

8/17/20

To the parents of All New Jersey Suburban Youth Football League Participants,

We the Commissioner, Assistant Director, Executive Board and League Representatives welcome you to the 2020 season.

As we enter our 48th year of fantastic youth football which is considered the very safest in the State of New Jersey, we are met with great challenges. For the first time in NJ-SYFL history, we will be playing a "modified" schedule. The schedule was set by the NJSIAA and follows accordingly....5 actual, regular season games followed by a 2 game playoff tournament, that includes a championship.

First we want you to know that every NJSIAA safety measure continues to be followed to its exact specifications by all the volunteers that make this league so great. The State of New Jersey's NJSIAA is the lead in High School Athletics (those guidelines can be found on their respective website).

We have continued to follow the NJSIAA and ALL their recommendations since the pandemic started. Why? Because high school football programs most closely resemble how the NJ-SYFL conducts it's football program, as far as health and welfare of players is concerned.

We don't compare to The NCAA and The NFL because they are more adult and young adult environments, differently monitored, with larger, more diverse, rosters and audiences. We also don't travel anywhere but within our state, and to our communities.

Our players and cheerleaders are monitored off the field by the best possible people, YOU! A child from age 8-14, directly monitored by you, and under your domain, makes a respectable coach smile, knowing they are coming to practice and game fields as safely as humanly possible. That said, All players will be temp checked prior to entering any field. Please refer to Phase 2 of the NJSIAA guidelines for additional information that we follow.

As you know, we have been conditioning In OPEN AIR workouts since 8/10, which will conclude on 8/28, and are **NOT** permitted to resume until 9/14. This is mandated by the NJSIAA with NO EXCEPTIONS. No meetings, no conditioning, no practice of any kind, **from 8/29, through 9/13**. This 2 week+ pause in our league's activity, and all HS sports state-wide, directly correlates with the "Fall 2020 Return to School Process" defined by each school district across the state. The purpose of this quarantine period is to enable any needed COVID-19 Test Results analysis, and, contact tracing, if required. This effort will be performed across the state by school district, after the August sports conditioning period concludes, and before schools open & sports activities resume.

Here's where the TEAM ASPECT comes into play. WE NEED ALL OF YOU...to take responsibility for taking care of each other. What **can** possibly jeopardize a player's health is... "sudden trips" or environments that **present high virus exposure risk**. Exposure to people who are from hotbed areas (you should be well versed at this point), maybe a parent doing business outside the state and not quarantining properly, or even an older sibling after returning from outside activities, can cause virus exposure.

Please help us keep moving forward! We recognize that these kids NEED AN OUTLET in a safe and responsibly structured environment. We are set by our continued training, techniques and general care of their well being to succeed. We are asking for everyone to closely monitor your child and IMMEDIATELY reach out if any symptoms take effect. Text, tweet, call, heck even FaceTime if there's a problem... 😊

We thank every parent for trusting us with your player and cheerleader during this modified season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your local league representative, or email the league central contact at Info@njsyfl.com .

Yours for a safe football season,

Russell J. Yeager
Commissioner of the NJSYFL
Executive Board and League Representatives