This proposal would allow schools to seek approval from the executive director to start practice earlier in a specific sport when that start date has been postponed significantly. The state of Florida is extremely diverse in its needs and situations impact various areas of the state in various ways. This proposal would allow the association to meet the needs of individual schools and communities while trusting local leadership to make sound decisions when the state as a whole is experiencing extraordinary circumstances.

Proposed Policy 10.1.4 [SEE Attached]

"A school may request approval from the Executive Director to set aside the requirements of Bylaw 8.8.1 in order to start practice earlier than the established date for a specific sport. In order for a request to be approved, all of the following conditions must be in place:

1. The start date for a given sport season is delayed statewide for more than four weeks in comparison to the originally established date.
2. The school agrees to complete its season by the end of the regular season of the originally established calendar for that sport.
3. The school will not compete in that sport outside of the originally established season.
4. The school agrees to withdraw from the State Series in that specific sport.

When all of these conditions are agreed to, the Executive Director or his designee may approve a school to start practice prior to the revised date. This permission should never be granted to start practice in a specific sport prior to the originally established date."

Executive Director Recommendation:

The Executive Director recommends approval of this policy as presented.

Rationale & Impact:

This policy revision would have no impact on member schools that chose to play within the revised dates for a season in a specific sport. At the same time, it would allow local leaders to make decisions that are in the best interest of their school communities in the event that the state is experiencing an extraordinary circumstance. By having to choose between an earlier start date and state series participation, it ensures that decisions will be weighed appropriately.
Proposed Policy 10.1.4:

“A school may request approval from the Executive Director to set aside the requirements of Bylaw 8.8.1 in order to start practice earlier than the established date for a specific sport. In order for a request to be approved, all of the following conditions must be in place.

1. The start date for a given sport season is delayed statewide for more than four weeks in comparison to the originally established date.

2. The school agrees to complete its season by the end of the regular season of the originally established calendar for that sport.

3. The school will not compete in that sport outside of the originally established season.

4. The school agrees to withdraw from the State Series in that specific sport.

When all of these conditions are agreed to, the Executive Director or his designee may approve a school to start practice prior to the revised date. This permission should never be granted to start practices in a specific sport prior to the originally established date.”