



COVID-19 AND OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES

To: NJSIAA Member Schools
From: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer
Date: September 4, 2020
RE: NJSIAA Weekly Update

This is the final installment of the NJSIAA Weekly Update series, I hope you have found these updates helpful this summer, as we worked together to re-engage our student-athletes.

Fall Season Kick-Off Meeting:

On Thursday, September 10th, Tony Maselli and I will be hosting a fall season kick-off virtual meeting via WebEx from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This meeting is only for athletic administrators whose schools are hosting a fall sports season. The purpose of the meeting is to review the fall season guidelines and COVID-19 protocols, as well as to answer any questions. It is helpful for questions to be emailed to me in advance – cmaguire@njsiaa.org.

Please register via the following link. Virtual meeting instructions will be sent Wednesday, September 9th to all registered participants.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JRQNG87>

Virtual Contact Period – Reminders:

The virtual contact period will go through Thursday, September 10th, for Field Hockey and Football, and through Sunday, September 13th, for Cross Country, Soccer and Girls' Tennis. Heat acclimatization for Field Hockey and Football may start on Friday, September 11th.

During the virtual contact period, coaches may not have in-person contact with their student-athletes. However, NJSIAA is permitting schools to host equipment pick-up days during the virtual contact period. A school administrator must be present, social distancing must be maintained, everyone must be in masks, and pick-up schedules should be staggered to minimize the number of people present at the same time.

Lastly, athletic training rooms may be used for injury evaluation, injury rehabilitation and ImPACT testing during the virtual contact period. Coaches are not permitted to be present in athletic training rooms during the virtual contact period.

COVID-19 Protocols:

NJSIAA has posted protocols to help athletic departments determine how COVID-19 positive tests and exposures for student-athletes and staff should be handled during the upcoming fall season. The protocols are posted to the AD Forum and under “Latest News” on the NJSIAA website. Please share these protocols with your school’s designated Pandemic Response Team, school administration and athletic trainers.

Please email Tony Maselli – tmaselli@njsiaa.org – with specific questions. He will address your questions during the fall season kick-off meeting on Thursday, September 10th.

“Mask Up” Campaign:

Over the next week, we will be highlighting our senior Student Ambassadors’ video messages on social media. Please promote these messages within your school community. The success of the fall sports season is dependent upon the health of our communities – we all need to work together to keep each other healthy.

Final Thoughts:

The last three months have been a tremendous learning experience. While we still have a long way to go until high school sports as we know them are back to normal, I am confident that we have created a plan that provides an opportunity for all sports to return to play safely this year. However, we continue to stay mindful of the need to be flexible, and we will be vigilantly monitoring the relevant indicators to determine if and when we need to pivot to a back-up model.

I want to close by recognizing all of those that played an integral part in our efforts over the summer, including the following:

1. **Medical Advisory Task Force** – Dr. Rob Franks, Dr. Jack Kripsak and Dr. Damion Martins, alongside Kathy Whalen, Department of Education, and Mary Liz Ivins, NJSIAA Past-President.
2. **Sports Advisory Task Force** – Dave Frazier (chair), Denis Nelson, Tom Mullahey, Kevin Murphy, Dan Uszaki, Todd Ricker, and Ryan Miller.
3. **NJSIAA staff** – Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf, Jack DuBois, Kim DeGraw-Cole and Tony Maselli.
4. **NJSIAA staff at-large** – Steve Goodell and Scott Miccio, attorneys at Parker McCay; Paul Anzano, lobbyist; and Michael Cherson, public relations. A special thank you to Scott Miccio for always being on call 24/7 to be the editor of all of my communications this summer.
5. **Executive Committee officers** – Steve Shohfi, Point Pleasant Beach School Board Member; Tom Mullahey, Athletic Director, Clifton; and Joe Bollendorf, Superintendent, Washington Township High School.

These groups met weekly and worked hard to get us to this point. I am especially grateful for the support of our Executive Committee officers. They have gone above and beyond what they signed up for and have been a tremendous resource this summer.

Additionally, Tony Maselli deserves a special thank you for the countless hours spent responding to emails and calls regarding the summer recess guidelines. Our summer recess workouts would not have been nearly as successful without his efforts.

I am confident that this will be a summer that we all remember for a very long time.

I hope you all have a nice Labor Day weekend!