



South-West Conference, Inc.

115 School Road • Weston, CT 06883

Christopher Cipriano – President

James D'Amico – Vice President



To: Gregg Simon, CIAC Associate Executive Director

FR: South-West Conference

RE: Fall Sports Start Date

DA: April 12, 2022

The South-West Conference would like to recommend that the start date for fall sports, other than football and boys golf, be moved up three days to start on the Monday of the week it is now scheduled to start on Thursday. This move would allow the state tournaments to start 3 days earlier without further squeezing or compacting the regular season or conference tournaments. Many have pointed out in the past that playing three games in 5 days to start the boys and girls soccer and field hockey tournaments, and to a slightly lesser extent the girls volleyball tournament is not optimum. In fact, I would argue playing three games at that level in that time span is not in the best interest of the athletes and could even be unsafe. By moving the start date and the last date to count by 3 days you allow the play-in games and the first round to be played the week prior than the current week they are played in which allows the second round and quarterfinals to be the only two games in the following week with the semifinals and finals staying in the week they are currently in. With football and boys golf starting on August 15th (using this coming fall's date) there is no reason not to start all other fall sports earlier (August 22nd using this coming fall's date) as schools are open and Athletic Administrators are working.

We appreciate you considering our proposal and are happy to discuss this further or answer any questions that you might have.

Sincerely,

Mark Berkowitz
South-West Conference Co-Commissioner

Bethel, Brookfield, Bunnell, Immaculate, Joel Barlow, Kolbe-Cathedral, Masuk,
New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Notre Dame, Pomperaug, Stratford, Weston