

Dear Folsom Middle School Families,

Sports are back! Unless there are drastic changes to Covid guidance, we expect that we will be moving forward with fall soccer and winter basketball in the upcoming year. Our new Athletic Director, Nick Pillsbury, has been busy setting up games, refs, and buses for the upcoming soccer season. Coaches Christine McMillian and Tristan Hobbs are preparing to have a great soccer season for our students.

Our sports program is required to follow the Vermont Principals' Association Athletic Policies. If you are interested in reviewing these policies for Middle School, here is the link: [VPA MS Policies](#)

There are three forms required in order for your child to participate. One is the general registration form; two is the student-athlete contract; and three is the medical release form your child's doctor must fill out. If your child had a positive Covid diagnosis in the last year, the doctor will also have an additional form verifying there are no lingering cardiac symptoms. You may drop off or fax these forms into us, or your child may bring them on the first day to the mandatory meeting for athletes and parents.

The season starts just a week after school begins, but by state regulations teams cannot practice until after the first day of school. So the turnaround time is short. The meeting, mentioned above, for all athletes and one parent representative, will be held the evening of the first day of school (Weds August 25th) at 6 p.m. Our coaches haven't yet completed practice schedules, but expect to see those soon. We are planning the first practice for everyone on Thursday, August 26th after school. More dates and times to come. Please see the link on this website for the actual game schedule.

It appears that we will have enough students interested in playing to field a 5-8 boys team and a 5-8 girls team. Because there are significant differences in size and skill between 5th graders and 8th graders, our intention is to offer 5th graders the opportunity to practice with their Folsom teammates and attend games, but not to play in games for safety reasons. However, it is possible on any given day that we may not have enough eligible team members to field a team. In that case, we are opening up the option for parents of 5th graders to allow their child to play. That will be on a game by game basis. Thank you for understanding the challenges we face with limited players.

We are optimistic that we can resume soccer and have a great season for our middle school teams. Please reach out to Nick Pillsbury with your questions or brilliant ideas.

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