

NPS Athletics

2020 Fall Sports Update

Thursday - 9/17/20

Student-Athletes and Parents,

The State Department of Public Health finally put out their Weekly COVID-19 Health report yesterday evening. In that report Nantucket is now officially listed as a RED classification on their metric map for the coming week. You can view the the DPH Weekly COVID-19 Health Report by clicking on the following link:

[Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report - September 16, 2020](#)

As I have noted in my previous updates / emails school districts with a RED metric classification are not allowed to participate in interscholastic athletics. In reviewing our current numbers, and now knowing the formula that the DPH uses to calculate their metrics, I do not see any way that Nantucket will clear the RED classification on the next DPH report date (9/23/20). The earliest that we can potentially get our numbers down low enough to clear the RED classification would be the following report date of September 30th. If we were to clear the RED classification on this date, given the required number practices needed prior to any game play (14), the earliest that we would be eligible for any game competition would be Saturday, 10/17/20.

With regards to the Cape and Islands League, the concerns of a “comfort level” for schools traveling to the islands became an issue a number of weeks ago with both Nauset Regional HS and Barnstable HS being given a directive at their administrative level that they would not be allowed to travel to either of the island schools (Nantucket and / or Martha’s Vineyard). With the recent outbreak of cases on Nantucket, this “comfort level” is rapidly declining for all schools and now even hosting Nantucket is becoming a question. I would hope that all would agree that given Nantucket’s current status regarding the COVID-19 virus, we can understand, sympathize with, and respect the concerns of these other league schools. Much as I would like to, and have worked to, give our kids an opportunity to get back on the athletic fields for interscholastic play this fall, I do not feel that playing at an interscholastic level is the right decision for our student-athletes and / or that it is fair to all of the other league member schools to ask for Nantucket to remain on any of the 2020 fall game schedules.

I have shared and discussed all of the above information with Dr. Hallett at length. We are in agreement that the best decision regarding our NPS fall athletic teams is to pull all of our teams out of any interscholastic play for the 2020 fall season and focus on developing an on island intramural based approach for this year's NPS fall athletic teams. Clearly this was a very tough decision for us to make, but we fully believe that given the current circumstances regarding the COVID-19

virus on Nantucket, that this is the very best decision with regards to the safety and health of one and all.

Moving forward we will be focusing our energies and efforts on finalizing our plans for the structure of an all inclusive on island intramural program for the fall season of play. ***As of this email we are tentatively scheduling Thursday, 10/1/20 as our first practice date for all sports and levels of our on island intramural program. We are hoping to be able to share more details and information regarding this intramural program by sometime early next week.***

We know that this announcement is disappointing for all of us. In processing this we ask that everyone stay calm, stay positive and stay strong. We need you to trust that we will be able to put together a quality on island fall athletic program where all of our participating student-athletes will be able to enjoy the rigors of healthy athletic activity; conditioning and skills training for each chosen sport; good quality social interaction with coaches and teammates; and a healthy level of regular athletic competition. Our NPS athletic family has been great through all of this from day one. I am confident that we will all work together to overcome this recent disappointment and move forward in a positive fashion

As always we are here and available to field any questions or concerns that you may have.

Stay calm, stay safe, and stay strong !

Respectfully,

Coach Maury