FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

WINTER 2020 INFORMATION

December 4, 2020

The BCIAA met on Thursday, December 3rd, to discuss protocols for the Winter 2020-21 season including the current Department of Health mandates that are in place for mitigation of COVID-19. The league recognizes the importance of continued participation in interscholastic athletics and has adopted several safety protocols for the Winter 2020-21 season for all BCIAA member schools. These protocols have been put in place to help reduce the possible spread of COVID-19 amongst our student-athletes and our member school communities. Our focus continues to be, first and foremost, the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, and the BCIAA firmly believes that when all COVID safety protocols are followed, we can continue to provide safe educational opportunities for the student-athletes in Berks County.

The General Membership has approved the following mandates for the Winter 2020-21 season:

- All regular-season games played in Berks County and the BCIAA playoffs will require all participants to wear a face mask (exception is Swimming which is not a BCIAA sponsored sport). In addition, all spectators and PIAA officials must wear a face mask at all times.
- If a team has any participants who are not able to wear a mask, they will communicate that to their opponents in advance, and if the contest is deemed unsafe to play by the opposing school, then the contest will be canceled and considered a no-contest.
- Each member school has set their indoor facility capacity limits to meet current gathering restrictions. For the vast majority of schools, this will result in only a few home spectators being able to attend with no space for any visiting spectators. Member schools will post their spectator restrictions and live streaming options on the BCIAA website. Bowling will have a restricted area around and behind the team areas that spectators will not be allowed to enter.
- Winter playoffs will be hosted by the higher seed, and if the facility has room for any spectators, the allotment of ticket vouchers will be split equally between both the home and visiting team. Some facilities may not be able to accommodate any spectators.

These procedures may be updated throughout the Winter season should the Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or the CDC change current restrictions and guidelines. The BCIAA website (www.bciaa.org) contains more information on the Winter season and COVID-19 precautions as well as information on how each member school plans on live streaming their events this Winter. Thank you for your cooperation to make this the best season possible for our student-athletes.

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