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To: Local School System Supervisors of Athletics

From: R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA

Date: June 23, 2020

Subject: Interscholastic Athletics Update

The Maryland State Board of Education at their June 23, 2020 meeting supported the request for waiver of interscholastic athletic regulations found in COMAR 13A.06.03. These regulations, at the request of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and local Superintendent of Schools, will give the local school systems (LSS) the flexibility to navigate county COVID-19 restrictions and administer interscholastic athletic opportunities based on local conditions.

MPSSAA member schools are reminded these waiver requests have been identified for specific purposes to assist schools related to delayed or modified instructional decisions. MPSSAA member schools are expected to be in full compliance with COMAR 13A.06.03 unless specific needs arise that require LSS to implement plans with the flexibility found in the waiver requests.

Please note the following important points regarding the waiver requests.

- As MPSSAA members, the LSS agrees to institute schedules that adhere to defined practice and seasonal structure based on MPSSAA decisions. The MPSSAA maintains authority on defining sport seasons. The waiver request provides flexibility for athletic administrators to modify in-season sport schedules related to increased or decreased participation opportunities.
- MPSSAA does not seek a waiver of the requirements for B(1)(a) through (q) for seasonal and weekly limitations for the number of contests allowed per school athletic team and student participation during the course of a season. MPSSAA member schools in any scheduling must adhere to the seasonal and weekly limitations on the number of contests.
- As MPSSAA members, the LSS agree to institute a set out-of-season practice time frame per sport before operating any out-of-season practices and obtain approval from the MPSSAA Executive Director for the out-of-season practice time frame. These requests must be school system based requests through the LSS administrator for interscholastic athletics and be directly related to specific purposes regarding the LSS response to COVID-19. The intent of the out-of-season regulation waiver is for the specific purpose of LSS operating participation opportunities within an intra-school setting for an extended period of time or for the reconditioning of the deconditioned athlete.
- MPSSAA member schools must continue to follow all regulations regarding sanctioning. The waiver request gives the MPSSAA office flexibility in approving sanction requests after deadlines.

