



May 15, 2020

During these trying and unknown times, the Niagara Erie Youth Sports Association (NEYSA) would like to offer our condolences to any of those NEYSA families who have lost anyone or who has suffered any distress as a result of this viral outbreak.

On behalf of the Niagara Erie Youth Sports Association and its Board of Commissioners, we also want everyone to know that the health and safety of all of our participants (players, cheerleaders, coaches, parents, guardians, other family members and fans) is the most important thing to the League and each of our organizations. All of our decisions are rooted in that basic principle.

With that in mind, we share this communication to give some guidance on where the League and your member organizations' position is currently.

Because of the uncertain future that exists currently, it is exceedingly difficult to gauge the paths forward for youth football and cheerleading for our upcoming season.

Currently the New York State program for reopening, which is termed the "New York Forward" program, has four phases. Each phase includes different businesses, localities, organizations, and activities. Youth sports is considered recreation which is covered under Phase 4 which is the final phase of reopening.

The program requires that in order to reopen, each region must meet seven (7) metrics in order to participate in the reopening. As of May 15, 2020, Western New York does not meet all seven metrics and therefore cannot reopen yet and because of this we face a future that is unknown.

However, we are hoping for the best and planning for the worst. The League and our member organizations are discussing various ways to ensure that some type of season can occur. This includes a best-case scenario that all restrictions will be lifted, and we can have a normal season to an abbreviated season starting a bit later than normal.

With that in mind, all organizations are encouraged to open their registrations for fall football and cheer in anticipation that we will return to some form of normalcy by the fall. In our hopes for a fall season, we request that our participants register as soon as possible with their respective organizations so that they can make the appropriate plans for equipment and apparel. This will also help our member organizations in their planning stages once we receive approval to open under the New York Forward program.

Again, we will keep each member organization posted as to the latest information and directives that we receive from the CDC, WHO, OSHA, New York State and any other federal, state, or local administration.

If you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to visit our webpage and submit your inquiry at www.niagaraerieyouthsports.com

The NEYSA Executive Officers and Board of Commissioners