



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

2620 Lebanon Avenue, Building 6
Belleville, IL 62221
www.diobelle.org

Phone: 618-235-9601
Fax: 618-235-7115
Email: jbirdsong@diobelle.org

Dear Principals and Athletic Directors,

As was promised last week in the communication concerning our sports program, we continue to monitor and make updates as needed. Since the announcement, there have been ongoing communications between a variety of stakeholders throughout our school system and consideration has been given to a variety of factors that effect our students, our teachers, and others within our school communities. After those discussions, the following adjustments/changes will be made and effective immediately.

Soccer – Postponed at this time and will be evaluated throughout the school year with a goal of having a “spring” season.

Cross Country – Schools will be eligible to participate based on the guidelines attached.

Baseball/Softball – Schools will be eligible to participate based on the guidelines attached.

It is important to remind everyone that our primary focus still remains offering in-person instruction throughout the school year, and all safety measures must be followed to best position us to achieve that goal. The executive sports committee more than understands the essential role that extra-curricular activities play in the overall development of students, but also must be understanding of concerns expressed by teachers and others in our schools who may be more at risk.

As I mentioned in my video a few weeks ago, it will be impossible for everyone to agree on every aspect of this issue moving forward and I would once again ask that you consider others’ situations who are different than yours. This is a great opportunity for our school communities to show our students how to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and how to put the group’s goals above their own desires and goals. Afterall, those are two of the most important lessons to be learned from participation in team sports, and were certainly ingrained in me by my youth, high school, and college coaches (at least the successful ones). With that in mind, lets all be good teammates and set a positive tone for the young people following our example.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Birdsong
Superintendent of Schools
Diocese of Belleville



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

2620 Lebanon Avenue, Building 6
Belleville, IL 62221
www.diobelle.org

Phone: 618-235-9601
Fax: 618-235-7115
Email: jbirdsong@diobelle.org

Diocesan schools will be eligible to participate in the sports listed below with the major guidelines listed. The guidelines have been developed in conjunction with direction from the IDPH, IHSA, and SIJHSAA.

Baseball/Softball

- *Use IHSA Phase 4 guidelines for practices and contests; including daily use of athlete/coach monitoring form and processes.
- *Schools may play a maximum of 2 games per week.
- *Schools are not eligible for tournaments during the season.
- *Players must social distance (at least 6 feet) in the dugout or surrounding area if dugout is not possible.
- *Spectators are subject to IDPH guidelines at this time.
- *Coaches must wear masks during games and practices.
- *Competition should be within the distances and regions as described by the SIJHSAA directions.
- *Any school(s) season could be suspended or cancelled as situations change.
- *State Series and Diocesan Tournament TBD

Cross Country

- *Use IHSA Phase 4 guidelines for practices and contests; including daily use of athlete/coach monitoring form and processes.
- *Schools may participate in a maximum of 2 meets per week.
- *Spectators are subject to IDPH guidelines at this time.
- *Coaches must wear masks during meets and practices.
- *Competition should be within the distances and regions as described by the SIJHSAA directions.
- *Any school(s) season could be suspended or cancelled as situations change.
- *State Series TBD

The Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Belleville are happy to partner with families in the faith, educational and moral formation of their children.