

CHAIRMAN
Harold C. Frazier

SECRETARY
EvAnn White Feather

TREASURER
Benita Clark

VICE-CHAIRWOMAN
Bernita In The Woods



P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625
Phone: (605) 964-4155
Fax: (605) 964-4151

August 13, 2020

Dr. Daniel Swartos
Executive Director
South Dakota High School Athletic Association
804 N. Euclid Avenue, Suite 102
Pierre SD 57501

BY EMAIL TO: daniel.swartos@sdhsaa.org

RE: Fall 2020 Sports and Travel on and through the Cheyenne River Reservation

Dear Dr. Swartos,

There are five schools on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Two are state school districts (Timber Lake School and Dupree School), two are Tribally-operated schools (Tiospaye Topa School and Takini School), and one is cooperatively run by the Bureau of Indian Education, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe ("CRST"), and the State of South Dakota (Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School).

Both Tribal schools are opening on August 24 under a full virtual learning model with no sports or other extra-curricular activities. The Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School will open on September 16 under an all distance learning model and no sports. The respective school boards for the three schools intend to revisit this decision each quarter, and determine whether to proceed with distance, hybrid, or in-person learning depending on the current and projected risk levels.

The Timber Lake School has decided to open for in-person learning with certain precautions on August 19, 2020, while the Dupree District School has decided to open for in-person learning with certain precautions on September 8, 2020, both with active sports programs.

At the present time, there are travel restrictions for traffic entering and leaving the Cheyenne River Reservation. These restrictions will change as current risk levels on and off the Reservation change, as determined by CRST epidemiological criteria.

At the current risk level, all commercial traffic, including school buses traveling for official school business, will not be impeded and may travel on and off the Reservation. Private

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1
Bernita In The Woods
Bryce In The Woods

DISTRICT 2
Theodore Knife, Jr.

DISTRICT 3
Edward Widow
John Kessler

DISTRICT 4
Vincent Dupris
Jim Pearman
Merrie Miller-White Bull
Mark Knight

DISTRICT 5
Ryman LeBeau
Robert "Bob" Walters
Randel "RJ" Lawrence
Derek Bartlett

DISTRICT 6
Tuffy Thompson
Wade "Tater" Ward

The blue represents the thunderclouds above the world where live the thunder birds who control the four winds. The rainbow is for the Cheyenne River Sioux people who are keepers of the Most Sacred Calf Pipe, a gift from the White Buffalo Calf Maiden. The eagle feathers at the edges of the rim of the world represent the spotted eagle who is the protector of all Lakota. The two pipes fused together are for unity. One pipe is for the Lakota, the other for all the other Indian Nations. The yellow hoops represent the Sacred Hoop, which shall not be broken. The Sacred Calf Pipe Bundle in red represents Wakan Tanka - The Great Mystery. All the colors of the Lakota are visible. The red, yellow, black and white represent the four major races. The blue is for heaven and the green for Mother Earth.

vehicles may enter and leave the Reservation if they are traveling from counties within South Dakota not designated as “hot spots.” Vehicles traveling from outside of the State of South Dakota and from South Dakota counties which are currently determined to be hot spots of COVID-19 transmission will not be allowed onto the Reservation. The current map of hot spot counties, as well as an explanation of the Tribe’s risk levels and associated criteria, may be found on the website: www.crstcoronavirusupdates.com.

Referees or other game officials who plan to enter the Cheyenne River Reservation in a private vehicle to perform an official function at an SDHSAA game will not be allowed entry if they are traveling from a hot spot unless they have obtained clearance from the CRST Command Center. Game officials should call the CRST Checkpoint Office at (605) 964-6444 or the CRST Emergency Command Center at (605) 964-3637 to obtain clearance before traveling to the Reservation. At least 24-hours notice to the Checkpoint Office is recommended.

Travel permits are part of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe’s COVID-19 response strategy, but they are not required at the current risk level. If more cases are identified or if community spread increases, travel permit requirements could be reinstated. A 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Reservation-wide curfew is currently in effect.

It is important to underscore the fact that both the map of hot spot counties in South Dakota and the travel restriction policy will evolve as local pandemic conditions change. I urge South Dakota public schools to check with the website above or call the CRST Emergency Command Center at (605) 964-3637 prior to each game or other school activity requiring travel to or from the Cheyenne River Reservation to determine current policies and guidance so that parents and school staff can understand the current restrictions and make travel decisions accordingly.

Sincerely,



Harold C. Frazier
Chairman

cc: David D. Nelson, CRST Command Center
Tracey Zephier, CRST Attorney General
Dr. Cherie Farlee, CRST Education Agency Director