



# WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

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September 15, 2020

Dear Tri-Valley Parents and Student-Athletes:

It is with a great deal of regret that I am informing you that the Tri-Valley League will not be participating in the Fall 2020 athletic season that was scheduled to begin on September 21, 2020, as per the vote taken by Section IV yesterday and today. The Tri-Valley member school superintendents and athletic directors were unanimously in favor of the vote to postpone the fall season until March 1, 2021, as part of a condensed three-season proposal from NYSPHSAA. In addition, Section IV Athletics has announced today that they too will be postponing fall sports until March 1, 2021. Winter Sports are proposed to start in January with athletic practices to begin after November 30, 2020.

The overall consensus was that safely bringing students back into the building for academics is paramount and should take precedence over any efforts to resume athletic competition. We are also concerned about students having to wear masks during competition and the inconsistencies between the NYSPHSAA guidance for athletics and NYSED guidance for in-person education. For example, students have to remain 12 feet apart for physical education and music classes according to NYSED guidance, but the NYSPHSAA guidance considers soccer a lower risk sport where athletes can make close contact. We feel that the discrepancies between these two pieces of guidance need to be resolved before we feel comfortable allowing athletes back into competitive situations.

The postponement of our fall athletic seasons is certainly disappointing. However, we look forward to giving our student-athletes the opportunity to participate in three sports seasons as determined by Section IV and with sectional play available for all three seasons.

Sincerely,

Tim Gonzales  
Superintendent