extended spring break of 3 weeks”. This announcement demanded all public, community, and private k-12 school buildings to be closed to all students due to the on-going health crisis.

DeWine made an Executive decision on April 13 to close Ohio Schools for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. He told U.S news that this closing is to “benefit students and keep the children and family of Ohio safe”.

This Virus not only shut down the Schooling Institutions but also any and all extra curricular sporting events that have direct correlation with the schooling systems. This affects grade school and collegiate players.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association informed all member schools Monday April, 20 2020, that spring sports have been canceled. This followed DeWine announcing school facilities will remain closed for the remainder of the academic school year.

The NCAA college sports division announced on Monday March 12 2020 that all spring sports will be canceled for the remainder of their season. This included all intended championships and Final events.

This caused a Money Deficit. Ohio State University told Journal-news that it expects a \$107 million dollar deficit as a result of the Coronavirus. Ohio University told Woub.og that it expects a more than \$290 million dollar deficit. Kent State announced on April 27th that they expect a \$110 million dollar deficit. Other Ohio schools have not come out with specific numbers at this time.

Money loss has forced some colleges to cut sports programs in hopes to save their universities.

Akron University was the first Ohio school to make an athletic cut . Akron University told the Akron Beacon Journal on May 14th that they have come to a panel agreement that the men's golf team, women's tennis team, and men's cross country team will be cut from the sporting roster effective the start of the 2020-2021 season. They stated in that same interview that they expect this cut to save them millions of dollars.

Following Akron's announcement, Bowling Green University told the NCAA that their men's basketball team will be cut from the sporting roster effective the 2020-2021 school year. June 3rd 2020 that statement was retracted as the program was reinstated with private funding.

There were no other NCAA Ohio schools that announced any sport program cuts.

Tennis, golf, and cross country are some of the sports listed under second tier teams.

Football and basketball are top tier teams as their events bring the most television viewers. For this reason their teams get the most funding and are the least likely to get cut from any sporting roster.

Although various sports are on different levels according to tier it does not make any dream less valuable than the other. Coronavirus has made some of those dreams cut short forcing players to seek their goals somewhere else.

Ohio High Schools have not made any cuts to their sporting programs as most of their institutions are pay to play- there is a charge to play the sport intended. Universities pay the athletes whereas in the highschool level the athlete pays the schooling system. Pay to play leaves the decision to the parent instead of the institution.

More male athletic programs are being cut to abide by the [Title IX](#) rule. According to the women's sports foundation this rule was established to “provide everyone with equal access to any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance, including sports. This means that federally funded institutions, such as public schools, are legally required to provide girls and boys with equitable sports opportunities”.

It is easier to cut a male athletics team completely than it is to make a new program for females.

August 19 2020 Mike DeWine told the Ohio Review “all highschool sporting events can resume for the fall season including contact and non-contact”.

Playing was left up to conferences for college athletes.

The American Athletic Conference made a statement that they intended to resume their season in the fall of 2020 whilst the Big ten delayed playing till fall of 2021. The Big Ten later retracted that statement following the American Athletic Conference.

Face covering at all times is required, only family are allowed in the stands.

Ohio University, included in the Mid- American Conference was forced to cancel their game on Saturday because of the high numbers of cases being confirmed on their roster.

No Ohio school has officially canceled their season for the Fall of 2020 but instead have made improvements on how to continue into the spring of 2021.

No University team has reached out for comment at this time.

