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CPS ATHLETICS UPDATES

See below with important takeaways from Cincinnati Public Schools recent update from the Board of Education Meeting on September 14th.

***Board of Education Meeting Update – September 14**

-The decision was made to restart competitive High School athletics at Cincinnati Public Schools utilizing a phased approach, and giving schools the opportunity to transition to Phase 4 with interscholastic competition.

-Non-contact sports (Cross Country, Golf, Girls Tennis, and Volleyball) have the ability to return to full interscholastic competition.

-Contact Sports (Field Hockey, Football/Cheer, Boys/Girls Soccer) have the ability to return to intra-district/CPS competition this week and full interscholastic competition starting the 9/21 week.

-Elementary and Jr. High Athletics remain canceled for the fall season and will be reassessed for the winter season.

-There will be no spectators at games as we transition back to interscholastic competition this week. College Coaches/Recruiters and media will be permitted at all times to promote our student athletes. We will transition to 2 adult spectators per student athlete to align with limited spectators at contests. Each school will communicate directly with their community on when spectators will be permitted. Each school will also work to provide live streaming opportunities for all spectators.

***Coaches Listening Sessions**

-Since the beginning of July, CPS Athletics has hosted a number virtual coaches listening sessions for program leaders in each sport to keep coaches informed and involved in the Return to Play process.

-The official districtwide Return to Play manual and each phase of the Return to Play plan has been explained and discussed in depth. In addition, orders from the Ohio governor's office and guidance from the Ohio Department of Health have been a focal point during these conferences.

-Coaches have had opportunities to ask questions, provide suggestions for moving forward and give general feedback on how the process has played out at their schools.

-Overall, the goal is to keep constant communication and transparency as athletic administrators and coaches work together to maintain safe and compliant practices for transitioning to Phase 4, interscholastic competition.

***Weekly Athletic Director Meetings**

- CPS Athletics continues to communicate and collaborate with all high school athletic directors on weekly conference calls. Productive discussion is ongoing in regards to the current state of athletics, as well as the future outlook for the fall and winter seasons.
- New administrative procedures, fall schedule proposals, Return to Play guidance, senior recognition campaigns, updates from the Ohio High School Athletic Association and more are discussed each week as schools are empowered to analyze their programs and forthcoming direction.

***HomeTown Ticketing**

- Cincinnati Public Schools has recently entered into a partnership with HomeTown Ticketing. Moving forward, walk up ticket sales will be limited for spectators wishing to watch CPS competition.
- Tickets will be purchased online and through school websites. Ticket confirmations will be scanned at the entry gate to allow access to stadiums and gymnasiums in order to decrease transactions with paper money/coins as we continue to adjust to more effective health and safety standards.

***Live Stream**

- CPS and our schools are committed to providing options for our families to watch our student athletes and teams in competition.
- The National Federation of High School Sports and Cincinnati Public Schools have been working closely to assess the ability to live stream our sporting events. NFHS Live Stream will allow families and communities to be involved and engaged with school athletic programs without actually being at the game by allowing them to watch games online. A special camera would be installed in school stadiums and gymnasiums and school/program supporters will have an opportunity to purchase subscriptions to watch all home games!
- In the interim of finalizing a district wide deal with NFHS, our schools will be using other platforms such as Facebook Live, Periscope, Youtube and Twitter to stream games.

***Facility Walkthrough and Prep**

- CPS Athletics and high school athletic directors have been involved in facility walkthroughs at all athletic venues in the district.
- Important items such as adjusted maximum capacity/seating format, updated health and safety standards, total facility access and more are being deliberated while processes for efficiency are being finalized.
- It is also important to note that with the help of the CPS facilities department, all athletics facilities will have updated health and safety signage that includes social distancing decals on bleachers, hand washing posters, sanitation stations, updated COVID-19 awareness/prevention banners and more.

***Senior Spotlights**

- CPS Athletics and high school athletic directors have been hard at work and making it a priority to find ways to highlight and promote the accomplishments of our seniors.
- Each fall sports senior has been given the opportunity to complete a questionnaire about their high school career and future goals. With the data collected through these questionnaires, athletic administrators will have the ability to create a concept for a senior campaign that is specific to their school/program/kids.
- District Athletics will support these efforts and provide resources for filming practices/games, holding special events and more to make sure that all seniors are acknowledged and supported whether they're finishing their athletic careers or plan to continue to play in college.

***Communication**

- If you have any questions, please communicate with your coach and school Athletic Director. We have worked very closely with athletic directors and coaches throughout this process and we appreciate all of them and their hard work and dedication to you and your families.
- Please [click here](#) to see all contact information for CPS Athletic Directors.