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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Please see the latest information regarding high school athletics. As we prepare to bring back fall athletics for the 2020-2021 season, here are some of the latest guidelines for high school sports. Please know, information regarding athletics could change as the New York State Public High School Athletic Association continues to monitor the Coronavirus Pandemic and any new guidance or mandates from the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health, and/or State and Federal mandates.

We will, of course, update you with information as soon as it becomes known.

Here is what is currently known:

New York State Athletics – Section III - Update

Certain high school sports teams will be allowed to begin play Sept. 21st in New York, while other sports deemed to be at higher risk to spread COVID-19 — **including football** — will remain on hold.

- Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the state's decision to allow "low" and "moderate risk" sports to return to game play.
- Those sports — **soccer**, swimming, field hockey, **cross country**, golf and tennis among them — will be permitted to resume play and practice Sept. 21st.
- Schools will not be permitted to travel outside their region (Section III) or a neighboring region to play or practice until Oct. 19th.
- Sports deemed by the state to be "**high risk**" — including **football**, ice hockey, wrestling, basketball and volleyball — **can resume practices on Sept. 21st**, but won't be allowed to return to game play **until the NYSPHSAA determines otherwise**.
- In a news release, Cuomo's office signaled high-contact interscholastic sports cannot resume games "until a later date on or before December 31st."
- For youth sports, the state had already separated sports into three categories: High risk, moderate risk and low risk.
- Spectator policies will be discussed and implemented as more information is gathered from the NYSPHSAA, Sections, and Leagues

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Which sports are allowed?

New York will allow low- and moderate-risk high school sports to resume game play and practice Sept. 21st. High-risk sports can resume non-contact practice then, but game play remains on pause. Here's the list as determined by the state Department of Health:

Low- or moderate-risk sports

• Golf • Tennis • Swimming • Cross Country • Crew • Baseball/Softball • Water Polo • Gymnastics • Field Hockey • Soccer • Non-Contact Lacrosse

High-risk sports

• Football • Wrestling • Ice Hockey • Rugby • Basketball • Contact Lacrosse • Volleyball • Martial Arts • Competitive Cheer/Dance

Athletics Determinations to be Discussed/Implemented with Director of Athletics

The following are still to be determined and are under discussion currently.

- Travel for away games
- Sectional/league play until October 19th
- Social distancing, mask wearing spectators

Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Kevin Jones
Director of Athletics
Oriskany Central School District