



COVID-19 AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES

To: NJSIAA Member Schools
From: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer
Date: July 31, 2020
RE: NJSIAA Weekly Update

**THERE WILL BE NO WEEKLY UPDATE ON FRIDAY AUGUST 7TH.
ANY IMPORTANT UPDATES WILL BE POSTED TO THE AD FORUM.**

Pre-Participation Examination (PPE) Proposal Status:

On Thursday, July 30th, the Assembly unanimously passed the PPE bill (A4295). After a brief stop back at the Senate for a procedural vote, the final bill was sent to the Governor's office. We will confirm as soon as we learn the bill has been signed by the Governor. Below are the links to the bills as approved by each chamber.

Assembly: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A4500/4295_I1.PDF
Senate: https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3000/2518_R1.PDF

COVID-19 Medical Advisory Task Force Update:

The task force did not meet this past week. On Wednesday, July 29th, a few additional clarifications were posted to the AD Forum related to workouts and COVID-19 contact procedures. These clarifications have also been updated in the Summer Recess General Guidelines. The task force will reconvene on Tuesday, August 4th, and will work on resources for the virtual contact period as well as COVID-19 related recommendations for the regular season.

Please continue to visit NJSIAA's COVID-19 Resources tab for up-to-date guidelines and resources: <https://www.njsiaa.org/covid-19-resources>

COVID-19 Sports Advisory Task Force Update:

The task force continued its work on contingency scenarios based on potential changes to the school day and school year. The task force also reviewed specific regular season guidelines and preliminary plans for NJSIAA post-season competition. The task force will be on hiatus next week but will be back to work on Wednesday, August 12th.

Please be reminded, Model 1 allows member schools the time to start planning for a fall sports season, but it also allows time to monitor the return-to-school plans and health circumstances before a final determination is made. The conversations and circumstances are evolving almost daily. We are hopeful that schools will continue to be patient and wait for more reliable information and data before rushing to make difficult decisions that will directly impact their student-athletes.

NJSIAA Modified COVID-19 Sport Regulations and Considerations:

NJSIAA staff is busy working on modified regulations and considerations for all fall sports which should be available in August.

Below is a summary of important contest limitations and dates to assist schools with their regular season scheduling and planning:

Sport	Weekly Maximum	Regular Season Maximum	Post-Season Refusal Date
Cross Country	2	12	Oct. 26 th
Field Hockey	2	14	Oct. 26 th
Football	1	6	Oct. 26 th
Gymnastics	2	12	Oct. 26 th
Soccer	2	14	Oct. 26 th
Tennis	3	14	Oct. 18 th
Volleyball	2	14	Oct. 26 th

Field hockey, soccer, tennis and volleyball will be allowed to have two “plus-one” weeks: Field hockey, soccer and volleyball may have two 3-game maximum weeks and tennis may have two 4-match maximum weeks.

Multi-Team Event Limitations:

Cross Country – batch events will be limited to 4 teams while invitational events will be limited to 12 teams.

Gymnastics – only one multi-team event per week is permitted, which may not exceed 4 teams.

Volleyball – only one multi-team event per week is permitted, which may not exceed 4 teams.

NFHS Executive Directors Roundtable Updates:

As of Wednesday, July 29th, 23 states have either delayed the start of the fall sports season or postponed the entire season until later in the school year. However, no state has indicated that they know with certainty what the return to the school year will ultimately look like in their state.

NJSIAA continues to have frequent communications with not only the Department of Education, but the Governor’s office as well. All continue to be very supportive of our return to play planning and appreciate everyone’s efforts to re-engage our student-athletes as safely and quickly as possible. Unfortunately, not all state associations have this type of relationship with their state governmental entities and have been left out of some of the decision-making that is directly impacting their student-athletes.

NJSIAA Video Message:

Many of you may have seen the video message that we posted yesterday. I think we all need to make every effort to remind these student-athletes that they can play a role in a successful return to the fall sports season. I appreciate you sharing this message with your student-athletes: <https://youtu.be/1EnBBqj1WZI>

Final Thoughts:

I want to share an email I received earlier this week from a member of the press that made me realize we are not the only group that is concerned with the social, emotional and mental well-being of our student-athletes. There are members of the press that genuinely love to cover high school sports and document memories that can last a lifetime.

“I am seriously worried about the well-being of our young people if school, athletics and after-school activities are sidelined. To me, I believe our community at large should be making our youth our priority during this pandemic, trying to make their lives as ‘normal’ as possible...keeping health as the #1 priority of course. I feel like if we do that, we will be setting these kids up so well for their future and when they will definitely pay it back with goodwill to their community when they grow older. Similarly, I feel like there may be a lot of negative unintended consequences if we just quarantine these kids away from each other, their school and their activities.

It seems you share a similar point of view from the actions you've been doing with the NJSIAA and the task forces you've assembled. If there is anything I or my organization can do to help your mission, please do not hesitate to reach out.” *George Muha, Morris Sussex Sports*