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To: District Superintendents
Assistant Superintendents of Human Resources
Assistant Superintendents of Business
Assistant Superintendents of Instruction

From: Jeffrey J. Riel 
General Counsel

Re: Summer Sports Camps/Programs/Conditioning

We have been asked whether current state or local health care orders permit school districts to operate summer sports camps or programs, including conditioning activities, associated with high school athletics.

On May 8, 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a process permitting counties who met specific criteria to move through Stage 2 of California's Resiliency Roadmap to modify the statewide Stay-at-Home order. Counties that attested to meeting specified criteria were permitted to only open a sector for which the state had posted [Industry Specific Guidance](#). On May 23, 2020, the State of California approved [Orange County's Variance](#), which allowed the reopening of some local businesses.

On June 15, 2020, the County of Orange (County) issued a [press release](#) indicating that the County would allow the reopening of practices for youth sports under the COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Day Camps. Since that time, the California Department of Public Health¹ (CDPH) has provided clarified guidance. Specifically, CDPH's [Industry Guidance for Day Camps](#) indicates that recreational team sports were not permitted under the guidance for day camps. Similarly, CDPH's [Guidance for Gyms and Fitness Centers](#) does not apply to recreational team sports. Finally, CDPH's [Interim Guidance for Schools and School Based Programs](#) does not specifically address school-based sports and extracurricular activities, but indicates that further specific guidance would be forthcoming.

¹ This memorandum has been updated to correct an inadvertent reference to the "County" Department of Public Health instead of the "California" Department of Public Health.

Although CDPH has indicated guidance would be forthcoming, to date CDPH has not issued statewide industry guidance for reopening recreational team sports or recreational youth sports activities. To add to the confusion, there have been some reports that CDPH has orally advised that some youth sports programs could go forward. On July 6, 2020, the Orange County Department of Education communicated directly with CDPH through an Essential Services Inquiry. CDPH has confirmed that at this time youth sports, including conditioning activities, are not permitted. CDPH again indicated that guidance specific to youth sports would be released in the future.

Until there is specific guidance provided by CDPH regarding recreational team sports or school-based sports, school districts are well advised not to operate summer youth sports programs at this time. Once statewide guidance is released, we will collectively work with the local public health officer to consider local community conditions when implementing the statewide guidance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

JJR:bjf