



Skaneateles Central School District

Athletic Department

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315-291-2236 – www.skanschools.org

“A Tradition of Excellence”

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July 16, 2020

Dear Laker athletic community,

I write to you to provide an update to the status of the 2020 fall sports season. The Officers of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), voted to delay the official start date of the Fall 2020 sports season, and cancel the Fall 2020 Regional and State Championships (see attached memo). This decision comes at the recommendation of the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force when they convened as a working group for the third time this morning. As such, Section 3 will delay the start of fall sports in kind.

“We recognize this is challenging for everyone, but the decisions made at the State level are based upon data and statewide infection rates all in an effort to stop the spread of COVID and reopen responsibly,” said Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director. *“At this time, Department of Health guidance presented on July 13th prohibits interscholastic athletics across the state. The Association will continue to follow state guidance and will work collectively with State officials to ensure high school athletics will start up responsibly in the future. As an association, we must be willing to be flexible and continue to explore all options with students’ safety as our main focus,”* Zayas concluded. Section 3 will continue to adhere to any and all extensions and regulations established by the NYS Governor’s office, NYSDOH, NYSED, and NYSPHSAA.

Additionally, the NYSPHSAA has prepared to implement a condensed season schedule in January 2021 if high school sports remain prohibited throughout 2020 due to COVID-19. The Condensed Season plan would entail the following, with the stipulated dates being tentative.

Season I (Winter Sports)

Dates: Jan. 4-Mar. 13 (Week 27-36) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: basketball (girls & boys), bowling (girls & boys), gymnastics, ice hockey (girls & boys), indoor track & field (girls & boys), skiing (girls & boys), swimming (boys), *wrestling, *competitive cheer.

** Because of high risk nature of wrestling and competitive cheer, sports may have to be moved to Season II or season III.*

Season II (Fall Sports)

Dates: Mar. 1-May 8 (Week 35-44) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: football, cross country (girls & boys), field hockey, soccer (girls & boys), swimming (girls), volleyball (girls & boys), Unified bowling.

Note: Weather will have an impact upon outdoor sports in some parts of the state in March and potentially early April. Girls Tennis moved to Season III.

Season III (Spring Sports)

Dates: Apr. 5-Jun. 12 (Week 40-49) 10 Weeks ***Note: tentative dates**

Sports: baseball, softball, golf (girls & boys), lacrosse (girls & boys), tennis (girls & boys), outdoor track & field (girls & boys), Unified basketball.

So what does this mean for Skaneateles? Athletics registration will be delayed until further notice. Practices, camps, training, workouts, or “other team activities” related to Skaneateles Schools are NOT permitted. All district facilities will remain closed to the public. These provisions have been put into place in the interest of public health and safety. I ask again for your understanding, cooperation, and compliance with this matter.

This is a very unfortunate circumstance and challenging time for our students and community at large. My own child was prepared to start his interscholastic athletic career this year at the modified level. I truly empathize with the disappointment all of you must feel. I can only take solace in the fact that this decision was made in the best interest of public health and to protect those that we love from this virus. I implore all of you to wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, and remain steadfast in social distancing. Please note that our coaches, school counselors, and administrators are available if your child needs emotional support.

I do not have any other details to provide at this time; however, I will continue to keep you updated as this saga unfolds. Please feel free to contact the athletic department with questions at 315-291-2236.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Steve J. Muscarello", followed by a horizontal line.