



Covid 11/10/20
EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>
public comment

Fwd: Youth Sports - Return-to-Play

1 message

The **BOSONE** <bosone@edcgov.us>
To: EDC COB <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Wed, Oct 28, 2020 at 12:21 PM

Can you please add this to the next Covid 19 item for the November 10 BOS meeting? Thank you!

Kind Regards,

Cindy Munt

Assistant to Supervisor John Hidahl, District 1
Board of Supervisors, County of El Dorado
Phone: (530) 621-5650
CLICK HERE to follow Supervisor Hidahl on Facebook
CLICK HERE to visit Supervisor Hidahl's web page

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Armstrong** <mikearmstrong99@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 1:56 PM
Subject: Youth Sports - Return-to-Play
To: <bosone@edcgov.us>, <bostwo@edcgov.us>, <bosthree@edcgov.us>, <bosfour@edcgov.us>, <bosfive@edcgov.us>, <lynnan.svensson@edcgov.us>, <nancy.williams@edcgov.us>

EDC Board of Supervisors & Public Health-

As a member of El Dorado Hills Soccer Club, I write on their behalf in support of the attached letter from an alliance of youth sports leagues and governing bodies throughout California. Our club represents thousands of residents in El Dorado County including youth participants, coaches, referees and officials, administrators, volunteers, and parents.

We fully support the requests of this youth sports alliance and trust that when given clear guidance from the State of California, our youth sports organizations will act in partnership with the State, in the best interest of public health and the well-being of our youth.

We respectfully ask for your support of this letter at the appropriate levels of State government, so that the youth sports community of California can have clarity regarding a phased, safe return-to-play plan for our children. We have outlined multiple phases of return to play in our own community which are now being circumvented by neighboring states that have proceeded to return youth sports to normal. This will harm our communities even further if our families now decided to travel to other states for games and tournaments. We need to reopen outdoor sports in our own state to minimize the risk as soon as possible.

Thanks
Mike

Official Correspondance to Governor Newsom - Youth Sports Alliance (Oct 16, 2020).pdf
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October 16, 2020

Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
 State Capitol
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Secretary Mark Ghaly, M.D.
 California Health and Human Services Agency
 1600 9th Street
 Sacramento, CA

Dear Governor Newsom & Dr. Ghaly,

The undersigned organizations are an alliance of youth sports organizations and governing bodies throughout the State of California. Our leagues and organizations represent over 1.5 million California residents, including youth participants, coaches, referees, officials, administrators, volunteers, and parents, for whom youth sports are a passion and key component of their day-to-day lives.

As a group representing community youth sports throughout the State, we appreciate and respect the State’s science-driven approach to keeping our communities safe and securing public health. We are reaching out to request clarity and guidance in the return-to-play process for the youth sports community.

Youth sports play a vital role in the mental and physical health of children. Currently, youth sports organizations are hampered in our ability to fulfill our mission, and California’s children are paying the price - especially those at the lowest socioeconomic levels. Further clarification of the State’s plan for a return-to-play will help youth sports organizations prepare for and provide safe healthy activity for California’s children.

On August 3, 2020, the State of California released “Interim Industry Guidance for Youth Sports” and announced the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on August 28. Surprisingly, the youth sports industry was not included in the “Blueprint Activity and Business Tiers”, despite the inclusion of phased plans for similar industries, such as Family Entertainment Centers, Gym and Fitness Centers, and Professional Sports.

We respectfully make two requests to the State of California at this time:

First, we are requesting clarity regarding a phased, safe, return-to-play plan. Ideally, this plan will include metrics by which the State and/or counties will be assessed, and an outline of how guidelines will be gradually loosened, with corresponding increases in permissible sport activity such as allowing contact within isolated training groups, local scrimmages and/or competitions. By way of example, Washington State, in collaboration with local youth sports organizations, recently released their updated guidance,



“COVID19 Phase 2 and 3 Sporting Activities Guidance”, outlining a phased return-to-play process based on clearly defined metrics.

Second, we would like to offer our experience, support and assistance in developing a phased return-to-play plan that incorporates a comprehensive understanding of differences between our respective sports (e.g., outdoor vs. indoor sports; high contact vs. low contact sports, etc.).

The lack of clarity outlining a path forward to a safe return-to-play is already provoking adverse unintended consequences throughout California, which will likely continue and may escalate. For example, an increasing number of families are traveling out of California to participate in youth sports competitions. By leaving the state to compete against teams from other parts of the country, student-athletes are inadvertently putting themselves, and the communities to which they return, at increased risk of COVID-19 infection. According to the CDC’s guidelines, those student athletes’ risk jumps from the second level of risk (*Increasing Risk: Team-based practice*), straight to the fifth and highest level of risk (*Highest Risk: Full competition between teams from different geographic areas*).

We would like to reiterate our appreciation of the State’s commitment to securing the safety of our communities, and we believe all of us are truly “on the same team” in pursuing this objective. By clearly outlining a return-to-play pathway for youth sports, the State will take another important step forward in demonstrating its commitment to the overall well-being of California’s youth. We would like to offer our vast experience in youth sports to assist the State in its efforts, and we welcome an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Governor’s administration to help facilitate a safe return of a much needed service for the youth in California.

Respectfully yours in Sport,

Larry Svetich, Chairman
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cc: Members of Legislature,

Sandra Shewry, MPH, MSW, Acting Director, California Department of Public Health,
Erica Pan, M.D., Acting State Health Officer, California Department of Public Health