



***PIONEER VALLEY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE***  
***Western Massachusetts***

September 15, 2020

Dear Athletic Directors and Principals of the PVIAC

First off, we want you to know that our Executive Board, which is made up of principals and ADs, admire and stand behind all administrators in public education at this time. I believe this pandemic is hopefully allowing your teams to work smarter and grow closer.

The PVIAC EB has met several times over the past two weeks, and we have discussed the numerous options presented in terms of having high school athletic competition for the fall of 2020.

One thing is evident, there are various perspectives and decisions being made regarding having our high school student-athletes compete in high school athletics. We must realize that this is NOT a one shoe fits all solution.

As a group, we have decided to go ahead with athletics, with each school board giving the ok for their particular school to compete.

The first step we took was to create bubbles (6) for schools to limit travel and play fewer schools, reducing contact from more extensive league play. This decision cuts our contact down about 40% compared to if we stayed in our standard leagues. In soccer (B&G), Cross Country (B&G), and Golf, leagues are formed inside their bubble. In terms of Field Hockey and Volleyball, there are far fewer teams competing. The leagues we formed will coincide with our ultimate goal of reducing overall unnecessary or maximum contact. Gymnastics has five schools that will compete, and four of the five schools have contact with each other during other competitions.

Here is what the Executive Board has passed for the Fall of 2020

- Compete in a bubble that will limit contact with fewer athletes.
- The scheduled amount of games will be:
  - Team sports (Soccer, FH, Golf, VB) 10-12
  - Cross Country 5-6 contest
  - Gymnastics 4-6 meets
- No independent varsity contest, only those given by schedulers.
- NO Spectators for Indoor Volleyball Games.
- Only home fans are allowed for outdoor contests. A school can say no fans at all; that is their choice.
- Out of season coaching: The only sports that will be allowed out of season instruction will be the Fall sports that have been moved to Fall 2 (i.e., Football).

We truthfully know that athletics is the other half of education that help our young students complete their academic mission. The PVIAC believes in assisting each individual school in accomplishing their goals for all students.

PVIAC Executive Board