



A Message from the Mesa

Dear Students and Families,

This past Tuesday, the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) updated their guidance for the return to high school sports. They issued end of season dates for our Season 1 offerings (Cross Country, Football, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Cross Country) that will fall during the month of March and beginning of April. All of this presumes that the Santa Barbara County infection rates have dropped to such a degree that we enter the red or orange tiers, for only under such circumstances would athletic competition be allowed. For context, we never got below the red tier in the fall, and reaching that tier by March will require a precipitous drop in new COVID cases. Even if the County does meet that mark, however, a combination of quarantine requirements, travel procedures, and training needs make it impossible for us to field teams to compete in the final weeks of Season 1 sports.

While this CIF decision is disappointing, it is not altogether unexpected. I am heartbroken for all of our student-athletes whose sports are affected, especially our seniors who will lose the ability to compete in the blue and white one last time. But I am buoyed by the fact that our students did get to spend time together as a team during the fall before we departed for break and I am hopeful these experiences, combined with their previous seasons, have created fulfilling memories that will last a lifetime.

In the coming days, your child's interscholastic team coaches will be in touch to have a final virtual team meeting to talk through these circumstances and begin to make plans for next year. We are all hopeful that the worst days of the pandemic are behind us and that the recent surge is lessening as we move forward.

Upon our return in March, students will begin the process of preparing for Season 2. In the coming days, students will be asked to confirm their choices for spring season activities. It is very likely we will only offer varsity level competition this spring given the constraints of the pandemic and local availability of sub-varsity competition. Sub-varsity teams may still have the opportunity to practice, gain valuable experience, and participate in intra-squad competition this spring. It should also be noted that the CIF has reversed their position in regards to multi-sport participation. In short, students will not be able to participate in more than one sport or on more than one team. This will prevent students from participating in high school and club sports concurrently, as well as prevent participation in two sports during Season 2. If your student is currently participating with a club team,

please contact me as soon as possible so we may review the options available at this time. In addition, CIF has also released their tiered system for Season 2 competition by sport. This system will allow interscholastic competition once Santa Barbara County reaches the following tiers, the Stay-At-Home orders are lifted, and we have updated guidance from the County on Youth Sports.

The CIF tier assignments for the spring season are as follows:

Purple Tier

Tennis

Swim

Track

Red Tier

Baseball

Girls Lacrosse

Orange Tier

Boys Lax

Soccer

Volleyball

Yellow Tier

Basketball

As you can see, we are hopeful as the spring progresses, and conditions improve, that we will have the ability to compete in a growing number of sports against other local County schools.

In the coming weeks, we will be publishing a salute to our seniors in fall programs to celebrate their accomplishments on the fields and take a moment to recognize all they have brought to our programs over the last four years.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

All the best,

Wade Ransom

Director of Athletics



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