



CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

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August 13, 2020

Dear Cardinal Athletics Parents and Students,

I hope everyone is doing well, staying healthy and enjoying the last remnants of summer vacation. As you all know as well as we do, there are many uncertainties surrounding the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. We recognize that for some of our families our athletic program is one of those uncertainties. This letter is intended as an interim update to athletics at Cornerstone.

Cornerstone is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), and participates in the Center Tarheel 1A Conference as part of the NCHSAA. As such, the shape and form of athletics will abide by the requirements set out by those two entities. As a school, we may choose to impose additional requirements which increase our safety, but we may not decide to be less restrictive. The NCHSAA only governs High School sports, but for the sake of organizational continuity, our Middle School program has always followed the same requirements. Because our Middle School athletic program participates in the Mid-State Athletic Conference, which is composed mostly of schools that are NCHSAA members as well, our Middle School athletic approach will reflect our decisions with the High School program.

The NCHSAA currently has been operating with requirements which permit for minimal sports participation through the summer months while they determine how to approach athletics for the 2020-21 school year. Yesterday, the NCHSAA released an amended sports schedule for this school year. This schedule only reflects the dates for the High School athletics.

In summary, here is what we know and what is included in the letter as well as pending information:

- Amended NCHSAA High School Participation Dates (**included below**)
- Physicals information for High School and Middle School Athletics (**included below**)
- 2nd Semester Eligibility Schedule (**included below**)
- Middle School Sports Participation Dates (*pending*)
- Game/Matches Schedule High School (*pending*)
- Game/Matches Schedule Middle School (*pending*)

Amended NCHSAA High School Participation Dates

The dates listed reflect the 1st allowable date of try-outs through the last regular season play date.

- **Volleyball, Cross Country:** Nov. 4 - Jan. 8.
- **Swimming:** Nov. 23 - Jan. 30.
- **Basketball:** Dec. 7 - Feb. 19.
- **Boys Soccer and Lacrosse:** Jan. 11 - March 12.
- **Football:** Feb. 8 - April 9.
- **Golf, Boys Tennis, Girls Soccer, Softball:** March 1 - April 30.
- **Baseball, Girls Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling:** April 12 - June 11.
- **Cheerleading:** Dec. 7- Feb. 19

Athletic Physicals

All physicals conducted on or after March 1, 2019 will be considered valid through the entirety of the 2020-2021 school year. You will still need to update the personal information on the front of the NCHSAA physical form. Concussion forms will need to be completed as usual as there will be no grace period allowed with them. You can find these forms on our website and they are also available at the front office.

Athletic Eligibility

Please take note that all academic requirements for eligibility for the second semester will remain in force. So if your student intends to play a sport that competes after the second semester begins they will need to have passed all their subjects for the first semester in order to be eligible.

While this information allows us to begin planning, it leaves many questions unanswered for Cornerstone. Please know that I, in conjunction with Mr. Caraher, the coaching staff, and the administrative team, will work to ensure our athletes have the best opportunity to enjoy successful seasons. As always, we will keep the safety and well-being of our student athletes at the forefront of all our decisions.

Our middle school conference (Mid-State Athletic Conference) and our high school conference (Central Tar Heel 2A) will meet within the next week to begin the process of determining new schedules and we will make them available to you as quickly as possible. At this point we have no way of knowing how the other schools in our conference (middle or high) will feel about allowing athletics to proceed at their respective schools. Specific play dates and exact numbers of contests will depend on these decisions and it may be several weeks before this information is available to us.

I share your frustration surrounding this situation and your concern for our student athletes. Our coaching staff and myself will work tirelessly to plan ahead and provide the best possible experience for your children. As I stated earlier, the safety and well being of our athletes will remain our most important focus.

I realize you may have a number of questions in regard to this information. Please e-mail me at jlawrence@cornerstone12.org and I will do my best to answer them. However, please keep in mind that this is an evolving and fluid situation and we still have many unanswered questions ourselves.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we continue to work through this difficult time. Stay safe and GO CARDINALS!!

John Lawrence

Director of Athletics

Cornerstone Charter Academy