



---

## News Announcement – November 13, 2020

**Section 2 Winter (Low/Moderate Risk) Sports to Begin on December 14, 2020.**

**High Risk Sports Official start date will be on December 14, 2020, pending approval from The NYSDOH for competition. If we do not have approval to compete, that official start date will be pushed to January 4, 2021, still pending approval to compete.**

**The Section 2 Executive Committee, with input from NYSDOH, NYSED, NYSPHSAA, School Administrators, Athletic Directors, Sport Coordinators and Section 2 Sport Officials, has made the decision to begin our Winter Sport season on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in accordance with the Governor’s & NYSDOH approvals. The High Risk sports will not be given approval to start until NYSDOH approves them for competition.**

**Our Winter Sport offerings include the following low/moderate level risk sports: (Bowling, Gymnastics, Indoor Track & Field, Skiing (Nordic & Alpine), and Boys Swimming & Diving). We are waiting on approval to compete for the high-risk sports of Basketball, Cheerleading, Ice Hockey, Boys Winter Volleyball & Wrestling.**

**Section 2 President Joseph Sapienza has guided the Executive Committee with the focus being on our mission statement. Our mission statement includes: *Our primary goal is to provide safe quality experiences which foster sportsmanship for our student-athletes, coaches, fans, and school communities.* “The Section’s goal through all of this is to be able to provide a safe opportunity to participate for all of our sport offerings,” said Sapienza.**

**This decision has been made with an understanding of the many challenges school districts and those involved in interscholastic athletics will face. With the guidance we currently have and the commitment to a high level of compliance with that guidance, we can safely provide this opportunity to our member schools. Section 2 Executive Director Ed Dopp**

shared, “We understand that for a variety of reasons some school districts may opt out of our Winter Sport offerings. In those cases, we respect and support the individual district decision.”

The Winter 2020-21 season will begin on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and run through February 28<sup>th</sup>. The season will focus on regular season play, primarily with league competition. Reduced (Participation) and condensed (Time) Sectional competition will only take place if NYSPHSAA is offering NYSPHSAA State Championships. If there are no state championships we will encourage and support our leagues and schools to engage in league culminating events, all of which will conclude by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

It is our hope and goal that Winter sports will be able to complete a good portion, if not all, the maximum allowable contests. Should there be interruptions or a need to shut down, the Section will address those circumstances, at that time. With the Fall 2 Season running from March 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, and Spring Sports running from May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, it is likely that winter sports if postponed will not have additional opportunities.

We have and will continue to distribute the NYSDOH, NYSPHSAA, CDC, NFHS and COVID-19 guidance to our member schools so that they can supplement their individual school district re-opening plans and provide the safest environment possible.

## **Section 2 Executive Committee:**

**President- Joseph Sapienza**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President- Dan Ward**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Matt Stein**

**Treasurer- James Schlegel**

**Past President- Chris Culnan**

**Superintendent Representative- Ryan Sherman**

**Principal Representative- Mark Brooks**

**Female PE Representative- Elise Britt**

**Male PE Representative- Matt Ronca**

**Modified Representative- Mike Kinney**

**Executive Director- Edward Dopp**

**Administrative Assistant- Risë Van Iderstine**

**Director of Finance, Marketing & Sponsorships- Doug Gejay**