



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: September 14, 2021

RE: NJSIAA State Tournament COVID-19 Policy

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During the 2021-2022 school year, NJSIAA plans to host all state tournaments in their normal fashion. It is anticipated that throughout the school year, the COVID-19 pandemic may continue to impact schools, teams, and individual student-athletes. COVID-related disruptions may disrupt a team, or individual student-athletes, ability to participate in an NJSIAA state tournament.

In anticipation of these potential disruptions, I recommend the following policy be approved and in place prior to the start of any NJSIAA **team-based** state tournament:

1. NJSIAA will not delay or modify any state tournament schedule for a team that cannot participate due to COVID-19 issues.
2. Once a state tournament officially starts, the tournament will progress as scheduled – this is regardless of a team’s first scheduled event in the tournament.
3. For any team that cannot participate on the date scheduled, or play by date, then the opponent will advance.
4. Prior to the official start of a state tournament, if a team cannot participate then NJSIAA will make every effort to replace the team with the next ranked team that did not qualify for the state tournament.
5. If a team is replaced, the bracket will not be re-seeded. The team will be inserted into the bracket.

I feel it is important for NJSIAA staff to have the support of the Executive Committee. Your approval of this policy will provide a consistent message for all schools across all sports.