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*For immediate release:*

### **ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL AND BASKETBALL SEASONS MOVED TO SPRING SEMESTER**

**ALPENA, MICH.** – Following the recommendations from the National Junior College Athletic Association Presidential Advisory Council and the NJCAA Board of Regents, the Michigan Community College Athletic Association has announced the move of all sports except cross country to the spring semester in an effort to help contain the spread of COVID-19. This shift will move the ACC Volleyball and Basketball seasons to the spring semester, with only Cross Country taking place in the fall.

“I support the NJCAA decision,” said ACC Athletic Director Cindy DeRocher. “Our athletes’ safety comes first, and we need time to condition, hone our skills, and team build at a safe pace. We have an athletic resumption plan to implement that is drastically different than how we operated before and needs time. If volleyball started this fall not all teams on our conference schedule would be able to compete as some gyms are still closed. It gives us a plan as we adapt to the changes in our life that COVID-19 is presenting.” ACC President Dr. Don MacMaster has stated that regardless of what happens with athletics, all athletic scholarship commitments made to students will be honored.

In a statement released by NJCAA President & CEO Dr. Christopher Parker, the organization explained that the close-contact fall sports would be moved in order to allow student-athletes to compete at the highest level with proper safety measures in place. "Our greatest focus is and always has been providing the best opportunities for our student-athletes. As we move forward as an association, we will continue to provide opportunities for our student-athletes, coaches, and all those involved with the NJCAA to be safe and successful."

The most recent plan of action shifts all close-contact fall sports to the spring semester. These sports include football, men's and women's soccer, and court volleyball. The NJCAA cross country championships for all three divisions and half marathon championships will remain as their originally scheduled dates in the fall as well as Division III women's tennis. All winter sports competition will begin in January with a majority of championship seasons moved from March to April. These sports include men's and women's basketball, wrestling, and swimming and diving. Men's and women's

bowling and men's and women's indoor track and field will be held at the beginning of March.

Along with the adjustments to competition season and championship dates, the NJCAA has provided information as it relates to scrimmage and practice dates and allowances in the fall.

DeRocher has been in contact with several other Athletic Directors from the MCCA and the Ohio Community College Athletic Association (OCCAC) as well as many of their Head Athletic Trainers. As a group, they have been meeting virtually to monitor the ever-evolving science and numerous recommendations by health and athletic governing bodies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The recommendations are based on scientific and medical guidance provided by the CDC, NJCAA, NATA, and many other sources,” said DeRocher. “At ACC we are moving forward to prepare our own plan by following the recommendations and adapt to changes as we proceed down a new path.

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