



Update on Coronavirus as Related to NYSPHSAA

As we know the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of our lives. The focus in this time is on your own individual health and the health of those closest to you.

The NYSPHSAA staff is working remotely for the time being. We are always available via office phone, cell phone and email to answer questions or help in any way.

Because of Coronavirus outbreak it was necessary to indefinitely postpone four NYSPHSAA Winter Championship events. The Ice Hockey Championships, Bowling Championships, Boys and Girls Basketball Championships.

NYSPHSAA will be providing an update on those postponed events on Monday, March 23.

There have been numerous questions about this situation and how it pertains to current student-athletes and the spring sports season as well.

Please see this press release that NYSPHSAA distributed last week:

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) will continue to rely upon information from the New York State Department of Health, local health

departments as well as the Governor's office for information and guidance on COVID-19 and its impact upon interscholastic athletics.

At this time, NYSPHSAA would like to provide clarification and interpretation on its position pertaining to indefinitely postponing its remaining Winter Championships (Ice Hockey, Bowling, Boys and Girls Basketball). The following information is being provided to answer the many questions and address concerns related to interscholastic athletics in New York State at this time.

How does NYSPHSAA define "Indefinitely Postponed"?

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director, will continue to evaluate the situation and do his best to determine the future of winter championships as soon as possible with input from the membership and Executive Committee. Dr. Zayas is cautiously optimistic the winter state championships will be conducted for our student-athletes. Winter sport teams may continue to practice at the approval of their school district. If and when winter state championships are able to resume, teams will be provided ample time to practice and prepare.

Can winter sport athletes start spring sport practices?

If winter sport athletes want to start spring sport practices this is a local school district and/or Section decision. Keep in mind there are no NYSPHSAA rules preventing a student from participating in two seasons at the same time; some Sections and leagues do have rules addressing this.

Can spring sport teams conduct practice?

School districts have full discretion to determine how their spring sports teams will conduct practices. NYSPHSAA strongly encourages school administrators to work closely with their local department of health when making decisions pertaining to sports teams practicing.

Can spring sport teams have scrimmages and games?

There are no statewide limitations or restrictions on spring sport scrimmages and games at this time; individual Sections and/or school districts may impose restrictions on scrimmages and games as they see fit.