

3.1.21

Raiders Parents/Guardians,



This message is to provide you with an update with regard to HHS **SPRING** sports. We will continue to provide accurate, confirmed information as decisions are made. Things are fluid and guidance is ongoing. As direction shifts in real time, we will provide future updates as necessary.

The details enclosed are based on directives from the Minnesota State High School League, decisions made by the Metro East Conference, and local application as determined by ISD 200 leaders. The primary rationale used to make decisions includes mitigating COVID-19 virus transmission risk while providing student opportunity for all sports in the 2020-21 school year.

Decisions continue to be informed by data from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, the Center for Disease Control, and the National Federation of High Schools. While not everyone will agree with or like the decisions that are made, we hope that you will respect that decisions are informed, collaborative, clear and firm. Our shared motivation to initiate education-based athletics is to continue to develop the physical, mental, social, and emotional health of our student-athletes.

SPRING SPORTS CALENDAR APPROVED

The MSHSL Board of Directors took action earlier this winter to adopt an adjusted spring sports calendar for the 2020-21 school year. All HHS spring sports will have a season. Most sports will start and finish later in the calendar than normal, but will not see a reduction in the number of number of games/contests or length of the season. Teams will compete against conference and/or local opponents only. There may be some restrictions on the number of contests per week that are allowed, depending on the sport. No open gyms, scrimmages, jamborees or captain's practices are allowed. Limited spectators will likely be allowed. Essential game personnel like coaches, officials, and site managers will not count toward the spectator limit. Information regarding additional sport-specific COVID protocols, spectator limits, athlete pod limits, live streaming and post-season tournaments will be released in mid-March.

Boys Golf	Start Date 3/29	Max 16 contests
Girls Golf	Start Date 3/29	Max 16 contests
Boys Track & Field	Start Date 3/29	Max 14 contests
Girls Track & Field	Start Date 3/29	Max 14 contests
Baseball	Start Date 3/29	Max 20 contests ** Throw only week of 3/22 **
Softball	Start Date 3/29	Max 20 contests
Boys Tennis	Start Date 3/29	Max 16 contests
Boys Lacrosse	Start Date 4/5	Max 13 contests
Girls Lacrosse	Start Date 4/5	Max 13 contests

REGISTRATION

Registration for spring sports seasons will open on Monday, March 1. The online-only registration process can be found at www.hastingsathletics.org or accessed directly [HERE](#).

We have partnered with a new software vendor (Affinity Solutions) to manage our online registration. This change will require families to create a username and password in the new system. If you already created a profile as part of fall or winter sports registration, you do not need to create new one for spring. Thanks in advance for your patience with a new system. Contact the athletic office at 651-480-7597 with any registration questions.

For the first time since 2009, participation fees for HHS athletics have changed. Instead of one single fee for all sports, there are now three tiers. Each tier has a different price point that is based on the average length of season and cost-per-participant per sport. Price points are \$175-200-265 and are outlined on the registration page of the HHS website. HHS is proud to remain at or below the conference and region average for participation fees.

COVID NOTICE

A COVID-19 specific notice will be provided during registration. This notice is developed by the MSHSL, and is embedded into the registration process itself. This notice is intended to raise your awareness of the risks of participation, the potential for virus transmission, and the requirements for participation. Even with caution and preventative measures, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public setting where people from different households are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can be transmitted even by people who are asymptomatic and can lead to serious illness and death. By accessing ISD 200 activities and facilities, users voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure of COVID-19. The notice is also posted on our athletics website and you can view it directly [HERE](#).

SPRING IN-SEASON TRANSPORTATION

When transportation is provided for spring sports, COVID-mitigation protocols will be enforced. Capacity maximums are set by the Hastings Bus Company depending on the size and style of the bus. Students and coaches will follow approved seating charts and must wear masks throughout the duration of the ride.

Parents/guardians will be provided the option to transport their own child to and from competitions and games so their child does not ride the bus. Parents are expected to notify coaches in writing directly, 24 hours in advance. Coaches will be providing further information directly to their teams and parents prior to their first away event.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROTOCOL FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Specific after-school protocols for spring sports are in development. The learning model that we are in for academics during the day will impact the after-school routine for athletes. If we are in full in-person learning without cohorts, practices may start as early as 2:15PM and students can go directly from their final academic class to the locker-rooms and/or practice locations. If we are in hybrid learning by cohorts, students will be required to vacate the HHS campus directly after school at 1:50PM. They cannot stay after school or be on school grounds. In that scenario, on-campus practices would not be allowed to start earlier than 3:00PM. This will allow for 70-90 minutes for students to leave campus, change into training gear, and arrive back safely for training. Locker-room protocols will also be dependent on what learning model we are in. As the start of the season nears, coaches will communicate what the after-school protocols will be for the start of the season.

We recognize that after-school constraints may be difficult for some students and families. We will continue to consider a wide variety of options in our attempt to provide a consistent and successful strategy to mitigate COVID risk after school in ways that are consistent with required MDH and MDE protocols. Thank you for your understanding.

NEXT STEPS

Sport coaches are the primary contact for sport-specific information. They will be updating their websites, sending electronic updates, and hosting online meetings to provide more information. Thank you for your partnership with our sport leaders. A current list of sport-specific player and/or parent meetings is posted on the athletics website [HERE](#).

Please be patient, as information is changing frequently. Coaches will continue to share confirmed information as soon as they have it. Broad athletic department updates will continue to be provided on the athletics website at www.hastingsathletics.org and on the HHS athletics Twitter handle [@HHS_RaiderNews](#).

Continued thanks for your support and flexibility. Your partnership is noted, valued, and appreciated. We look forward to continuing the positive momentum from fall and winter sports into the spring season. Take care and GO RAIDERS!

Sincerely,

Trent Hanson, Athletic Director