



DIOCESAN RECREATION ASSOCIATION

197 E. GAY ST.

COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

August 11, 2020

Dear DRA Athletic Directors:

We all know that sports are a valuable asset to the lives of children. Sports and teamwork contribute to the whole development of children. We know athletics provide for basic needs: Spiritual, physical, emotional, moral, and mental health while teaching self-discipline and selflessness. The Office of Catholic Schools, the Diocesan Recreation Association, and you, the athletic directors and coaches along with parents, are trying to best provide athletics that are safe for all participants during a pandemic that has changed all of our lives.

Current developments and the uncertainty of what this pandemic will do in the future have caused a disruption in the way we attend Mass, the ways schools will look when they reopen, and to sports. The DRA had to cancel the spring sports seasons for softball, baseball, and track. Soccer has been practicing for over a month as the original starting date for games has been pushed back indefinitely. The State of Ohio has not opened up contact sports, including soccer and football, for games. With this uncertainty, we reluctantly are postponing the DRA football and soccer seasons. We hope to be able to offer them in the spring.

Cross-country and volleyball are classified as non-contact sports. Those seasons will be offered this fall, with modifications. Please check with your pastors to ensure you have their permission to form teams and to begin practicing. As always, the parish decision to participate is contingent upon the pastor's approval. Practices for cross-country and girls and boys volleyball may begin on Wednesday, Aug. 12 following all health and safety guidelines which may change at any time

Baseball will also be offered this fall as a diocesan sport. We hope this will provide the boys another option for sport, along with cross-country and boys volleyball.

We are monitoring safety guidelines, best practices and protocols from the State Health Department, the State of Ohio, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Federation of High School Sports, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and other organizations in order to provide the safest possible environment for the coaches, athletes, parents and spectators. We will continue to monitor pandemic related developments and reserve the right to update and make changes as necessary to the DRA sports programs. We will keep you informed in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Marty Raines
Director, Office of Diocesan Recreation

Cc: pastors, principals