

SCHOOL UNION 76

BROOKLIN – DEER ISLE-STONINGTON CSD – SEDGWICK

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Office of the Superintendent

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“Public Schools not only serve the public, they make the public.”

Superintendent’s Memo

To: CSD School Board
From: Christian M. Elkington
Re: Recommendation for Fall Varsity Soccer
Date: 9-13-2020

Over the last two + weeks the Commissioners of the Maine Dept. of Health Human Services and the Maine Dept. of Ed., along with Maine School Boards Association and the Maine School Superintendents Association have been given access to participate in the process of both reviewing and making suggestions to revise the MPA’s fall sports expectations. Given the fact that the MPA has adjusted their original expectations to meet the State of Maine’s Community Sports Guidelines it is my recommendation, as many superintendents in Maine are now doing, to adjust my original recommendation and to allow DISHS to participate in a limited Fall Competitive Varsity Soccer Season under the following conditions:

- Should any member of our team including coaches or the visitor's team or any game officials be diagnosed with Covid-19, our season will end. Given the possibility of individuals being asymptomatic while having Covid-19, we cannot take a chance of inadvertently spreading the virus when we know there has been exposure.
- As is clearly stated in the MPA expectations the wearing of masks and social distancing among players, coaches, officials and spectators will be strictly followed and enforced.
- Schools must follow the [Governor’s Executive Order](#) on gathering size limits, currently set at 100 people outdoors, or fewer if distancing rules cannot be accommodated. Team members, coaching and game-related staff and game officials are included in the 100.
- Only spectators from the home team will be allowed at our home games (we expect the same to be true when we are the visiting team). Details of how to monitor these requirements will be developed by DISHS Admin. In the event that we have any difficulty at our home games maintaining and/or following all Community Sports/MPA Soccer expectations with spectators, we will then prohibit all spectators from any remaining home games. This decision will be based on the recommendation of DISHS Administration, made by the

- Superintendent and will be considered final.
- All athletes, other than those involved in the game, coaches, officials, staff, and spectators must always wear a mask. This includes officials wearing a mask during the contest.
 - Players not willing to follow the safety expectations now in place by the MPA and CSD 13 will not be allowed to participate.
 - All coaches, paid and volunteer along with administrators must complete the free Covid-19 course called Covid-19 for Coaches and Administrators currently available on the NFHS Learn platform at <https://nfhslearn.com/>. It is recommended that athletes also watch the video.
 - Coaches and school administration will make themselves aware and follow the revised bulletin that addresses the sport's fall season.
 - The developed "Sport Specific Guidelines" that align with the "School Sports Guidance: Return to Competition for Competitive Activities in Maine" document for soccer will be followed, expecting visiting teams players to change into their uniforms before leaving for their road game along with severely limiting school building/facility use for visiting teams (two of many areas covered).
 - The snack shack won't be available this season.
 - No inside practices are to be held this fall. Should there be inclement weather, teams may not move inside for a practice.
 - Should Hancock County be designated yellow or red, there will be no practices or games held until which time we are designated green.
 - If a school we are to play is from a county which becomes designated as yellow or red the game will be cancelled.
 - Teams will not stop for food on the way home, but individual student-athletes will be allowed to bring food on the bus to eat after the game.
 - We will do our best to schedule 8-10 games. We will only schedule schools from Hancock and Washington County (reduced #s of spread), along with Searsport, who is included in our regular year-to-year.
 - Along with the "School Sports Guidance: Return to Competition for Competitive Activities in Maine" each of our teams must follow all host team rules and policies as they apply to the use of facilities, including locker rooms, transportation, operational considerations, cleaning and disinfecting, and the use of shared objects.
 - Transportation to away games will be limited and if we can't fit our teams on the available school transportation due to numbers restrictions, will we allow some parents to transport their child(ren). Lack of Trip drivers will also make it difficult to schedule buses.
 - We will consider developing a consent and assumption of risk document outlining the risks associated with participating in a school-based activity, including the increased risk associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. If developed it will be a prerequisite to participation all student-athletes and their parents/guardians (not just soccer) will be expected to sign.

We can't reinstate Middle School Soccer safely this fall. We do not, at this time, have the supervisory personnel and on-field expertise to also safely oversee fielding soccer teams

at DISES this fall. Additionally, the extra sanitizing and cleaning we are presently doing in our schools along with limited busing resources make adjusting our present resources impossible. At the high school level, we can use some student assistance to help with field prep for soccer, but can't expect to do this at DISES. The focus of DISES School Admin & Staff must stay fully on the reopening of school during the day.

Both of our varsity soccer coaches have expressed interest in working with any and all CSD students this fall. We will explore the feasibility with our varsity coaches and AD Woodward of allowing interested students from grades who usually participate in fall middle school soccer to possibly join practice in some meaningful way. Another possible option could be practicing under our varsity coaches to build their skills utilizing DISHS student-athletes as role model support.

We hope to learn from our experiences with varsity soccer and what other schools find and work-through this fall to better inform how we will, potentially handle a future winter sports season.