

From the Damascus Sports Association Board of Directors

As the state of Maryland and Montgomery County have proceeded with phased re-opening of activities, the Damascus Sports Association has followed their guidance in giving our community's youth an opportunity at physical activity and personal development. The Board, Commissioners, and Coaches have worked hard to develop safety procedures, guidelines, and information consistent with Maryland, Montgomery County, and CDC guidance to protect all involved with the program. The most stringent requirements are in place, more so than the majority of bars, restaurants, stores, pools, community parks, or recreational sporting events in the state. Those requirements include a questionnaire and temperature screening before every organized activity, use of masks consistent with orders, social distancing, use of hand sanitizer, no sharing of equipment, alignment to Montgomery County Phase 2 - no contact skills building exercises and drills, and no parents/visitors allowed at practices. We have also made best efforts to inform our community of the environment we face so parents and volunteers can make the best personal choice possible on whether to participate in DSA activities.

On Sunday 8/2/2020 the Damascus Sports Association youth football program was notified that an individual associated with one of our teams had tested positive for COVID-19. The involved team and individual had followed DSA practice protocols which are based off of MD State recommendations and CDC guidelines. Within 24 hours, proper notifications were made and contact tracing done consistent with best practices put in place in an effort to return to physical activity for our youth. The entire football program was notified of a positive test while protecting the privacy of the individual involved. Out of an abundance of caution, the involved team will be self-monitoring and will not practice this week, which goes beyond CDC recommendations. The individual with the positive test result will not be permitted to return to organized activities until they are cleared by a doctor.

The Damascus Sports Association will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in the state of Maryland, and the evolving best practices associated with the pandemic response. We will strive to be in full compliance with the changing Maryland and Montgomery County orders on physical activity and youth sports during this pandemic. The Board of Directors, with the involvement of our community, will constantly assess our programs and make decisions to support the health of the families we serve.