

Southwick Regional School



Proposal for Participation in the Fall
Athletic Season

Primary Considerations

- Safety of all STGRSD students, faculty, staff and the entire Southwick community
- All students have the option for an EQUITABLE experience
- Education as the primary concern, with Athletics as a support to enhance and enrich the educational experience

Addressing the Primary Considerations- Safety of STGRSD and the community

- Through all scheduling and logistical items detailed in the formal proposal document
 - Scheduling Bubbles
 - Spectator Protocols
 - Contact Tracing
- Following all CDC, EEA, and MIAA Covid Task Force recommendations
 - Social Distancing
 - PPE
 - Sport Specific Guidelines
- Athletic Cohorts
 - Varsity-Interscholastic (Remote Learners)
 - Sub-Varsity- Intra-mural (All Learning models)

Addressing the Primary Considerations- Equitable Experience

- Create a plan in which all sports, at all levels, can train and compete under the supervision of a paid, properly trained, district vetted coach
- It is important to understand and account for the likelihood that no outdoor sports will be played during the Fall 2 season, due to weather, field conditions and safety concerns in February and March. Additionally, with most other schools in the region participating in outdoor sports during Fall 1, we would have few, if any opponents to schedule competitions with in Fall 2. The likelihood is that only Girls Volleyball and Unified Basketball could have a viable season.
- Students that can not commit to remote learning are faced with a difficult decision.

Addressing the Primary Considerations- Education First

- Create a plan in which student-athletes that have an issue learning remotely do not have to choose between the quality of their education and the sport that they love to play.
- Understand that athletics plays a vital role in the physical, social and emotional well being of student-athletes. Allowing for their participation will serve to enhance and enrich their education
- Student-athletes that participate in athletics are held to a high standard. Coaches play a vital role in helping many students stay on track, academically and behaviorally.

Considerations Around the Remote Learning Model

- Several parents and students have indicated that they do not wish to participate in Remote Learning, but would also not want to miss out on the opportunity to participate with their teammates
- Students with IEPs may not get the supports they need remotely
- The 'All or Nothing' Approach to Participation based on Remote Learning is untenable
- A Remote Learning Mandate for some students when the Hybrid Model is offered to others in the district is not supported by DESE. However, eligibility to participate in athletics is determined at the district level.

Results of the Remote Learning Survey

- Girls Soccer-42 Registered

- Yes-29 No-4 Undecided-9

- Boys Soccer-29 Registered

- Yes-19 No-6 Undecided-4

- Field Hockey-22 Registered

- Yes-4 No/Undecided-18

- Cross-Country-21 Registered

- Yes-2 No-1 Undecided-18

- Golf-13 Registered

- Yes-8 No/Undecided-5

- Girls Volleyball - 23 Registered

- Yes-11 No-7 Undecided-5

Conclusions

- Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer and Golf have sufficient participation numbers to support both an inter-scholastic Varsity team and an intramural sub-Varsity program.
- Field Hockey has indicated a preference for an intramural 2020 season.
- Cross Country has indicated a preference for an intramural 2020 season.
- Girls Volleyball responses support an interscholastic Varsity season. However, concerns of exposure within the school building warrant a postponement to the Fall 2 season for V and JV.

Option #1 (Proposed)

- To allow for Interscholastic VARSITY participation in the MIAA traditional Fall season in Golf, Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer, while postponing Girls' Volleyball and Unified Basketball to the Fall 2 season, with volleyball to be allowed to train during the traditional Fall season.
- AND...
- To postpone Field Hockey and Cross Country to Fall 2 and allow them and all Sub-Varsity soccer and golf participants to train and compete intra-murally during the traditional Fall season. The intra-mural program will be coordinated and supported by the Varsity coaches and supervised by Sub-Varsity coaches.

Option #2 (alternate Proposal)

- To postpone all Fall Athletics to the Fall 2 season, while allowing traditional Fall teams to participate intra-murally during the Fall season.
- Due to weather and safety concerns, as well as a lack of opponents, only Volleyball and Unified Basketball would be viable options for the Fall 2 season.

Option #3

- To make eligibility for interscholastic athletics contingent upon each student-athlete enrolling in the Remote Learning Education Model, and allow full participation of all teams in interscholastic athletics within the PVIAC Bubble groups, except Girls Volleyball and Unified Basketball, which would be postponed to Fall 2.

Option #4

- To participate fully in interscholastic athletics within the established PVIAC Bubbles, in all sports with the exception of Girls Volleyball and Unified Basketball, which would be pushed back to Fall 2.

Option #5

- To postpone all Fall Athletics to the Fall 2 season without allowing any participation during the traditional Fall season, intra-mural or otherwise.
- As previously stated, it is likely that, due to weather and safety concerns, as well as a lack of opponents, only Volleyball and Unified Basketball would be viable options for the Fall 2 season.