



Press Release

FROM: JOE HEINZ, COMMISSIONER
TODD CASSEN, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The San Diego Section of the CIF is excited to continue increasing in the number of education-based athletic opportunities for our student athletes and coaches throughout the Section. Cross Country, Golf, Swim & Dive, Tennis, and Track & Field are already in season, and we hope to begin competitions in the sport of Field Hockey soon.

Additionally, we have set the date of Friday, February 26, 2021, as the first practice date for the sports of Football and Boys & Girls Soccer. Our Season 2 sports of Baseball, Softball, and Boys & Girls Lacrosse are set to open their season on Saturday, March 13, 2021. Due to the adjustments to the Season of Sport for Boys & Girls Water Polo by our member schools and coaching advisory groups, those sports are now scheduled to open their season for practice on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

"Let Them Play" - TRO against the State of California and County of San Diego

At 4:42 p.m. on Friday, February 19, 2021, the Section was made aware of the decision of the San Diego Superior Court, North County, granting a temporary restraining order enjoining the State of California and County of San Diego from "applying or enforcing the provisions of any State of California or County of San Diego COVID-19 the shut-down orders, or any other related orders . . ." that prevent Plaintiffs or other youth in the County of San Diego from being allowed to participate in high school or youth sports **as long as they follow the same or similar COVID-19 protocols used for competition in professional and/or collegiate sports within the County.** The order obtained by the Plaintiffs appears to require our member schools to apply the more rigorous and costly COVID-19 protocols of our local San Diego professional and intercollegiate sports teams. Prior to the issuance of Friday's order, our member schools were required to comply with less arduous and less expensive COVID-19 procedures. This decision may have unintentionally increased the costs of COVID-19 protocols for our member schools. Equally concerning is the real prospect that the order will create a two-tiered system within the Section whereby communities and schools with the financial means are able to comply with the COVID-19 protocols of professional and intercollegiate sports teams, while those communities and schools without the financial means to fund such protocols will be left unable to meet the requirements of the order. The San Diego Section is concerned about its ability to ensure access and equity for all of our member schools and student athletes as well as any inequity that may arise as a result of this order. At this time, we are awaiting guidance to provide to our member schools on any additional COVID-19 protocols that they need to put in place, if feasible, in order to conduct their athletic program in accordance with COVID-19 protocols similar to or the same as professional or intercollegiate sports teams.

Last Friday's ruling does not impact the Section's previously adopted 2020-2021 Seasons of Sports approved by our San Diego Section Board of Managers on August 14, 2020.