

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(as of 9/25/20)

**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.*

### Fall Sports Season 1

**Q: If the Fall sports season is interrupted, could the condensed season model still be considered?**

**A:** *With regional differences, schools and areas will continue to be impacted differently by the COVID-19 crisis. If the Fall sports season is interrupted or impacted by the COVID-19 crisis then a condensed seasons plan could still be implemented. That decision will be made by the NYSPHSAA officers with the information available at that time.*

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

**A:** *The NYSPHSAA Officers waived the Seven Consecutive Day Rule starting on October 12, 2020. The rule was waived to allow schools and teams more days to complete Fall schedules. The Seven Consecutive Day Rule has also been waived for the entire Fall Sports Season II.*

**Q: Will there be Regionals and State Championships this Fall?**

**A:** *No; NYSPHSAA Regionals and State championship events will not be conducted this Fall.*

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

**A:** NYSPHSAA announced March 1st has been approved as the official 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 practices. The decision to conduct off-season conditioning practices 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 carryover to the Spring sports season

**Winter 2020-2021 Season**

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

**A:** NYSPHSAA announced November 30th has been approved as the official Winter sports start date. 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 practices. The decision to conduct off-season conditioning practices is determined by the individual school districts.

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

**A:** Yes, however it is subject to change.

**Spring 2021 Season**

**Q: When can high-risk Spring sports start practicing and competing?**

**A:** NYSPHSAA announced April 19th has been approved as the official Spring sports start date. The decision to conduct off-season conditioning practices is determined by the individual school districts.

**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.

**For additional questions please contact:**

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