

CLUB #	Total # of Athletes	Number of Positive C-19 Athletes	Total # of Coaches/Staff	Number of Positive C-19 Coaches/Staff	Total Athletes and Coaches/Staff	Total Positive C-19 Cases (Athletes + Coaches/Staff)	% Positive Cases	# Hospitalized	# Recovered	% with Full Recovery	Total # of Different Tournaments Attended (3 = 3 times to the Dells)	Total # of Different States Completed In
1	200	0	21	0	221	0	0%	0	0	100	100	4
2	225	1	15	0	240	1	0.42%	0	1	100	10	5
3	100	1	15	0	115	1	0.87%	0	1	100	18	4
4	75	0	12	1	87	1	1.15%	0	1	100	32	3
5	140	7	10	4	150	11	7.33%	0	11	100	10	3
6	285	2	45	0	330	2	0.61%	0	2	100	20	3
7	160	0	40	2	200	2	1.00%	0	2	100	0	0
8	88	0	11	1	99	1	1.01%	0	1	100	7	3
Total	1273	11	169	8	1442	19	0.84%	0	19	100	197	3.125

Data from 8 different basketball clubs in the state of Wisconsin who practiced and competed during the months of May 26th until August 30th, 2020

There were more clubs who participated but did not complete the survey. In verbal communication with those clubs, they all had similar results.

SUMMER 2020 WISCONSIN BASKETBALL COVID-19 DATA

There are a number of schools and districts along with youth sports clubs around the state of Wisconsin that are continuing to shut down opportunities for youth to be active in their respective sports because of the fear of the most recent pandemic scare of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Scientists are learning more about this coronavirus. It is safe to say with all the focus and data compiled to date since the beginning of the year, and as we move towards finalizing a vaccine, we are no longer dealing with what was initially called a "novel" or new coronavirus. It has been at least 9 months since the government and scientists went hard at work to study and manage the effects of this virus. Much data has been compiled within the state of Wisconsin and around the country regarding COVID-19, and it has become clear that athletes can participate in contact and non-contact sports without fear of hospitalization and debilitating sickness.

The [Wisconsin Sports Coalition](#) is an organized body of sports directors, working in the area of basketball, who bonded together to support each other during the spring March through May 2020 coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 shutdown in the state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Sports Coalition reviewed scientific data in the month of May and created the [Wisconsin SMART Start plan](#) that provides any sports affiliated entity the path to successfully organizing and managing non-contact and contact sports during a pandemic. Whether it be an Event Planner, Event Operator, School District, Athletic Director, Coach, etc., any Operator could take this WI SMART Start plan and enact the recommendations based on the CDC findings, to re-open businesses, kick start sports again, and manage activity during the pandemic as explained by the CDC. The Wisconsin Sports Coalition used the [Wisconsin SMART Start plan](#) to start and manage their programs effectively during the summer of 2020.

According to the data prior to starting the summer 2020 season, and the data compiled after the 2020 summer season, it became quite clear that it was and is still safe for sports to continue. There are clear protocols that can be implemented to ensure the health and well-being of all participants.

Study: When Governor Evers shut down gyms, fitness centers, and schools, basketball clubs were left without the ability to manage their organization. Upon the re-opening of the state, clubs were left to fend for themselves, but there were pockets of organizations that banded together to address this issue of whether or not to run their organization. For those who could gain access to hardwood court facilities [4 facilities in the state of Wisconsin opened back up], the basketball clubs rented these facilities and used the WI SMART Start plan to move forward wisely using CDC recommended guidelines. Over 20 basketball affiliated clubs managing over 2,000 athletes created a summer schedule of full contact practices and competition across the state of Wisconsin. They also attended competition outside the state of WI including Iowa, Indiana, and Minnesota. These are the findings of eight of those clubs who participated in the post 2020 summer survey.

Results: Eight boys and girls sports clubs were surveyed in September of 2020 regarding their experience with COVID19 after practicing and competing from late May until the end of August. One club (Club #6) shared results for their 285 athletes. This included 123 volleyball athletes in training. Club #6 included 162 basketball athletes or 16 teams. Club #6 basketball teams activity participated in both full contact practices and competition inside and outside of the state of Wisconsin. Seven of the eight clubs shared data that represented a population of basketball athletes only who participated in both full contact practices and competition inside and outside of the state of Wisconsin.

Clubs were asked for number of positive cases in their athletes during this summer of 2020 activity. After removing the highest and lowest percentage of positive cases (a typical statistical approach to removing abnormal outliers), this summer of 2020 showed that only .84% of athletes and coaches tested positive for COVID-19 after experiencing health related C-19 symptoms (ie: scratchy throat, fever, tired, headache, temporary loss of taste/smell).

Nineteen of the 1442 total participants or 8 out of 1071 (.84% minus the outliers) had symptoms resembling the SARS-CoV-2 disease COVID-19 that initiated protocols established by the Wisconsin Sports Coalition based on CDC data that mandated their participants get tested. In all cases, the positive athlete/coach was quarantined along with members they were in direct contact with for a standard of time. Athletes testing positive were quarantined for 10 days from the date of testing. Athletes who were in direct contact with the positive individual were quarantined for 14 days from the date of exposure.

No youth athletes or adult coaches were hospitalized. According to emails received from the Sports Directors, the symptoms of those with COVID-19 were 100% both mild and brief. The symptoms lasted anywhere from 1-2 days to less than 2 weeks. All positive cases fully recovered.

Discussion: Our data shows that there is no reason to shut down sports in the state of Wisconsin. Less than 1% of the athletes even showed any symptoms, of which were mild, after tens of thousands of interactions with athletes both in and outside the state of Wisconsin. The data for the country according to results we are seeing for professional baseball, professional basketball, professional football, collegiate volleyball and basketball, and now youth volleyball and football, continue to prove that contact sports is a safe activity to participate in. There are more data that is now coming out that is showing the harmful results that taking athletic opportunities away from athletes have on the physical and mental health of youth and adults. Any decision against starting or continuing athletics for athletes at this time, is a decision that clearly does not follow the data. It is safe to return to sports.

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Data Compiled from the Wisconsin Sports Coalition
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