

August 7, 2020

Cotter families,

On Tuesday, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) made their [announcement](#) regarding fall sports for the 2020-2021 school year. While the possibility of fall sports and a return to a “normal” routine is exciting, Cotter activities will not be what we are used to this fall. Our first priority is to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus by minimizing contact while allowing some activity. We will do what we can do within the Minnesota Department of Health guidelines and constraints.

Here are some important details regarding fall athletics

1. The following sports will be offered this fall for grades 7-12:
 - a. Cross Country, Boys
 - b. Cross Country, Girls
 - c. Soccer, Boys
 - d. Soccer, Girls
 - e. Tennis, Girls

2. The following sports will be practice only teams for grades 9-12 with the official season moved to 3/15:
 - a. Football
 - b. Volleyball, Girls

There will be more information to come regarding Cotter policy and MSHSL guidelines.

3. There will be no extracurricular sports for grades 5 and 6.

4. Students will be allowed to sign up for only 1 sport for the fall season to avoid cross-contamination of teams and athletes - this includes practice teams of Football and Volleyball.
 - a. There will be another registration for Football and Volleyball before the March season.
 - b. Students can sign up for one sport this fall, and still be eligible for Football or Volleyball in March.

5. Athletic fees are reduced to a non-refundable \$50/athlete.
 - a. You will see the fee on your FACTS statement.
 - b. Co-op athletes will receive an invoice in the mail.

6. Current transportation guidelines require buses to operate at 50% capacity while incorporating social distancing. We will not be able to offer a full schedule of lower level games (JV and JH). We will prioritize varsity competition and do our best to provide competitive opportunities for the JV and JH level teams; however, lower level competitions are not guaranteed.

7. Athletic participation in sports is voluntary. Here is [the registration link](#) to sign up so the activities department and coaches can begin planning for the upcoming fall season.

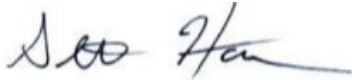
8. A valid sports [physical](#) must be on file in the activities office before an athlete is eligible to participate in any organized sport.

9. An ImPact Test will be needed for participation in soccer. More information to come to athletes that register for soccer.

10. Sport specific safety guidelines and requirements will be shared with athletes once they register.

Additionally, due to current John Nett Building constraints and school safety policies, the fitness program in the weight room will be postponed until details are finalized.

The goal for our fall activities program is to minimize contact and transmission while allowing students the opportunity to safely participate.



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Informational Links

[Stay Safe Plan / COVID-19 Updates and Information - State of Minnesota](#)

[Updated Guidance for Youth Sports](#)

[Guidance for Social Distancing in Youth and Student Programs \(PDF\)](#)

[MSHSL LEAD Network](#)