



News Announcement – November 13, 2020

Section 2 Winter (Low/Moderate Risk) Sports to Begin on December 14, 2020.

High Risk Sports Official start date will be on December 14, 2020, pending approval from The NYSDOH for competition. If we do not have approval to compete, that official start date will be pushed to January 4, 2021, still pending approval to compete.

The Section 2 Executive Committee, with input from NYSDOH, NYSED, NYSPHSAA, School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Sport Coordinators and Section 2 Sport Officials, has made the decision to begin our Winter Sport season on December 14th, 2020 in accordance with the Governor’s & NYSDOH approvals. The High Risk sports will not be given approval to start until NYSDOH approves them for competition.

Our Winter Sport offerings include the following low/moderate level risk sports: (Bowling, Gymnastics, Indoor Track & Field, Skiing (Nordic & Alpine), and Boys Swimming & Diving). We are waiting on approval to compete for the high-risk sports of Basketball, Cheerleading, Ice Hockey, Boys Winter Volleyball & Wrestling.

Section 2 President Joseph Sapienza has guided the Executive Committee with the focus being on our mission statement. Our mission statement includes: *Our primary goal is to provide safe quality experiences which foster sportsmanship for our student-athletes, coaches, fans, and school communities.* “The Section’s goal through all of this is to be able to provide a safe opportunity to participate for all of our sport offerings,” said Sapienza.

This decision has been made with an understanding of the many challenges school districts and those involved in interscholastic athletics will face. With the guidance we currently have and the commitment to a high level of compliance with that guidance, we can safely provide this opportunity to our member schools. Section 2 Executive Director Ed Dopp

shared, “We understand that for a variety of reasons some school districts may opt out of our Winter Sport offerings. In those cases, we respect and support the individual district decision.”

The Winter 2020-21 season will begin on December 14th, and run through February 28th. The season will focus on regular season play, primarily with league competition. Reduced (Participation) and condensed (Time) Sectional competition will only take place if NYSPHSAA is offering NYSPHSAA State Championships. If there are no state championships we will encourage and support our leagues and schools to engage in league culminating events, all of which will conclude by February 28th.

It is our hope and goal that Winter sports will be able to complete a good portion, if not all, the maximum allowable contests. Should there be interruptions or a need to shut down, the Section will address those circumstances, at that time. With the Fall 2 Season running from March 1st through April 30th, and Spring Sports running from May 1st through June 30th, it is likely that winter sports if postponed will not have additional opportunities.

We have and will continue to distribute the NYSDOH, NYSPHSAA, CDC, NFHS and COVID-19 guidance to our member schools so that they can supplement their individual school district re-opening plans and provide the safest environment possible.

Section 2 Executive Committee:

President- Joseph Sapienza

1st Vice President- Dan Ward

2nd Vice President- Matt Stein

Treasurer- James Schlegel

Past President- Chris Culnan

Superintendent Representative- Ryan Sherman

Principal Representative- Mark Brooks

Female PE Representative- Elise Britt

Male PE Representative- Matt Ronca

Modified Representative- Mike Kinney

Executive Director- Edward Dopp

Administrative Assistant- Risë Van Iderstine

Director of Finance, Marketing & Sponsorships- Doug Gejay