



The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference believes that athletic competition is an integral part of the educational process and therefore recommends the following approach as we enter the winter season of our athletic programs within our conference. We are committed to safely promoting competition locally and in accordance with member schools return to school and athletic safety plans. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will follow all mandates handed down from the State of Pennsylvania and the PIAA while accepting of the varying directions taken by member schools in the direction of their administration. The following outlines an acceptable approach from your athletic directors which allows for schools to continue to tackle the education of students while overall mitigating risk.

Mitigation Through Creative Scheduling and Alignment

The athletic directors of the EPC have creatively re-aligned the conference's division with mitigation in mind. Member schools have been assigned to divisions that are determined by county **whenever possible**. This method assists in the mitigation of potential infection by maintaining local competition for the fall EPC season.

Divisional Alignment

- Three Divisions by County
 - **Lehigh:** Allen, CCHS, Dieruff, Emmaus, Parkland, Whitehall
 - **Monroe:** ES North, ES South, Pleasant Valley, PM East, PM West, Stroudsburg
 - **Northampton:** BECAHI, Easton, Freedom, Liberty, Nazareth, Northampton
 - **NOTE:** This divisional alignment could be altered in specific sports if all member schools do not field teams in specific sports.

Winter Sports:

Basketball: Boys and Girls

- 3 games against divisional opponents (in-county) for 15 total EPC contests
- Practices begin 11/20/20
- First conference game Friday 12/15/20
- Conference schedule: 12/15/20-12/23/20; restarts 1/15/21-2/9/21
- District and State playoffs would be viable options.

Swimming: Boys and Girls

- 2 meets against divisional opponents (in-county) for up to 10 total EPC contests
- Practices begin 11/20/20
- First conference meet Tuesday 12/15/20
- Conference schedule: 12/15/20-12/23/20; restarts 1/15/21-1/28/21
- District and State playoffs would be viable options.

Wrestling: Boys

- 2 meets against divisional opponents (in-county) for 10 total EPC contests
- Practices begin 11/20/20
- First conference match Wednesday 12/16/20
- Conference schedule: 12/16/20-12/23/20; restarts 1/15/21-2/3/21
- District and State playoffs would be viable options.

Competitive Spirit

- EPC Championships 12/16/20 (rain date 12/17/20)
- Will utilize a specific scheduled performance time rotation as a mitigation strategy.

Recommended Mitigation Protocols

- **Member schools continue to adhere to School District Health and Safety Plans.**
- **Preserve county league schedules per fall season.**
- **Implement league scheduling breaks on or around increased holiday gathering and travel times. Buffer zones**
- **Utilize community incidence rate per 100,000 by county as EPC Postponement Measure by county. If the incidence rate rises above 100 over two consecutive weeks schools should consider suspending athletic competition until the county rate falls below 100 per one week.**
- **Consider in-county scrimmages and competitions only.**
- **Continue to promote and adhere to:**
 - **Face coverings and social distancing recommendations set forth by Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for student-athletes, coaches, spectators, etc.**
 - **PIAA Recommendations for Winter Sports.**
 - **Student-athletes wearing face coverings when not engaged in athletic competition.**
 - **Participant and game personnel screening procedures.**
 - **Limited use of locker rooms and non-essential areas where applicable.**
- **Spectator Considerations**
 - **Adhere to current guidance from State and Local Health Agencies.**
 - **2 tickets per home athlete.**

- **Visitor spectators at the discretion of the home site.**
 - **Recommendation 2 per visiting athlete.**