

SIMMONS ATHLETES FACE UNCERTAIN SEASONS

On March 8, the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Presidents' Council voted to authorize limited conference play for spring sports, allowing the Simmons University women's lacrosse and softball teams to return to the field for the first time since March 2020.

The logistics for limited conference play for both teams is still unclear. GNAC stated in an email that finalized schedules are not yet public and opportunities for postseason play will be evaluated by league administrators throughout the season.

Players on the Simmons softball and lacrosse teams said that practices will include pods of four players meeting three times a week. Each pod will increase the number of players, until reaching full team practices before competitions begin.

“It has been over a year since we have all played together,” said sophomore softball player, Sam Barr. “I would love to have in-person games if it is safe to do so, it will also be nice to have a structured practice run by Coach.”

Sophomore lacrosse player, Samantha Hogan, said she is also looking forward to the altered season, and is grateful for any chance to play.

While softball and lacrosse teams will be playing competitively this spring 2021 semester, GNAC fall sport athletes have a four-week practice season without competitive play.

In July 2020 GNAC announced that fall athletic competitions would be postponed to spring 2021. As the pandemic continued, it was decided that competitions for fall or winter sports would not be held during the spring 2021 semester.

“I would absolutely compete if I was given the opportunity,” said Lucy McNamara, a senior field hockey player.

“I miss the feeling of a game, the adrenaline rush, and I didn't realize that I would never experience that again.” McNamara's last game played was fall 2019.

According to Barr, Hogan, and McNamara, their respective athletic teams continue to stay connected through Zoom workouts and team check-ins as they navigate uncertain seasons.