

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(as of 12/14/20)

Q: Who has the authority to amend or change the state issued guidance related to interscholastic athletics?

A: *State Officials (New York State Department of Health, New York State Education Department) are the only entities that have the authority to modify, amend or revise the guidance provided to schools. NYSPHSAA is required to follow state issued guidance. NYSPHSAA only has the authority to amend NYSPHSAA rules or regulations.*

Eligibility Standards & NYSED

Q: If a student is fully remote, are they eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics?

A: *According to the New York State Education Department, a student may participate in interscholastic athletics if he/she is taking three courses plus physical education (Bona Fide Student) regardless of the education platform being utilized (fully remote, hybrid, etc.). [See NYSED September 1, 2020 MEMO in Attachments]*

Q: Will students be provided additional years of eligibility because of the COVID-19 crisis?

A: *As per the New York State Education Department's Duration of Competition Regulation, students are limited to 4 consecutive years of athletic eligibility upon entering the 9th grade (5 years for students who participate at the high school level as an 8th grader and 6 years for students who participate at the high school level as a 7th grader). Students are able to apply for an extension of eligibility, as per the regulation, if the student experiences an illness, accident or social/ emotional condition which causes the student to miss a semester of eligibility AND the illness, accident or social/ emotional condition requires the student to take additional semesters to graduate. The current interpretation is students who repeat a grade because of the COVID-19 crisis would not be candidates for an extension of eligibility since school has continued to occur and credits towards graduation have not been interrupted.*

Winter 2020-2021 Season

Q: When can high risk Winter sports start practicing and competing?

A: *State officials have not provided authorization for high risk winter sports to begin play. NYSPHSAA has put the January 4th start date on hold for high risk winter sports until this authorization is provided.*

Winter sports must abide by the NYSDOH guidance on high risk sports; no games may be played until additional authorization is provided. See pages 6-7 for information on off-season conditioning activities.

The decision to conduct off-season conditioning activities is determined by the individual school districts.

Q: When can low/ moderate risk Winter sports start practicing and competing?

A: *State officials have provided authorization for low/ moderate risk winter sports to begin play. NYSPHSAA has established November 30th as the official start date for low/ moderate risk sports.*

***Some Sections have delayed this start date.*

Q: Will there be Regionals and State Championships during the Winter Season?

A: *No. All State-level competition has been canceled for the Winter 2020-2021 season.*

Fall Sports Season II

Q: What is the Fall Sports Season II?

A: The NYSPHSAA officers approved the creation of an additional season (Fall Sports Season II) to commence on March 1, 2021 to provide high risk fall sports (competitive cheer, football and volleyball) the opportunity to participate in a season. The sections have the responsibility to determine season end dates, however the NYSPHSAA officers have recommended the season end on May 1, 2021.

Q: Has the NYSPHSAA Seven Consecutive Day Rule been waived?

A: The Seven Consecutive Day Rule has been waived for the entire Fall Sports Season II.

Q: Will there be Regionals and State Championships for Fall Season II?

A: No; NYSPHSAA Regionals and State championship events will not be for Fall Season II.

Q: Can sections host a Sectional Championship for Fall Season II?

*A: Yes; sections can host a Sectional Championship for Fall Season II. **(Section III will not)***

Q: Will Modified and Junior Varsity athletics be permitted for Fall Season II?

A: The hosting of interscholastic athletics during Fall Season II is at the sole discretion of the individual school district.

Q: When can Fall Sports Season II start practicing and competing?

A: NYSPHSAA announced March 1st has been approved as the scheduled Fall Sports Season II start date. Fall Sports Season II sports must abide by the NYSDOH guidance on high risk sports; no games may be played until additional authorization is provided. See pages 6-7 for information on off-season conditioning activities. The decision to conduct off-season conditioning activities is determined by the individual school districts.

Q: Can a student participate in the traditional Fall season, Winter season, Fall Sports Season II and the Spring season?

A: Yes, a student may participate in all four seasons during the 2020-2021 school year assuming they meet all NYSPHSAA and NYSED eligibility requirements.

Q: Will the NYSPHSAA practice requirements be adjusted for the Fall Sports Season II?

A: No, students may represent their school after six practices in all sports with the exception of football and gymnastics which will require 10 practices.

Q: Can other sports be added to the Fall Sports Season II?

A: Other sports seasons may be added to Fall Sports Season II; this would be at the discretion of the individual sections.

Q: There appears to be a two week overlap between Fall Sports Season II and the Spring sports season. Can students participate in both seasons and will any practices carryover?

A: Sections may allow students to participate in both seasons. The NYSPHSAA officers approved allowing three practices for all sports (4 for baseball) to carry over to the Spring sports season.

Spring 2021 Season

Q: When can Spring sports start practicing and competing?

A: NYSPHSAA announced April 19th has been approved as the official Spring sports start date. See pages 6-7 for information on off-season conditioning activities. The decision to conduct off-season activities is determined by the individual school districts.

Boys Lacrosse is the only spring sport categorized at high risk by the NYSDOH. At this time, high risk sports have not been provided authorization to begin play.

Q: Will there be Regionals and State Championships during the Spring Season?

A: Yes, however it is subject to change.

Spectators:

For spectators, the following additional safety measures apply:

- For sports events (e.g. games), responsible parties must limit spectators to **two spectators per player.**
- Responsible Parties must ensure spectators maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times and all spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situations where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained, so long as they are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate such covering.

**Spectators will not be permitted at Bowling matches per the [SCAC press release](#)

For additional questions please contact:

Michael A. Clonan
Director of Athletics, Physical Education & Health
315-434-3301
mclonan@esmschools.org

