ISL Statement on Return to Athletics for 2020-2021

Amidst continuing health and safety concerns due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Independent School League (ISL) has met extensively to consider options for athletic activities in the 2020-2021 school year. As part of this process, we consulted with the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC) and Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC), with whom some of our schools have families in common. The three leagues share the common goals of supporting our student-athletes and ensuring a safe return to athletics.

With our first priority being the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and community members, the ISL has decided to postpone league-sanctioned athletic competition for fall 2020. We hope to resume league competition in January and to provide an interscholastic athletics experience for students in all sports, if possible. To that end, we will develop plans for three abbreviated seasons during the remainder of the school year: traditional winter sports taking place from January to mid-February, fall sports from mid-February to early April, and spring sports from early April until late May. This delay will provide the flexibility necessary for schools to focus first on a safe return to school as well as a longer window to implement health guidelines and reacclimate all students to physical activity.

We understand that the situation may change significantly during the course of the school year, and we will remain flexible and adjust our plans as necessary. As we develop specific details regarding scheduling of competition and other policies for safely resuming athletics, the leagues and each member school will closely examine the guidelines and best practices provided by public health authorities, state and local governments, and national and state sport organizations. The ISL is committed to our mission of creating an athletic experience for our student-athletes that prioritizes their physical, emotional, and social well being.