

## **Cumberland Christian School** **Athletic Return-to-Play Plan**

Cumberland Christian School is pleased to announce the Return-to-Play Plan for the 2020—2021 school year. We will be closely following the guidelines released by the NJSIAA even though we are not a member school. Please note that this plan is fluid and may be changed at any time, based on either guidance from the Department of Health or Governor-mandated changes to the school day.

### **Guiding Principles that the NJSIAA Sports Advisory Task Force Used**

1. Ensure the health and safety of all student-athletes.
2. Re-engage all student-athletes as soon as possible for their social, emotional and mental well-being.
3. Provide opportunities for participation in all sports.
4. Keep competition as local as possible for as long as possible.
5. Develop multiple return-to-play models to minimize the risk of a cancelled season.
6. Maintain the ability to pivot to back-up plans when deemed necessary.
7. Minimize potential impact on the spring season.
8. Minimize the importance of post-season, state-wide championships. The focus this year is on participation, as opposed to championships.

### **Fall Sports**

Fall soccer will start practice on Monday, September 14, 2020. Athletic games may begin on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. The Tri State Christian Athletic Conference (TSCAC) is continuing its fall season per normal scheduling. They have agreed to make arrangements for CCS to fit all league games in during the window of the month of October. Playoff dates will be as follows: quarterfinals 11/3, semifinals 11/5, and championship 11/7.

### **Winter Sports**

Winter Sports will start practice on Monday, November 16th, 2020. The regular season as it pertains to the TSCAC is scheduled as normal with playoffs being the last week of February.

### ***Scrimmages:***

CCS varsity teams will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage, preferably with a neighboring school. The scrimmage may occur any time within seven days of the regular season start date for basketball. When possible, schools are encouraged to participate in intra-squad scrimmages to provide additional preseason preparation.

### **Out-of-State Competition:**

Out-of-state competition is prohibited, unless a waiver is granted for exceptional circumstances.

### **Spring Sports**

Baseball and softball seasons will be determined and announced at a later date. There are many variables that will affect the start of the spring season, including the status of the virus. The practice start date and regular season start date will most likely be pushed back for all spring sports. Also, the regular season and post-season will most likely end later than prior years for those sports that have such flexibility. The task force is striving to get each sport started as timely as possible; however, minimizing potential overlap and the risk of student-athletes having to choose between seasons is a priority. Therefore, the spring start dates, regular season, and post-season dates may be staggered by sport; however, the task force recognizes the need to maximize the spring season due to the loss of the season last school year.