

TO : Supporters of High School Girls Swimming & Diving  
FROM : Brett A. Banker  
Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics  
REF : **Decision to Move Girls Swimming & Diving to Fall 2**  
DATE : September 18, 2020

On Thursday, September 17, the Niagara Frontier League (NFL) voted unanimously to move Girls Swimming & Diving to what the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is calling Fall 2.

The decision was a difficult one, but a decision nonetheless built on sound reasoning. The concept of conducting swimming this fall was concerning to both Superintendents and Athletic Directors alike. The issues derived from offering swimming this fall did not center on one issue. Educators had the following concerns:

- \*An unease amongst school leaders for running a sport activity indoors in facilities with poor ventilation, heat and humidity
- \*Schools have an inability to ensure 6' of social distancing while athletes train or compete in lanes next to each other. This concern includes running relay events with four athletes in each lane.
- \*Protocol language that includes, 'limit the maximum size of any single group of people in the water to 10 or fewer'-see concern for relays
- \*Our schools decided not to offer locker room facilities in any sport for home or visiting teams. Athletes would have to arrive ready to swim and depart the facility wet after the meet.
- \*Limited deck spaces across the league would make it impossible to impart 6' social distancing rules for teammates not swimming in an event. There was discussion of not admitting spectators so that the bleachers could provide areas for athletes to spread out safely. No spectators would have been allowed this fall.
- \*No Class Meets, NFL or Sectional Championships will be held this year. No school would agree to host that many schools and swimmers in a single location.
- \*Moving swimming & diving to Fall 2 will not interfere with another sport of choice. Only volleyball and cheerleading will be active during that same time period.
- \*There is hope that if the situation with Covid-19 improves the League & Section could revisit admitting spectators.
- \*There is hope that if the situation with Covid-19 improves the League & Section could revisit conducting championships in April-May.
- \*To demonstrate that the concept of moving to March 1 is viable, several ECIC schools have approached the NFL about joining our league for Fall 2.
- \*In a survey conducted by the Executive Directors of both leagues, the NFL (8-0) and the ECIC (20-5) both preferred moving Girls Swim to Fall 2.
- \*Even if Kenmore had voted to swim this fall, there would not have been any other NFL schools to compete with.

