



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Section One Executive Committee eager for safe return for the Fall athletics season

Strategies, lessons of the past school year will inform
member schools' reopening plans

HARRISON, N.Y. — On Wednesday, August 18th, the Executive Committee of Section One, Inc., of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) convened for the first time in the 2021-22 school year.

In Wednesday's meeting, members of the Section One Executive Committee universally expressed great enthusiasm for the safe return of all Fall sports. The Committee continues to recognize the value that interscholastic athletics plays in the educational experience of our student-athletes.

“As we move forward, we must recognize the mental, social, and emotional benefits that participation in interscholastic athletics provides our student-athletes. Extracurricular activities continue to provide students with a sense of belonging and enrich their educational experience,” stated Section One Executive Director Todd Santabarbara.

As schools prepare for the start of the fall season on August 23rd, in accordance with the most recent CDC and NYSED guidelines, the Committee strongly encourages schools to implement layered prevention strategies in their local interscholastic reopening plans. In addition, districts should be prepared to communicate their local policies and procedures with opponent schools in advance of a scheduled contest. As always, the Committee respects individual districts' desire to be more restrictive than the latest guidance.

“Last year, at times, our participation seemed far from certain. As we enter the fall season, we look forward to building on the successes of the 2020-21 school year. Our organization and its member schools used this opportunity to come away with effective strategies that will assist in navigating our full return this fall,” Mr. Santabarbara said.

The Section One Executive Committee remains focused on the health and safety of student-athletes throughout the Lower Hudson Valley. In an effort to remain agile in our approach to the coming Fall season, the Committee will continue to monitor future guidance from the local and state health departments, the CDC, NYSPHSAA and the state Education Department.