

July 22, 2020

Dear 7th-12th grade Sports Families,

Earlier this summer the NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association) put together a COVID-19 Task Force to examine resources and assist in planning the safe return to interscholastic athletics. The priority has been and will continue to be on the educational process and a return to learning in the safest way possible.

The NYSPHSAA officers' decision as of today includes:

- Delay Fall sports start date until Monday, September 21st (*NYSPHSAA PAUSE*)
- Cancel Fall Regional and State Championship events
- Waive seven-day practice rule
- Maintain current practice requirements
- Encourage geographic scheduling for games & contests
- Schools would have the option, **if permitted by state officials**, to offer off-season conditioning workouts.

Through delaying the start dates for fall athletics, schools can focus on procedures for safely opening school. As an additional level of planning, the Task Force acknowledges there are regional differences; schools and areas will be impacted differently by the COVID-19 crisis. At the discretion of the NYSPHSAA Officers and authorization from state officials, if the fall sports seasons are interrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, delaying the start of the season past September 21st (i.e. state official guidance, school closings, cancelation of high-risk sports, etc.) then a condensed season plan would be implemented.

The Condensed Season plan would entail the following, with the stipulated dates being **tentative**.

**Season I (Winter Sports)**

**Dates: Jan. 4-Mar. 13 (Week 27-36) 10 Weeks \*Note: tentative dates**

Sports: basketball (girls & boys), bowling (girls & boys), gymnastics, ice hockey (girls & boys), indoor track & field (girls & boys), skiing (girls & boys), swimming (boys), \*wrestling, \*competitive cheer.

*\* Because of high risk nature of wrestling and competitive cheer, sports may have to be moved to Season II or season III.*

**Season II (Fall Sports)**

**Dates: Mar. 1-May 8 (Week 35-44) 10 Weeks \*Note: tentative dates**

Sports: football, cross country (girls & boys), field hockey, soccer (girls & boys), swimming (girls), volleyball (girls & boys), Unified bowling.

*Note: Weather will have an impact upon outdoor sports in some parts of the state in March and potentially early April. Girls Tennis moved to Season III.*

**Season III (Spring Sports)**

**Dates: Apr. 5-Jun. 12 (Week 40-49) 10 Weeks \*Note: tentative dates**

Sports: baseball, softball, golf (girls & boys), lacrosse (girls & boys), tennis (girls & boys), outdoor track & field (girls & boys), Unified basketball.

We will continue to update the website for frequently asked questions and as we get further guidance from state officials.

PLEASE note that Section One also has a Covid-19 Task Force that is working locally. We have the opportunity to support our student athletes locally by monitoring our concerns such as crossover of seasons (length of seasons) as well as overlap. As a section, we will look to state officials to make decisions by August 7<sup>th</sup> (we are told) and plan accordingly from there.

Once we have a concrete decision on September 21<sup>st</sup>, we will reach back out with updated information, specific to the state, section, and, Rye specifically.

I realize the unknown is frustrating and challenging, please know we will do our best to support our student athletes whatever the outcome.

Stay safe and be well,  
Susan E Reid Dullea

Director of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics

Please see the link from NYSPHSAA <http://www.nysphsaa.org/COVID-19-Info> for frequently asked questions.

We are committed to providing the very best school experience for all of our students including athletic and extracurricular activities following all guidance and requirements by the NYS Department of Health, the NYS Education Department and Westchester County.