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Attention Current and Prospective Student-Athletes:

In a [news release](#) today, the St. Louis Intercollegiate Conference (SLIAC) announced modifications to its fall sports schedules in order to adhere closely to federal and state guidelines concerning COVID-19. I am reaching out to the campus community to explain these changes in simpler terms and to reassure our athletes that Blue Jays sports will continue this fall, but perhaps in an altered format.

Simply put, the fall schedules for cross country and women's golf remain unchanged. Men's and women's tennis and men's golf have moved to the fall. Competitions for volleyball and men's and women's soccer have been moved to the spring. However, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is allowing volleyball and soccer to have a comprehensive, non-traditional fall season. These activities include individual and team skill instruction, strength and training, practices, scrimmages, and leadership development.

Decisions relating to football and COVID-19 will be announced later this week by the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC). Of course, information concerning winter sports is not available yet — SLIAC is working carefully with the colleges in its conference and will continue monitoring the pandemic in the months to come before making further decisions. Finally, as of today, other than the changes mentioned above concerning tennis and men's golf, spring sports remain unaffected.

I want to emphasize that most athletic conferences throughout the United States are moving in this direction, and more than half of the NCAA conferences have suspended fall sports entirely. The Westminster Athletic Department is doing all it can to make sure our student-athletes have the safest athletic and academic experience possible this fall. We are, first and foremost, concerned for our athletes' health and safety, and like the rest of the College, we are adhering to guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Callaway County Health Department, and the American College Health Association. I think the changes announced today are both necessary and fair for all involved.

If our athletes have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your coaches or me, and we will be happy to talk with you. Furthermore, once SLIAC schedules are set for our altered sports, we ask you also to reach out to your advisors this fall to make any necessary changes to your academic schedules. As an institution, we are committed to working with our student-athletes to help them succeed. We continue to look forward to a great fall season and to seeing you on campus soon.

Sincerely,

**Matthew Mitchell**  
Director of Athletics

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