



### **Memorandum**

**To:** NJSIAA Member Schools  
**From:** Tony Maselli, NJSIAA Assistant Director  
**Date:** June 19, 2020  
**Re:** NJSIAA Return to Play Guidelines – Phase 1

### **NJSIAA COVID-19 Medical Advisory Taskforce**

Mary Liz Ivins (Chair), former NJSIAA Executive Committee president and former principal of Notre Dame High School; Dr. Jack Kripsak, chair of the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee; Dr. Damion Martins, team physician and director of Internal Medicine to the New York Jets and a member of the NFL COVID Taskforce; Dr. Rob Franks, a team physician for USA Wrestling and team consultant to the Philadelphia Phillies; Kathy Whalen, NJ Department of Education; Tony Maselli, NJSIAA Assistant Director.

The COVID-19 Medical Advisory Taskforce has worked diligently during the past four weeks to craft guidelines for the safe return to play of our student athletes. This has been accomplished by reviewing and considering a wealth of information from state and national organizations. The committee focused its decision-making on what is in the best interests of New Jersey's student athletes.

It is recognized that every school will need to evaluate its ability to return to play against the availability of resources and the willingness to assume the responsibility for student safety. High school athletics cannot function independently from schools. The committee could not compromise the level of care needed in order to respond to the variety of situations schools find themselves in across the state. In an unprecedented move, the NJSIAA has stepped up to regulate the 2020 summer season in order to offer the greatest level of safety and care for student athletes.

The governor's Executive Order 149 specifies that high school sports activities under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association ("NJSIAA") may resume in accordance with reopening protocols issued by NJSIAA, which shall consider NJ Department of Health (DOH) guidance in issuing these protocols.

The NJSIAA has established direct communication with the governor's office, the DOH, the NJ Department of Education (DOE), as well as other state associations that are in similar situations regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Regular communication with these state decision-makers will keep the NJSIAA up-to-date on all matters potentially impacting the return of high school athletics.

The following phase 1 guidelines are for schools wishing to host summer conditioning workouts. Please be advised that these guidelines prohibit school sponsored inter-squad competition.