

Challenger Athletics Update

Mr. Thies shared the following with families via email last week. You will find answers to questions related to sports and athletics at ALCS as determined so far this year.

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Many of you have questions as to what Fall Sports will look like this year:

What are the high school fall sports options at ALCS?

- **Girls Volleyball**
- **Girls Cross Country** (co-op @ Madison Country Day School)
- **Boys Cross Country** (co-op @ Madison Country Day School)
- **Boys Soccer** (co-op @ Madison Country Day School)
- **Boys Football** (co-op @ Madison Edgewood)
- **Boys Volleyball** (co-op @ Madison Edgewood)

We are also looking into the possibility of girls swimming/diving at Edgewood, but don't anticipate it this year.

Registration/sign-ups will be emailed out in the next couple weeks.

Will high school sports be happening this Fall with the COVID-19 pandemic?

- The WIAA has stated that fall sports will still take place with some changes and the understanding that the COVID-19 situation is fluid and that we should continue to stay flexible.
- Cross Country Boys and Girls will start on time: First Day of Practice is August 17.
- Boys Soccer, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Volleyball will have a delayed start: First Day of Practice is September 7.
- ***Please Note:*** Dane County guidelines supersede the WIAA decision to continue with fall sports. Currently, soccer, volleyball, and football competitions are not allowed in Dane County. Unless these guidelines change, we will not be able to have these sports this Fall.

What if we need to cancel our high school volleyball, soccer, or football seasons?

- The WIAA has stated that the plan is to provide a spring season for any schools that need to cancel their fall sports due to local restrictions. No one knows what that would look like yet exactly, but that's the plan currently.

Would these teams still be able to compete if they only played away games?

- This is a great question. It is one that has been posed to the other athletic directors in the Trailways Conference. The short answer is that we don't know yet, but it certainly would be a creative option we might explore.

September 7th is Labor Day. Will we really have practice on Labor Day?

- The first allowable high school volleyball match is September 15 and teams are required to have 7 different days of practice before their first match. We already have a volleyball match scheduled on September 15, so – yes - our high school girls would have to practice on Labor Day and Saturday, September 12, in order to get in the required number of practices. Of course, the WIAA rules on this could change at any point in these unusual times.

When is the High School Fall Sports Meeting?

- *Girls Volleyball:* We are scheduling it VIA ZOOM for TUESDAY, September 1, @ 6:30p.
- *Cross Country or Boys Soccer:* Madison Country Day School has scheduled their Fall Sports Meeting VIA ZOOM for TUESDAY, August 11, @ 6:30p.
- *Boys Volleyball and Football:* Edgewood High School does not have a Fall Sports Meeting. We expect a decision soon about Fall sports and will keep families updated.

What about elementary and middle school sports?

- We participate in late elementary and middle school sports with an organization called MAISL, Madison Area Independent School League.
- MAISL has yet to make any decisions about fall sports.

What else should I know?

- Every two years a physical is needed for medical clearance to play high school sports, so students should make sure they are up-to-date and take care of that this summer.
- **If your last physical was before April 1, 2019, you will need a physical done before competing in high school sports this season.**
- Note: all incoming Freshmen athletes will need a physical.

We desire for all athletes to have opportunities to play sports this Fall and to do so safely & responsibly. We will stay upbeat, stay positive, and make the best of whatever the future holds this year!