



IRVINGTON

HIGH SCHOOL

John Buonamano
Director of Physical Education,
Health & Athletics

July 15, 2020

Good morning Students and Families,

Recently, there has been an abundance of information and speculation regarding the upcoming fall sports season. Both the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Section 1 Athletics have developed task forces to discuss the impact on COVID-19 on school-based athletics. They have also adopted the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) [“Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics & Activities.”](#) This plan includes recommendations and return to play procedures based on CDC and DOH guidance, and is imperative in providing a safe and enjoyable return to our athletic programs this year.

Although school-based athletic programs remain on pause, and uncertainty remains as to when we will receive the proper authorization to continue our athletic opportunities, the NFHS’s guidance provides us with the framework necessary to return to athletic participation upon the Governor’s approval. This three-phased approach considers risk factors associated with COVID-19 transmission as it pertains to participants’ physical proximity, the use of shared equipment, and the ability to disinfect said equipment. Sports are also categorized by risk factors and incorporate pre-workout screenings, limitations on gatherings, facility access and cleaning, framework for physical activity and use of athletics equipment, and social distancing measures during contests, events and activities. Detailed information regarding the NFHS “Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics & Activities” can be found on our [athletic webpage](#) or by visiting the [nfhs.org](#).

The NYSPHSAA Task Force is also exploring “Potential Scenarios” that defines each sports risk level, and seasonal offerings that enhance opportunities for athletic participation throughout the year. We, as a District and Department, have provided feedback to the Section I Task Force and the NYSPHSAA Task Force that any consideration of moving sports season must provide equal access of opportunities for all student-athletes and programs regardless of season.

The NYSPHSAA will meet again this Thursday to further discuss these topics and provide districts and athletic departments with updates pertaining to school-based athletics. As information becomes available, I will be sure to provide you with updates.

Sincerely Yours,
John Buonamano