

2020 Newton Athletics

Fall Season ONLY

Statement of Purpose

- The Bay State Conference and Dual County Athletic Directors' collective mission during this unprecedented time is to thoughtfully provide our student athletes with a safe environment to participate and complete in athletics.
- A functioning athletic program will aid in the process of rebuilding the interpersonal connections that would fundamentally support the implementation of any of the instructional academic models being proposed. In the quest to educate the whole student, it cannot be overstated enough the role that interscholastic athletics can play in fostering deep and positive social and emotional health outcomes in our collective communities.
- Through a modified, competition structure, the BSC and DCL seek to creatively reimagine what is possible within the constraints of the new health and safety protocols that have been established in response to the ongoing pandemic. By limiting competition to divisional play, we aim to create a sustainable model for school-sponsored athletics throughout the duration of this pandemic fall season.

MA Energy and Environmental Affairs

K-12 Sports Guidance

August 17, 2020

Risk Level of Sports

- **Lower Risk** • Sports or activities that can be done with social distancing and no physical contact • Sports or activities that can be done individually *Examples: Tennis, pickleball, swimming, catch, disc golf, golf, individual biking, surfing, horseback riding, individual sailing, fishing, hunting, motor sports, no contact exercise classes, gymnastics, cross country, individual crew*
- **Moderate Risk** • Sports or activities that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants *Examples: Baseball, softball, crew, sailing, track and field, running clubs, team swimming, volleyball, dance class, fencing, field hockey, girls' lacrosse, soccer*
- **Higher Risk** • Sports or activities for which there is a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between participants and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants *Examples: Football, wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice-hockey, competitive cheer, martial arts, ultimate frisbee, boxing, pair figure skating*

DESE Guidance provided by Commissioner

August 18, 2020- (focus on traditional Fall Sports)

- School Participation based on Gov. Baker's color coded virus rates
- Schools in Red district cannot participate in sports
- Schools in Yellow, Green, White can; if remote learning- must receive approval from local School Committee
- Must follow EEA guidelines for individual sport participation, and those set out by MIAA Sports Medicine Committee and the individual MIAA Sports Committees
- Higher Risk Sports- Football, Competitive Cheer, Unified Basketball - no competitions, but allowed practices within EEA guidelines
- Traditional Fall Sports- moderate to low- XC; Golf, Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Field hockey , Swim and Dive

MIAA Rule Adjustments

- Sports Start Date - September 18, 2020
- Sports Medicine Comm & Sport Committees to meet on safety guidelines all in line with DESE and EEA
- No Fall State Tournaments
- No Out of Season Coaching allowed from 9/18/20-7/3/21
- Districts ultimately responsible to follow safety guidelines (SMC, DESE, EEA)
- District responsible to notify opponents and MIAA if town/city Covid rate designation changes to Red.
- MIAA Staff to come up with learning opportunities and communication strategies for students, parents, coaches, & AD's.
- MIAA Board of Directors will meet to determine winter season on 10/29/20.
- District Athletic Committees will hear requests for season adjustments
- Students can play all 4 seasons

4 Seasons

- **Fall 1: 9/18-11/20** *BSC Voted to move start date to 9/21*
- **Winter: 11/30-2/21 (anticipated)**
- **Fall 2: 2/22-4/25 (anticipated)**
- **Spring: 4/26-7/3 (anticipated)**

**Newton proposed start date:
Monday Sept 21st
Sports offered by league**

BSC sponsored sports-Fall 2020

Field Hockey

B/G Cross Country

B/G Soccer

G Swim & Dive

Golf

DCL sponsored sports-Fall 2020

Field Hockey

B/G Cross Country

B/G Soccer

(DCL swim season is Winter)

Golf

PROTOCOLS

- Follow all of the Governor's Office/EEA, DESE, Board of Health, MIAA Sports Medicine and School/District Guidelines for Athletics
- COVID-19 coach will supervise along with game adult managers the protocols established for games and practices.
- Limit crowds to 50 people as allowed by the State regulations.
- All athletes will be required to wear a mask and distance 6 ft. apart while not actively competing (i.e. in the bench area, on the sidelines and on school provided buses).
- All coaches and team personnel will be required to wear a mask and distance 6 ft. apart at all times.
- Officials must arrive in proper officiating gear to the contest, and will be required to wear mask.
- Sign-in procedure for Spectators

Protocols (continued)

- MIAA requirements regarding balls sanitation during the games will be strictly followed.
- No post-game handshakes (symbolic recognition to be developed).
- No one will be allowed inside schools (Season 1) except Newton students swimming at Newton North.
- Porta Potties at each site.
- Student-athletes must bring their own water bottles.
- Student- athletes must bring their mask.
- Student-athletes should have their own Hand Sanitizer.
- Student-athletes must wash their clothes/uniforms after each session.
- All equipment should be sanitized after each session.
- No loitering before of after contests.
- Student-athletes should have all the required PPE in the their personal gym bag.

Athletic Trainer mobile station

A designated outside area will be devoted to Athletic Trainer treatments at each school.

Trainer will set up and manage the area.

COVID-19 coach will assist trainer on well being check ups before practices.

TRYOUTS-CUTS

Selection for varsity level will occur as usual through the tryout sessions that will start on Sept. 21st.

Students not selected for varsity will be placed at the sub-varsity level if number of participants are safe according to the protocols.

Each school will do everything possible to include all interested students. However limitations may be imposed due to safety concerns and availability of fields due to daylight conditions.

TRANSPORTATION TO PRACTICES AND GAMES

Transportation will be provided to away games. Families can also drive their students to away games. Students can drive themselves as well. A waiver form must be completed for either of these situations.

Transportation to practice is not provided. We will work to support students and families with transportation concerns. Late bus transportation home can be provided.

Unique to each league

BSC has voted NO out of Season coaching except the creation of a Strength and Conditioning program open to all students.

DCL has created a protocol for Out of Season contact. Majority of our member schools are aligned with the BSC idea.

Newton Public Schools Athletic Department are requiring all their coaches and staff to take the NFHS Covid-19 online Free course to prepare for the season.