

August 10, 2020

There are many questions about the upcoming high school year and extracurricular school activities. This information is meant to inform you about the Jackson High School Swimming and Diving team and the upcoming season as it relates to the current COVID-19 pandemic. This is going to be a season like never experienced before. Decisions are being made daily that change the athletic landscape throughout the State and Country. Trying to plan for the upcoming season is very difficult and challenging with so much uncertainty around us, it takes a toll on everyone involved! This is where things stand today as it relates to the JHS Swimming and Diving team.

If the season were to start tomorrow.....

High School Swimming and Diving Season

The OHSAA Swimming and Diving season is slated to begin on October 30, 2020. (Coaching and tryouts can begin on this date!) The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) would like to keep the current winter sports schedule in tact as it is already set. They are continually monitoring the pandemic and how it relates to sports and are making decisions as they deem necessary. The Ohio High School Swim Coaches Association (OHSSCA) has submitted a proposal to the OHSAA regarding the 2020-21 High School Swimming/Diving season as a proactive measure in order to have a high school season. There is no scheduled date to have an answer to when and if the OHSAA will make a determination on winter sports and/or the proposal submitted by the coaches association. Obviously we all would like to see a full season of competitions. The OHSSCA has 2 sub committees, one that deals with dual meets and one that deals strictly with post season tournaments (Sectionals, Districts and State Meet). The proposal that was submitted by the OHSSCA to the OHSAA is drastically different than the current format that is in place through the OHSAA.

Condensed OHSSCA Proposal points:

- 2020-21 season to begin the Monday following Thanksgiving instead of October 30th
- No dual meets prior to January 2021
- All dual meets will be virtual
- No Invitational meets (i.e. McKinley Relays, Viking, NE Classic, Federal League Championships, etc.)
- Tournament Season: No Sectional Meet and a modified District and State Meet Schedule
- Dividing the tournament by gender to reduce the number of participants on pool decks

Jackson High School Swimming and Diving Team

The Jackson High School Swimming and Diving Team home meets and practices are held at the David YMCA, 5/6 days a week. The David YMCA is part of the YMCA of Central Stark County, and current safety protocol only allows for a maximum of 18 competitive swimmers in the water at any time. At this point, the current safety protocol/distancing measure is to remain effect for the foreseeable future. There have been discussions with the Administrative Team at the David YMCA regarding the possibility of allowing the team to practice for an additional hour each day during the week due to the participant limit. There has been positive feedback as it relates to the additional hour of practice; however it does present an issue with the student athletes and their school schedules. Practice would begin at 2:00pm (instead of 3:00pm) and the team would have use of

the pool until 5:00pm. If this option becomes a reality, some hard decisions would need to be made as it relates to the team as a whole. First, it may become necessary to limit the number of students to 18 Girl swimmers and 18 Boy swimmers that will be part of the JHS Varsity Swimming and Diving Teams. The current facility restrictions for participation numbers, space and time would make it very difficult to have both Varsity and JV swimmers participating. This would mean that there would be try-outs in order to make the JHS Varsity Swimming and Diving team at a date to be determined in November. Second, a determination of how many student athletes would either be able to adjust their schedules to finish school by 1:45pm (Upper Classmen with early dismissal from school) and/or how many students will be utilizing Option #2 the at-home learning model that the school district has in effect to split our team to run 18 swimmers from 2:00pm – 3:30pm and a second group of 18 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm each day. More information on these scenarios will be provided as protocol changes are made and become available.

As stated earlier, this is where high school competitive swimming and diving stands at the moment. The hope is that the season can proceed as currently scheduled. As with anything related to the COVID-19 pandemic, things will likely change. Hopefully at some point during the fall there will be an in-person informational meeting as it relates to the swimming and diving team and the 2020-21 season. Information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Thank you for your continued patience during this uncertain time!

X 

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