

ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL

MARIO J. ALMEIDA
Principal

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June 17, 2020

Student-Athletes, Parents and Guardians:

I hope that this letter finds you and your loved ones in good health. It has been an unprecedented spring semester that has seen education from your homes and a suspension of all athletic and extra-curricular activities. I write today to give you an update on our current status with regard to the potential return to sports in the fall. Since last I wrote in early May, there have been some promising shifts in our attempts as a state to return to normalcy.

I am in weekly consultation with officials from the CIAC, as well as fellow athletic directors and district administrators in Rocky Hill. Following recommendations from the Governors' office, the CDC, and the Connecticut Department of Education, four phases for the resocialization of high school sports have been established. They are as follows:

Phase I – This phase runs through July 5. Only virtual coaching is allowed.

Phase II – This phase runs from 7/6 – 8/3 and allows in person workouts of 5-10 people to be held a maximum of 3 times a week for up to 60 minutes. Student-athletes must be kept in the same "cohorts" to minimize risk of exposure.

Phase III – This phase runs from 8/3 - 8/30 and allows groups of up to 25 people. Same cohorts.

Phase IV – This phase suggests beginning on 8/31 with regular practices, providing that all previous phases were successfully completed.

It is important to note that we are in a very fluid situation and that these associated timelines could be adjusted with variances in either direction related to Covid-19 infection rates. Please also note that all summer non-season workouts are entirely optional on the part of both coaches and student-athletes and are not affiliated with Rocky Hill High School athletics. Coaches that decide to hold summer workouts will reach out directly to their teams in early July.

At present, we are still planning on a return to athletics for football on August 17, and for the rest of our fall sports on August 27. These workouts, if still permitted, would be structured so as to meet the criteria stated above by the CIAC resocialization committee. To that end, athletic registration for the 2020-21 school year will go ahead as planned and will be available for all three seasons beginning on July 1 on the athletics page of the high school website. No changes have been made at this point to the requirement of a valid physical for all student-athletes and ImPact concussion testing for all incoming 9th and 11th graders as well as those new to our district.

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I will be working very closely with other administrators and staff in Rocky Hill to ensure that we have the proper protocols in place for a safe return to athletics. Daily temperature checks and daily sanitization of equipment and facilities are a possibility. We will follow explicitly the directives given by our local and state health agencies to ensure the safety of our student-athletes, our coaches, and our fans. As such, you may see additional agreements or waivers attached to participation in athletics for the 2020-21 school year.

I will write to you again over the summer with any new updates. In the meantime, I wish you all a restful and safe summer break. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our coaches if you would like additional information.

Respectfully:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Seidman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Seidman
Director of Athletics and Student Activities