

Football, other 'fall' sports postponed by CIF, impacting Del Norte, other California high schools

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In a world turned upside down by COVID-19, there were more disappointments Monday as the California Interscholastic Foundation announced that fall sports will be moved to winter and all high school sports in the state will have compressed schedules in the coming school year because of concerns related to the pandemic.

The announcement was made in Sacramento and followed by a notice from North Coast Section Commissioner of Athletics Pat Cruickshank.

Cruickshank said the decision and related schedules are "the effort of many individuals and groups that have been charged with finding solutions to an unprecedented challenge in our lives."

The schedule released by the NCS, which includes Del Norte High School, shows two sports seasons — fall and spring — instead of the typical fall, winter and spring seasons.

"The decision was made to condense three seasons of sport into two seasons of sport, primarily to help with the spacing between particular sports and the overlap of certain sports between seasons," Cruickshank said.

However, "fall sports" will begin the first day of football practice on Dec. 14 and the championship games wrapping up in mid-April. Volleyball and cross country practice will begin on the same day and wrap up with championship events in late March.

At Del Norte High School, student athletes have been preparing for the upcoming school year. The football, girls tennis, girls and boys soccer, volleyball and cross country seasons were to start Aug. 10.

Now soccer, basketball, wrestling, tennis, baseball, softball and track will be considered "spring" sports for the coming year.

The complete schedule for the NCS is available online included as a PDF with this article.

Efforts to reach Del Norte High School for comment were unsuccessful as of the time of this posting.