



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Section One Executive Committee embraces regional approach and approves off-season workouts

HARRISON, N.Y. — On Monday, October 26, 2020, the Executive Committee of Section One, Inc., of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) met for the fourth time this school year.

The Section One Alignment Committee, in collaboration with Sport Chairs and Athletic Administrators from the 82 Section One member schools, proposed an amended basic league alignment. As a result, the Executive Committee adopted the amended **Basic League Alignment**, which consists of regionalized leagues for the five-class winter and spring sports (basketball, baseball, and softball) in the 2020-21 school year. With strong support of Athletic Administrators throughout the Section, the regionalized proposal provides each school with more local opportunities for league play.

In August, the NYSPHSAA and the NYSDOH provided authorization of school-based sports including off-season conditioning. At the time of this announcement, Section One “paused” to allow school districts the opportunity to place their primary focus on Fall Season I. Today, the Executive Committee revisited the authorization of off-season, sport-specific workouts for Section One schools. As a result, beginning on Monday, November 2, 2020, in accordance with NYSPHSAA eligibility standards and the



NYSDOH guidelines, the Committee unanimously approved sport-specific, off-season workouts for all sports.

In an effort to recognize the importance of athletic participation and without losing sight of the Committee's unwavering efforts to maintain the health and safety of our athletes, the Committee unanimously approved a series of regionalized championships. Discussions around concerns over travel and the Section's ability to maintain a playoff opportunity that prioritizes the health and safety of our student-athletes framed much of the Committee's decision. Today's decision to approve regionalized championships will also require that these events conclude prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

The decision to alter the Section One Championship experience comes from concerns raised by Superintendents, Athletic Directors and Principals throughout the region, as COVID cases continue to climb in the Lower Hudson Valley. Furthermore, additional concerns were raised regarding the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic after the Thanksgiving holiday. Today's decision to regionalize the championship experience continues to reflect the Championship Committee's philosophy of providing an authentic experience for student-athletes during these challenging and unprecedented times.

In accordance with the **NYSDOH Sports & Recreation** guidance and the **NYSPHSAA Return to Interscholastic Athletics** document, winter sports are scheduled to begin Monday, November 30, 2020. However, NYSPHSAA and Section One are awaiting guidance on the authorization of competitions for high risk winter sports (basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey and wrestling). The Section One Executive Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 10:00am and will review any new state guidance available at that time.

The Center for Interscholastic Athletics, a division of Southern Westchester BOCES, serves 82 high schools in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties, providing support with the organization and management of athletic programs. Section One is part of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc., a non-profit organization that provides equitable and safe competition for the students of public, private and parochial member schools.

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