




MEMO

TO: NYSPHSAA Section Executive Directors
NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force

FR: Dr. Robert J. Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director 

RE: On Campus Activities Prohibited Until Further Notice by Governor's Office

DATE: June 26, 2020

The NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force was created to examine readily available information and provide guidance and recommendations to the 11 Sections and member schools. Recently, the Task Force developed Summer Guidance to assist schools when hosting conditioning workouts on campus. With assistance from the Governor's office, Department of Health and Department of Education, we were working under the assumption schools would be authorized to host and operate summer programs when regions entered Phase 4 of the NY Forward Reopening Plan.

The NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force released the following Summer Guidance on June 12th:

"When to implement NFHS Guidance:

The NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force is recommending that schools utilize and rely upon the guidance provided by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). If school districts are interested in hosting off-season conditioning workouts and programs on their school campus, the NYSPHSAA COVID-19 Task Force recommends that schools begin the NFHS three-phase process (NFHS Guidelines) when the following criteria have been met:

- 1) School enters Phase 4 of the NY Forward reopening plan.*
- 2) School district permits campus facilities to open to students and faculty.*
- 3) New York State recommended social distancing and safety protocols can be implemented in a safe and appropriate manner."*

The NYSPHSAA was informed by the Governor's office on June 25th schools are able to allow individuals or groups access to their fields and grounds. However, schools are still prohibited from any indoor activities, any in-person instruction (excluding special education), and any organized sports or recreational activities that are hosted/operated.

Schools should restrict access to their fields or grounds if they do not have the essential personnel necessary (e.g. maintenance, security) to ensure that current restrictions on gathering size, as well as current protocols on cleaning and disinfection are followed.

On Wednesday, June 24th, the Governor announced the Central New York, Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, North Country and Southern Tier regions would enter into Phase 4. Phase 4 guidance allows social gatherings of up to 50 people, indoor and outdoor arts and entertainment venues to reopen, and religious gatherings at 33 percent capacity, with social distancing and face covering requirements in place.

However, on Thursday, June 25th, the Governor also announced certain businesses and activities were not going to be permitted to reopen due to ongoing COVID infectious risks, these included malls, movie theaters and gyms.

I realize this information is frustrating for many schools, coaches and student-athletes who planned to start on campus conditioning workouts upon entering Phase 4. However, as you know, these are challenging times for everyone, and decisions are made to protect and prevent future outbreaks. We will continue to provide you updates as NYSPHSAA works with State officials to ensure interscholastic opportunities for students on school campuses will resume as soon as practical.

If you have any questions or concerns related to this memo, please let me know right away.