
July 2, 2020

Ocean City High School Student-Athletes and Families:

The announcements by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) in these past few weeks regarding the return to play is another positive step in our collective effort to return to education-based athletics. It gives us optimism, but at the same time we must be realistic. The primary goal in education-based athletics is the safety and well-being of the student-athletes, coaches and spectators. The NJSIAA gave school districts *Return to Play Guidelines – Phase 1*. These guidelines contain many requirements, along with protocols, procedures and restrictions that must be adhered to by district staff, coaches, athletes and families for the return of onsite sports practices to be safe and successful. As we finalize our protocols and procedures, we have been having multiple discussions that have been led by me, as the Athletic Director, and with our administrators, the school physician, school nurses, our athletic trainer and coaches. We must also follow the guidance from the NJSIAA, the New Jersey and Cape May County Departments of Health, and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), which continue to give us updates. Schools and Athletic Administrators are preparing for in-person screenings, paper screenings and, if necessary, contact tracing. Our district has been working hard to make the return a healthy and safe one, while taking into consideration risk factors.

With that said, we have now opened up the ability to sign-up for fall sports on our website. This will enable my office and our coaches to begin to populate team rosters and improve our ability to contact the student-athletes. Updated forms, with COVID-19 related questions, are now included on our website. We will begin “Phase 1” of our return to athletics virtually on July 13th. That is, coaches will contact athletes and post workouts that the athletes will conduct individually. We are working to start on site workouts and practices as soon as possible. This decision is also based on the recommendations of our league, the Cape Atlantic League. It is not simply about wins and losses...it is about the health and safety of our student-athletes and staff during this health crisis.

Geoff Haines, K-12 Athletic Director