

Hello Parents & Guardians,

Let me begin with the hope that you and your family are healthy and able to manage through these challenging times. Here at school we have been operating with an abundance of caution. Our ability to regularly test every member of our community for signs of the virus has limited the spread in our school community. We safely and successfully held a live graduation for the Class of 2020. This school year we have had live instruction, assemblies, induction ceremonies, and several sports seasons. As we have stated all along, "If we can safely run an event or have in person learning or activities, we will."

In January the Governor gave the authority to play high risk sports to the local/county leadership. The understanding was that on February 1st, our Mayor and NYC DOH would let us know if we could play basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, and other contact sports. CHSAA leadership has contacted local representatives from the Mayor on down. We still have not received an answer. All of the surrounding counties have okayed these sports programs and they have permission to run their seasons. Our league would follow the safety guidelines set by the state. We believe we can meet this challenge and give our student athletes an opportunity to play. Here at Loughlin our Boys & Girls Track teams have successfully had their Cross Country & Indoor Track seasons. We believe we can do this for all our athletes. I have attached the letter we sent to Councilman Levine and excerpts from several emails from CHSAA & Diocesan Leadership. We are asking parents and guardians to call 311, the Mayor's office and the NYC DOH to request an answer to our request to play.

Thank you & stay safe!

Mr. Edward A. Bolan
Principal, Bishop Loughlin MHS



February 23, 2021

City Council Health Committee Chairman, Mark Levine
Legislative Office
250 Broadway, Room 1816
New York, New York 10007

City Councilman Levine,

I have the privilege of serving as Executive Director of Interscholastic Athletics for the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association (CHSAA) of Brooklyn/Queens Diocese. The Archdiocese of New York, which includes Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, and part of Westchester are all part of our interleague play in the CHSAA and supportive of this letter. I am requesting an **Emergency Hearing of the City Council Health Committee** in which you are the chairperson. This meeting is to address the lack of response from the Mayor's Office and the NYC Department of Health for the approval of sports determined to be high-risk by the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD). Those high-risk sports include: Basketball, Boys Lacrosse, Competitive Cheerleading, Football, Ice Hockey, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

On January 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) released Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation during the COVID 19 Public Health Emergency (***"Interim COVID 19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation"***). The guidance was created to provide owners and operators of sports and recreation businesses, leagues, organizations, and their employees, as well as patrons, players and spectators with precautions to help protect against the spread of COVID 19.

Within the guidance it states:

*"Effective February 1, 2021, participants in higher risk sports and recreation activities may partake in individual or distanced group training and organized no/low-contact group training and, further, may partake in other types of play, including competitions and tournaments, only as permitted by the **respective local health authorities (i.e., county health departments)**."* To this date, we have not been given guidance to resume interscholastic sports in New York City.

We conducted a COVID-19 safe protocol for all low and moderate sports in the fall and winter, during the height of the pandemic. Now that the numbers have fallen and vaccinations are being distributed in communities, we are ready to resume all sports, but we need your help in having our voices heard in New York City. Student athletes are in need of social, emotional, and physical domains to grow strong and recover from the pandemic. They have endured the long hours in front of a computer screen one day and in school distanced from friends on another! They are at a breaking point and we need to support them in their quest to play! Please help the student athletes of NYC.

Pertaining to this request, do not hesitate to contact me at:

Dominick Vulpis
Executive Director CHSAA
29 Wilson Street
East Rockaway, New York 11518
516 650-9644.

Sincerely,
Dominick Vulpis

Dominick Vulpis

Executive Director Brooklyn/Queens CHSAA

Good Afternoon Everyone,

- 1) The leadership of the CHSAA has been working extremely hard along with the Superintendent of schools and his staff, Pat McLaughlin your President, Ed Bolan, Principal Rep and League Presidents, Denise Hillig, Ray Nash in an effort to "Let Us Play" high-risk sports in NYC. We need support from our parents and students to reach out to the Mayor and NYC DOH to put an end to this outrage of non-response and "Let Us Play". Follow the email chain from the bottom to understand this outrage of no response. We continue to teach all students there is a "process" to the way of the world, well here is a terrific chance to teach hands-on!

- 2) It is unfortunate and disappointing that the NYC Department of Health has not made a determination yet on high-risk sports being played in NYC. It has not even responded to the attached request to hold an EMERGENCY HEARING of the CITY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE in an effort to make a determination on high-risk sports. To say we are the "greatest city" in the world and can't support our youth in their social, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs through the DOH is devastating to our student body. We are asking **WHY** a decision has not been made as all the surrounding areas to the NYC (Nassau, Westchester, and Suffolk) have been given a decision.

Forwarding Tablet article for all, click on the link below..... Please continue to reach out to any local politicians to "Let Us Play"!

<https://thetablet.org/chsaa-leaders-call-for-emergency-hearing-with-city-on-high-risk-sports-decision/>