



To: NJSIAA Member Schools
From: NJSIAA Sports Advisory Task Force
Date: December 11, 2020
RE: Return-to-Play – Season 4 Update

The NJSIAA Sports Advisory Task Force is pleased to provide the following plan for Season 4, which includes all spring sports. Thank you for your patience as we worked to finalize plans for Season 2, Season 2A and Season 3. Note that the plan is subject to change, as NJSIAA continues to solicit feedback and monitor the guidelines and orders issued by the NJ Department of Health and the Governor’s office.

The task force recognizes that the loss of the spring 2020 season was disappointing for many reasons, especially for the Class of 2020 that did not have the opportunity to finish their careers on the field, the track, the court, or course. Therefore, since June, it has focused on providing a participation opportunity for every student-athlete in every sport while striving to minimize the potential overlap between sports seasons. Multi-sport athletes should be celebrated and should not have to choose between the sports that they love to play. As a result of the suspension of indoor practices and competition required by Executive Order No. 204, some overlap between the seasons is unavoidable, but based on the below plan, student-athletes will still have the opportunity to compete in all seasons.

The chart below summarizes the key dates for each sport:
Season 4 Update

| Sport | Virtual Contact | Practice Start | Competition Start | Competition End | NJSIAA Post-Season |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Boys Tennis | Mar. 1 st | Mar. 26 th | Apr. 19 th | Jun. 20 th | TBA |
| Golf | Mar. 1 st | Apr. 1 st | Apr. 9 th | Jun. 20 th | TBA |
| All other spring sports * | Mar. 1 st | Apr. 1 st | Apr. 19 th | Jun. 20 th | Jun. 1 st – Jun. 20 th |

*Early start for baseball/softball pitchers and catchers is Friday, March 26, 2021.

It is important for all coaches to remember that participation in any sport that is in season must take priority over virtual workouts or virtual meetings for any out of season sport. Also, any activity that occurs during the virtual contact period will not count towards the six days of practice and one day of rest requirement.

Boys Tennis

Boys tennis will start practice on Friday, March 26, 2021, so that teams may have additional days to complete their preseason requirements, in the event of inclement weather. The NJSIAA Tennis Committee will announce the post-season dates as soon as possible. Due to the use of 3rd party facilities, it will take some time to confirm post-season dates but NJSIAA staff recognizes the importance of providing these dates as timely as possible. NJSIAA will strive to host both a team tournament and singles/doubles tournament.

All regular season rules and regulations will be in effect. This includes, but is not limited to, maximum number of contests and post-season qualification.

The tournament regulations will be available no later than Monday, February 15, 2021.

Golf

Golf is not identified as a strenuous sport; therefore, the pre-season may be shorter than the other sports. Student-athletes are permitted to participate in golf while also participating in a strenuous sport. In order to allow as much time as possible to schedule matches at third-party golf courses, competition will start on Friday, April 9, 2021 and may continue through the end of the NJSIAA spring season – Sunday, June 20, 2021. The NJSIAA Golf Committee will announce the post-season dates as soon as possible. Due to the use of 3rd party facilities, it will take some time to confirm post-season dates but NJSIAA staff recognizes the importance of providing these dates as timely as possible. NJSIAA will strive to host all levels of post-season play that have traditionally been hosted.

All regular season rules and regulations will be in effect. This includes, but is not limited to, maximum number of contests and post-season qualification.

The tournament regulations will be available no later than Monday, February 15, 2021.

All Other Spring Sports

Baseball and softball pitchers and catchers may begin practicing on Friday, March 26, 2021. Team practices for all sports will begin on Thursday, April 1, 2021. Competition will start on Monday, April 19, 2021, and the season will end on Sunday, June 20, 2021. NJSIAA post-season will start Tuesday, June 1, 2021 and conclude Sunday, June 20, 2021; however, teams not participating in the post-season may continue to play regular season games through the end of the season, as long as they do not exceed the maximum number of regular season games permitted. Each sport-specific committee will announce the post-season format and dates either prior to, or in conjunction with, the tournament regulations. NJSIAA will strive to host all levels of post-season play that have traditionally been hosted.

All regular season rules and regulations will be in effect. This includes, but is not limited to, maximum number of contests and post-season qualification.

The tournament regulations for each sport will be available no later than Monday, February 15, 2021.

Transfers

Due to the cancellation of the spring 2020 sports season, there will be no transfer sit period applicable to any transfer that has occurred prior to the season or occurs after the start of the season. However, there will be a sports-specific cut-off date for transfers to be eligible for NJSIAA post-season play. Please refer to each sports' tournament regulations for this transfer cut-off date. The transfer for athletic advantage rules remains in effect.

Out-of-State Competition

Out-of-state competition continues to be restricted by the DOH's and the Governor's orders. NJSIAA will keep its member schools updated on these orders, and NJSIAA also reserves the right to impose further restrictions.