

8/21/2020

I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready to get back to school. I have received a lot of emails regarding the status of sports for this fall and I wanted to give everyone an update on where we currently stand. Unfortunately, there is still a lot that we don't yet know, but the most recent updates are provided below:

On Aug. 19, 2020, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) released, in conjunction with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE), their recommendations for return to sport this school year. Earlier this week, the state's Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) released updated guidelines for amateur and high school sports. Member schools of the Cape & Islands League will be required to comply with both of these documents and guidelines.

One of the most important aspects of the guidance from the MIAA is to add a "wedge"/fourth season, called "Fall II". This will be added to the calendar to accommodate sports programs that may not be able to be held during their traditional season. Fall II will run from approximately Feb. 22 - Apr. 25, 2021. Due to some of the restrictions created by the EEA, it may be impossible to offer certain sports, in their present form, during their traditional season. As a result, they may be pushed to the Fall II season in hopes that guidelines and restrictions will have eased by then as we hopefully see COVID-19 cases decrease across the state and nation.

There are still several important steps that need to be taken before any member school can proceed with a sports program for the 2020-21 academic year. Here is the latest update and next steps:

1. On Wed., Aug. 19 and Thu., Aug. 20, the Cape & Islands League ADs met virtually to discuss the recently released guidance from EEA, DESE, and the MIAA and to consider the implications for the league and member schools.
2. Per DESE & MIAA guidelines, competitions for football and cheer will not be permitted this fall as well as Unified Basketball.
3. MIAA individual sports committees will meet by Aug. 25 to design and implement sport-specific rules changes and safety procedures that will accommodate EEA guidelines. Once those proposed recommendations have been shared, they will need to be reviewed and approved by the MIAA by Sept. 1. At that time, the Cape & Islands League ADs will

reconvene to review the new guidelines prepared by the sports committees and determine which fall sports programs will be offered this fall.

4. Fall sports offerings for any member school in a “Remote Learning Only” situation will need school committee approval. For any approved fall sport, the first permissible tryout/practice date is Fri., Sept. 18.

This is where we currently stand. I want to assure you that as a school, we will do as much as possible so that all students athletes have the best experience possible while adhering to the required guidelines. I have been speaking with the coaches and administration and am currently working out many different plans for the students that will include practices, offseason workout plans, and strength and conditioning programs. Please stay tuned to all updates and follow **@JPII_Athletics** for all sports updates. Any questions please feel free to [email me](#).

Coach Fazzi