



PRESS RELEASE

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Cape & Islands League

On August 13th, MIAA Sports Committees completed their work of providing safety modifications to their respective sports in order to comply with the restrictive guidelines set forth by the Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). The proposed modifications were then reviewed, approved, and published by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association (MIAA) on August 28th. This past Wednesday, the Cape & Islands League executive board met to review and vote on the Fall I sports recommendations developed by league directors of athletics.

Following the recommendations of their respective directors of athletics, the executive board made some important decisions regarding sport offerings and procedures for the upcoming season. Our goal, as always, is to provide member school student-athletes with a safe, competitive, educational athletics experience, while adhering to state, district, and league policies. Here are some of the approved motions and discussion topics which will continue to be vetted in the coming days and weeks:

- **Fall I Sport Offerings:** Guidelines from the EEA, DESE, and the MIAA allow schools to participate in Boys & Girls Cross Country, Golf, Field Hockey, Boys & Girls Soccer, and Volleyball in the upcoming Fall I season. Not unlike several conferences throughout the state, the executive board and directors of athletics agreed to move Volleyball to the Fall II season, tentatively set to begin on February 22nd. The primary reasons for the decision were the indoor nature of the sport, the restrictive measures associated with play, and the cap on the number of people allowed in the facility. Member schools, however, reserve the right to opt-out of any approved Fall I sport. Although the league has voted to offer these sports this fall, individual school districts will determine the level of participation for each sport.

Per MIAA rule, Football and Cheer have already been moved to the Fall II season. Team schedules are currently being finalized and for the most part will be league-only and/or local to minimize travel and exposure.

- **Start Date:** Per MIAA guidelines, the first permissible practice date for Fall I sports is September 18th. C & I directors of athletics discussed and approved the start date, but also gave individual schools the option to start later. Therefore, some schools will likely begin on September 21st or later.

As a league, we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to provide our student-athletes with a return to the playing fields this school year. We are also thankful for the tireless hard work done by so many over the past several months including the EEA, DESE, MIAA, District 9, and our league leadership team to creatively and safely provide these opportunities given the challenges that seem to evolve daily. Despite the sport modifications, shortened competition seasons, and cancelation of a fall state tournament, we are confident that a return to sports and activities for our youngsters will provide the social, emotional, and physical benefits that they so greatly need given the current circumstances. In return, we simply ask that everyone associated with our programs remain patient, supportive, and flexible as we collaboratively attempt to navigate these uncharted waters.