



November 13, 2020

Dear DePaul Prep Families,

I want to give you some updates on Athletics, specifically winter sports. Over the past several weeks, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Governor's Office/Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have made several statements pertaining to winter sports and the COVID-19 pandemic. Each organization's statement has created some confusion and unrest. It has been a frustrating time. What follows is my attempt to summarize all that has happened over the past several weeks:

- Mid October - The IHSA sent the Governor's Office and the IDPH a set of guidelines for basketball in hopes to allow basketball to practice starting on November 16 and play games starting on November 30 as a *medium risk* sport (as it currently stands, medium risk sports can only engage in intrasquad scrimmages).
- October 27 - the Governor and the IDPH announce that basketball has been moved from a medium risk to a high-risk sport.
- October 28 - the IHSA announced a) wrestling will be moved from the winter season to the summer season, starting April 19 and b) bowling and basketball will continue to run as planned as a winter sport and start on November 16.
- November 11 - the IHSA announces that basketball can still start on November 16 but must now follow the IDPH guidelines as a high-risk sport meaning there can only be skill work, and there can be no contact. The IHSA also announces that the IHSA Board will meet on Thursday, November 19 and will plan to provide more direction on basketball practice and games following the meeting.

What does this mean for DePaul Prep winter sports? We know that bowling will be allowed to start on November 16 following the IHSA guidelines. We know now that wrestling will attempt to have their season during the summer season starting on April 19. But, we still don't know what is going to happen with basketball. We will hold some version of practice sessions next week on Monday, 11/16 through Wednesday, 11/18. We will have our boys and girls basketball coaches reach out to their team contact lists, sharing the limited plans for practice. We do anticipate the IHSA moving the basketball season to a later date, but we are unsure if we will be allowed to continue to practice or have open gym sessions after 11/19. We will do our best to communicate next step plans once we are given better direction from the IHSA on November 19.

Those teams which are participating in open fields, open rooms, open gyms, and strength training sessions will continue to do so as long as we are allowed. Even though there have been recent restrictions established by the Governor and Mayor, schools are still allowed to gather in groups of 50 people inside as long as students are wearing masks and stay socially distanced



as often as possible. Our coaches continue to take wellness checks during these sessions to keep an accurate accounting of who has attended each session. The coaches and students continue to take temperature checks and wipe down equipment after it is used.

As has always been the case and will continue to be the case:

- If your child is not feeling well, keep them home.
- If your child is getting tested for COVID-19, keep them home.
- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, inform the DePaul Prep nurse immediately.
- If you do not feel comfortable sending your child to an athletics workout, keep them home - missing a workout will not be held against you or your child.

We can not say this enough - thank you for your patience and understanding as we do our best to keep students engaged in physical activity.

Be Positive! Pass It On!

Patrick Mahoney
Director of Athletics