

## Fall Sports!!!

August 20, 2020

Dear Parent(s) & Student-Athletes,

As athletic director, I would like to welcome you to the 2020-21 Fall Sports Season at TVMHS! Fall sports will be underway beginning on September 8, the first day of school. To ensure a successful season, **PLEASE** read all the important "stuff" below that will guide us through the season ahead.

I sincerely hope that everyone is doing well during these unprecedented and difficult times. We certainly need to all get back on the field safely and soon! We are going to need the full cooperation of everyone - fans, players and coaches if we want to see this through. This informational letter is the first communication regarding the upcoming soccer season for our student-athletes in grades 7-12. Please understand that everything that follows is highly subject and likely to change several times over the course of the next few months.

1) If anyone has any school issued **soccer uniforms** at home, please have your child bring them in to the school. The loss of uniform pieces poses a hardship as suppliers will not fill in small quantities, making it necessary to purchase an entire set. When we are able to get fill-ins, it takes between 4-6 weeks to arrive; by then the season is over and a player had to share a uniform or go without.

2) **Playing Time:** Please understand that our policy for both boys & girls is as follows with regard to playing time:

At the middle school level everyone plays. Our coaching staff will attempt to get everyone in every game/match as long as the player is in good academic & behavioral standing AND he/she is not missing practices unexcused. Please be patient and understanding with coaches who have a long bench! At the varsity level, the best will play the majority of the minutes. Again, our goal is to get everyone in every game.

My coaching staff and I are well aware that the number one complaint from parents is always PLAYING TIME. Every time we walk off the field/court after a competition we all feel badly when a player didn't get into the game or only played sparingly. The coaches will do their best to see that everyone gets an opportunity to participate, provided it has been earned.

3) **Forms:** Please be sure that your child is covered by either personal/family insurance or school insurance. More info can be found on the TVMHS website if you wish to purchase school insurance at a very reasonable cost. The state has granted a one-year extension to any student who had a wellness exam last year. Every coach has to maintain these records, so please be sure these items have been taken care of. If your child comes home with "The Packet" please fill out the three sheets and return them asap to the coach or AD. You can also download these off the TVMHS athletic website. I prefer that you download them off the website to save paper. **The 3 sheets must be filled out and brought to the first practice:**

a) Athletic Release Form

b) Substance & Alcohol Abstention Agreement (signed by a parent & the student-athlete)

c) Well Exam Form (only if you did not have an exam last year!)

4) **Training Times:** Please be advised that **practice times** during the fall are generally consistent. The middle school trains immediately after school from 2:45-4:30. All practices &

game schedules can be found at: [twinvalleyschooldistrict.us](http://twinvalleyschooldistrict.us) Click "Co-curricular – Athletics –Sports Schedule." We generally attempt to make decisions on game and/or practice cancellations by 1:15 pm. Check the website for up to the minute changes. Even better, sign-up for email alerts on the site! If you do not have access to the internet, then call the school office as a last resort.

5) **Matches:** The varsity teams will hopefully play 8-12 matches and the middle school TBD. There are schools that may or may not play us based on availability and/or distance.

6) **Bussing:** On away game days, the bus will leave from TVMHS and return students to either the OLD SCHOOL or back to TVMHS. Your child will call from either Brattleboro or Bennington and alert you that the bus will be in Wilmington for pick-up in 25 minutes and/or TVMHS in 40 minutes from the time of the call. Please be prompt in picking up your child. Of course, your child is allowed to ride home with parents, if that is more convenient.

Due to COVID-19, we are encouraging student-athletes to ride to matches with their parent(s), if possible, to alleviate distancing issues on the bus. While riding on the bus, everyone **MUST** wear a mask. Please note: Those players with a driver's license are **NOT** allowed to drive to matches. As of now we will **NOT** be stopping for food on the way home, so plan accordingly!

7) **Spectators:** May or may not be allowed at certain select matches this fall. There are schools that **WILL NOT ALLOW** any spectators! There are also schools that will be giving every player two tickets to the match. The state allowable maximum attendance is 150 at any event for those schools who plan to allow spectators. And as of now all spectators, coaches, refs and players **MUST** wear masks at all times! Currently, TVMHS will allow up to 150 physically distanced spectators, but this may change. You will be informed as soon as administration provides guidance. Please respect this restriction so that we do not jeopardize the season for our student-athletes. The coaching staff will alert players as to what restrictions their opponents have prior to each match. I anticipate this changing either way as the season progresses and numbers trend in either a positive or negative direction.

8) **Length of Season:** The middle school season is scheduled to end the week of October 23rd and the varsity season the week of November 2nd. The state championships will be played on Saturday, November 7th at a site TBD.

9) **Eligibility:** Our priority is ACADEMICS and Good Conduct. At any time, a MS teacher can pull a student-athlete from the team for a minimum of one week and until the issue is resolved. **The high school eligibility policy can be found in the athletic digest on the TVMHS athletic website.**

10) **Temperature Checks/Questions:** Any training session or match that occurs on a school day when the student-athlete was in school will **NOT** need to be screened by a coach. **Any student-athlete who is remote or homeschooled will be screened by the coach for signs/symptoms of COVID-19. Screening includes:**

a) A temperature check with a non-contact thermometer.

b) Two Questions as follows:

- Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
- Do you feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19? For example, have you had a cough, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or a new loss of taste or smell?

**Any person with positive symptoms reported and/or a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will not be allowed to take part in team activities and**

**will be sent home immediately. Parents of students being homeschooled or learning remotely need to stay until the child is cleared.**

Symptomatic persons must self-isolate at home and contact their primary care provider.

**11) Personal Hygiene:**

- Prior to training or match participation, individuals must wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will be available for those who need it. We ask that every player bring their own.
- No sharing of personal gear is allowed and all personal gear must be washed after every session.
- Players and coaches must wash their hands or sanitize after every session.
- We encourage all players to shower upon returning home.
- Facial coverings must be washed daily.
- Locker rooms are to be used for changing only – no congregating or socializing.

**12) Masks:** To be worn by **EVERYONE** - spectators, players, coaches and referees. Studies have clearly shown that cloth facial coverings with a minimum of two layers is optimal.

**13) Booster Booth:** The booth will fully adhere to the most current guidelines published by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). All workers will be wearing a mask. We ask that all patrons wear masks and maintain safe physical distancing while waiting in line.

**14) Digital Sports:** (it's not perfect BUT it is the most efficient method of keeping up to date with the schedule and changes)

**To access schedules, forms and practice & match dates/times/location:**

- [twinvalleyschooldistrict.us](http://twinvalleyschooldistrict.us)
- Co-Curricular
- Athletics (this is where you will find all forms)
- Sports Schedule (this is where you will find all schedules)
- View Schedule (select the schedule you wish to see)

**To receive email alerts:**

- Select email alerts
- Select specific sport

In closing, the coaching staff and players hope you come and support ALL of our teams. The middle school teams play all home games at TVMHS with the exception being the Bolognani/Hampshire tournaments which are held at Hayford field in Wilmington under the lights and the season ending tournament held at Keene Middle School. Varsity plays all home matches on Hayford Field in Wilmington.

Finally, please review the athletic digest which is on the TVMHS athletic web site. If you have any questions please give me a call or shoot me an email before any problems/issues arise. It is your responsibility to know the rules!! Working together we can have a fantastic fall!

**\* The first day of soccer practice for middle school boys and girls will be September 8th (first day of school) at 2:45pm and will end at 4:30pm. Students should come prepared to play (cleats, water bottle, hand sanitizer, mask and shinguards!). Varsity practice for both boys and girls will also begin on September 8<sup>th</sup> at Hayford Field in Wilmington 4:30pm-6:30pm. Players should come prepared with the same items.**

The **coaching staff** consists of the people listed below. If you have any questions or concerns please call the coach prior to contacting the principal, the school board or myself. It is unfair to go over the coach's head when your issue/concern could very well be resolved at that level. And please, REFRAIN from confronting any coach during or immediately following a game. It is **NOT** the appropriate time. Rather than a confrontation, it would be more beneficial to wait 24 hours and then setup an appointment to talk to the coach if necessary.

Boys MS Soccer.....Kevin Myers (Kmyers@tvhs.k12.vt.us)  
Girls MS Soccer.....Taryn Lawrence (tlawrence03840@gmail.com)  
Girls Varsity Soccer.....Rob Bolognani (rpdesign@sover.net)  
Boys Varsity Soccer.....Buddy Hayford (bhayford@tvhs.k12.vt.us)

Sincerely,  
Buddy Hayford, AD

