

Dear Families:

The Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) understands and values the many benefits that athletics offer high school students and has long supported these programs. In addition to supporting fitness, athletic teams and competitions provide students with opportunities to learn about teamwork, explore leadership, and develop physical skills, mental strategies, and emotional tenacity. Athletic teams, coaches, and competitions are often a crucial factor in keeping students in school; for some students, they also provide a pathway to college.

AUSD is currently considering the safe return of education-based high school athletics for the 2020-2021 school year. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, we continue to monitor the directives and guidelines released from the Governor's Office, the California Department of Education and the California and Alameda County Departments of Public Health to plan when and how to reopen school this Fall. As we begin planning for the potential return of athletics we are taking into account the health concerns of our community along with the physical, mental, and social well-being of our student-athletes.

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), in collaboration with the 10 sections throughout the state, will be determining by July 20 if fall sports will continue as normally scheduled. The CIF is prepared to offer alternative calendars if it is determined by July 20 that fall sports may not start as scheduled due to ongoing public health and safety concerns. This decision will guide us in deciding how to move forward as a district in regards to athletic registration, conditioning, practices, and competitions. (For more details on the CIF's decision-making process, please see the organization's [June 12 statement](#).)

To align with the current guidance and timelines provided by the CIF, AUSD's online registration date for athletics will be moved to August 1, 2020. Each athlete who registers will need a physical dated on or after July 1, 2020 and signed by a parent/guardian and a physician. This date may fluctuate as more information becomes available.

Because of ongoing concerns about the pandemic, as a district we have made the decision to postpone all in-person practices and conditioning until Monday, August 3, 2020, at the earliest.

We would like our middle school families to know, however, that a sports program for the benefit of AUSD middle school students is run by our community partner, the Alameda Education Foundation (AEF). AUSD will be communicating current guidelines with AEF to enable them to make decisions about their program that best meet the needs of middle school students while prioritizing health and safety.

We will continue to monitor the guidelines and update the community as information becomes available. We appreciate your patience and understanding during these difficult times. We are taking the necessary time and steps to develop plans that meet the needs of our students and families while maintaining health and safety.

Thank you,

The AUSD Team