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SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

September 1, 2020

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District (SMJUHSD) Athletic Directors finally received some good news today regarding return to play for its' athletes.

“Under state, CIF, and county guidelines Righetti, Santa Maria, and Pioneer Valley High Schools will be shooting for a September 21st start date for return to play,” said SMJUHSD Assistant Superintendent, John Davis.

Schools are aiming to implement Phase One of Summer preparation per COVID-19 guidelines; the district is following in the footsteps of other area schools such as St. Joseph, Cabrillo, and Lompoc. SMJUHSD leadership feels that coaches who are trained in Cohorts, PODS, spacing, and outdoor public safety will begin an extended summer conditioning period.

According to district guidelines for return to play, Phase One must follow a strict set of guidelines.

“Athletic Directors and Administrators will review CIF, County, and District Return to Activities guidelines with coaches and players,” said District officials.

Other key points of Phase One implementation include coaches working with the same 10 athletes for a week in pods; pods must remain 20 feet apart at all times. For coaches, the focus of Phase One should be reintroduction of sport specific movement, individual drills, and overall conditioning. Per the guidelines, teams will not be allowed to use gyms, weight rooms, and pools or sport specific equipment. Athletes are not to share equipment, make physical contact, 6 feet of social distance will be strictly enforced.

Prior to any participation athletes must have the following:

1. SMJUHSD Return to Activity Waiver signed by parent/guardian agreeing to the requirement to self-assess their child for any COVID-19 symptoms.
2. Individual Water Bottle.
3. Completion of Athletic Clearance packet.
4. Current Health Screening/Physical (2020-2021) on file

Despite all of the guidelines and regulations, Athletic Directors across the district are inspired by this news.

“I’m excited for this opportunity, for our community and its’ athletes,” said Kevin Barbarick, Righetti High School Athletic Director. “I also commend District leadership for enabling programs to return to play.”

SMJUHSD Media Contact: Public Information Officer Kenny Klein
[805 709-1454](tel:8057091454) or kklein@smjuhsd.org

SMJUHSD Contact: Superintendent Antonio Garcia
[805 922-4573 ext. 4202](tel:8059224573) or angarcia@smjuhsd.org

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