STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Administrative Order No. 2020-25

Indoor Sports Practices and Competitions and

Outdoor Interstate Youth Sports Competitions

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, through Executive Order No. 103 (2020), the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, the Governor declared both a Public Health Emergency and a State of Emergency throughout the State due to the public health hazard posed by Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, to further protect the health, safety, and welfare of New Jersey residents by, among other things, reducing the rate of community spread of COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 107 (2020) on March 21, 2020, the facts and circumstances of which are also adopted by reference herein, which established enhanced social mitigation strategies for combatting COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order Nos. 119, 138, 151, 162, 186, 191, 200 and 210 (2020), issued on April 7, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 4, 2020, July 2, 2020, August 1, 2020, August 27, 2020, September 25, 2020, October 24, 2020, November 22, 2020, and December 21, 2020, respectively, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, the Governor declared that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency continued to exist and declared that all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, as part of those efforts, the Governor issued a series of Executive Orders first prohibiting the conduct of non-professional sports practices and competitions and then gradually loosening restrictions on such activities as the State's public health metrics improved; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 7 of Executive Order No. 148 (2020) clarified that the limitations on gatherings do not impact the ability of professional athletes to fulfill their job duties; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 13 of Executive Order No. 149 (2020) further clarified that limitations on contact sports activities shall not be construed to restrict the ability of professional athletes to fulfill their job duties, or to restrict the ability of United States

national team athletes or athletes training at United States National Team Training Centers to conduct their training activities; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 194 (2020), issued November 10, 2020, prohibited interstate indoor youth sports competitions from taking place in New Jersey and prohibited New Jersey teams from hosting interstate competitions outside of the State; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 196 (2020), issued November 16, 2020, declared that athletic practices and competitions, including professional and collegiate events, conducted indoors were subject to the indoor gathering limit of 10 persons, but permitted those events to exceed the gathering limits so long as no individuals were present who were not necessary for the event; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 204 (2020) paused indoor practices and competitions for organized, group, and competitive sports through January 2, 2021; and

WHEREAS, athletes engaged in interstate youth sport competitions have the potential to congregate at hotels, restaurants, and similar venues outside of the athletic event itself, and such congregation is not dependent on whether the competition occurs indoors or outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the reasons articulated in Executive Order No. 194 (2020) regarding the prohibition of interstate indoor youth sports competitions also apply to youth sports competitions conducted outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has granted the State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of the State Police, the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions related to the provisions within Executive Order Nos. 194, 196, and 204 (2020);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patrick J. Callahan, State Director of Emergency Management, hereby ORDER as follows:

1. It is hereby clarified that the athletic practices and competitions permitted to resume on January 2, 2021 under Executive Order No. 204 (2020) are subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3 in Executive Order No. 196 (2020). Such practices and competitions will be subject to the current indoor gathering limit, which was most recently set at 10 persons. However, if the number of individuals who are necessary for a no-contact practice, contact practice, or competition, such as players, coaches, and referees, is greater than 10 persons, such a practice or competition may proceed, as long as no individuals are present who are not necessary for the practice or competition, such as spectators. If this exception applies, the number of individuals at such an indoor gathering still may not exceed 25 percent of the capacity of the room in which it takes place, and such limit may not exceed 150 persons.

2. It is further clarified that the provisions described in Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Executive Order No. 194 (2020) and Paragraph 2 of Executive Order No. 204 (2020) regarding interstate youth sports competitions also apply to youth sports competitions conducted outdoors.

3. This ORDER shall take effect on January 2, 2021, and shall remain in effect for as long as Executive Order Nos. 194, 196, and 204 (2020) remain in effect.

December 31, 2020

Colonel Patrick J. Callahan
State Director of Emergency Management