



To: NJSIAA Member Schools
From: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer
Date: June 25, 2020
RE: Statement on Phase I Clarifications

The Phase I Guidelines and related clarifications are specific to the summer recess period. The summer recess period is scheduled to start July 13th, but a school can decide to start summer recess workouts at any time thereafter. The Medical Advisory Task Force explains the importance of following the phases during the summer recess period in the clarifications posted yesterday.

Until the Governor announces a return to school plan for September, the NJSIAA cannot determine the start date of fall regular season practices. All dates are subject to change and as of right now we cannot definitively say that the regular season will start on either August 10th or August 17th, depending on the sport. There is a realistic chance that the start of the fall regular season practices will need to be delayed, but we do not have enough information at this time to make that decision.

We ask that all schools be patient and understand that these guidelines are not forcing any school to start summer recess workouts on July 13th. Again, the Phase I Guidelines are specific to the summer recess period. The Medical Advisory Task Force will release guidelines specific to the start of regular season practices. The Medical Advisory Task Force is also fully aware that not every school will have had the opportunity to start Phase I prior to the start of the regular season practices, and thus, it will release guidelines for starting the regular season for both scenarios: schools that have returned to play under Phase I during the summer recess period, and schools that have not.

Normally NJSIAA does not regulate the summer recess period. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Executive Order #149 (which sets forth the dates for the return of youth sports generally, but not high school sports), for the safety of our student athletes, the NJSIAA is compelled to regulate the summer recess period.

Lastly, during this challenging time, we need the cooperation of everyone involved in high school sports in New Jersey. This upcoming fall sports season is not going to look like previous fall sports seasons. Please focus on providing the best participation opportunities for your student-athletes during the summer recess that your school district is comfortable providing and allow time for the plans concerning the fall regular season to evolve as we gather more information. There are many stakeholders involved in this decision, and it will take time to configure a schedule for a return to the fall sports season.

Thank you for your patience, your flexibility and your support of our student-athletes.