

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Mark Bausha
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:57 AM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: Fall Soccer Season

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello School Board members,

First, I would like to personally thank you for your commitment towards our students and improving the Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District – THANK YOU!

On behalf of several parents and student athletes, **I'm reaching out to you to express our strong desire to vote in favor of WLC participating in the fall soccer season.** With nearly all D4 schools in New Hampshire participating (under proper restrictions) it would be extremely disappointing for our kids (and parents too) to be sitting on the sidelines while watching other schools playing.

If you ask me the WLC sports program is already suffering and not having fall soccer will only worsen the program. I certainly hope everyone will agree that having a healthy sports program is essential to the success of our student athletes as well as our school district. As we all know, school sports teaches important life lessons, high school athletes not only have a higher GPA and fewer school absences than non-athletes but also develop work habits, teamwork, accountability, dedication, leadership and self-discipline skills that provide a foundation for them to become more responsible and more productive members of our community.

My family has lived in Wilton for several generations and we have always been very supportive and active members of our community, I am asking for you to support my request to **vote in favor of WLC participating in the fall soccer season.**

My late grandmother, Marcia Gibbons, was a member of the 1951-52 Wilton HS Varsity Basketball team which was the 1st undefeated team in school history. It would be very disappointing for my daughters and for other children not to have the opportunity to be on the next undefeated team.

I greatly appreciate your support and understanding.

Thank you,

Mark Bausha
106 Gage Rd
Wilton

603-801-4792

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of davidjdjh73174@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2020 3:30 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: [From External Account:] Fall soccer

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

First off I would just like to say hope all is well. I just wanted to send a email and give you my opinion on this years fall sports. I feel it is ridiculous that it is even being considered to be cancelled. All other schools are playing with no question asked. This Covid 19 is not effecting kids to a dangerous level anymore than any other diseases out there statistically. Our superintendent has voiced that he is not interested in having any fall sports and I hope that you elected school board officials do not let this sway what parents and students want. It will be a real let down to my son and the rest of the team that have worked their butts off all summer to be outstanding this year with no chance to show it. Mr Lane has made it quite obvious that he is not interested in it by not hiring a boys varsity coach. Maybe I'm wrong maybe I'm not, but what I do know is these boys and girls. I have coached almost all of them over the years of the childhood an into young adult lives, and I know that they want to play and need to play. Thank you for you time David Hadley

Sent from my iPhone

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Amanda
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 4:00 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: [From External Account:] Fall sport program

Good afternoon

I have three children at WLC, 8th, 10th, 11th.-all of which participate in the Fall soccer program at WLC We also have a recent graduate of WLC class of 2019. We believe the athletic program is an important program for all students and with so many having had adjusted or lost spring and summer seasons all the more important to help support and provide opportunity to play for Fall.

We 100% support the Fall sports program and believe with all surrounding schools in our division also following enhanced precautions the children should be allowed to play. This is a needed outlet for the children and should not be removed from this Fall season.

We will be attending the 7/28 meeting remotely but wanted to provide advance confirmation/support that the Fall sports program should proceed and allow the children to participate.

Thank you,
Amanda and Pete Krug



Kristina Fowler <k.fowler@sau63.org>

[From External Account:] Varsity Girls Soccer Season

1 message

Donnie Kelley <kelleykidsphoto@gmail.com>
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 7:52 PM

Hi,

My daughter is a junior at WLC and a member of the Girls Varsity Soccer team. I respectfully request that the girls be allowed to practice immediately. I believe they can practice safely by following the guidance that has been provided by the NHIAA. It is too early to be making a decision about the fall soccer season as we are more than a month out. There is no harm in making a last-minute decision and a must for this constantly changing situation. It's important that we allow these girls to at least practice and prepare for the season for their emotional and physical health. I urge you not to rush to a decision and to re-evaluate closer to the start of the season, with more data in hand.

Thank you,
Donnie Kelley

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Jeff Stratton
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 2:53 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: [From External Account:] school sports

Good afternoon all,

As a parent of an upcoming 6th grader, I am writing to pledge my support for the full participation of fall soccer at WLC. I know that this sport can be realized safely with some critical thinking and dedication. If school officials are nervous about the transmission of this virus in the sports setting, I believe it's unwarranted. I work in a close knit factory of over 300 individuals, and with proper planning and preventative measures in place zero cases is achievable.

There are children like my daughter who thrive on this interaction and it is necessary for proper development. As teachers and administrators I know you are aware of studies that show increased depression and anxiety in children in isolation. We cannot continue to stunt their growth in the name of public safety. It's necessary that we teach our children to overcome adversity, but paramount that we are brave enough to practice it ourselves. We cannot continue to deprive them success, because we're too afraid to tackle obstacles. Our children deserve our support, but let's not mask our own fears by denying them this privilege.

*"Right is right even if no one is doing it; **wrong** is **wrong** even if everyone is doing it." St. Augustine*

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Sara Straw
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 4:52 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: Soccer season

We are writing to all of you in the hopes that you would consider allowing WLC to participate in soccer this fall. Our understanding is that NHIAA will be releasing recommendations for safety precautions at the end of this month. We feel certain that these recommendations will be helpful in creating an environment that all participants and families will feel safe for the upcoming season.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sara and Matt Straw

Sent from my iPhone

Kristina Fowler

From: 'Dan Nelson' via SAU63-SchoolBoard <SAU63-SchoolBoard@sau63.org> on behalf of 'Dan Nelson' via SAU63-SchoolBoard
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 12:35 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: Starting school and school sports.

Hello everyone this is Dan Nelson and I'm reaching out in regards to school starting this year and possibly sports. I will make this short because I know you have gotten many emails already. Please understand I'm in support of the safety and the education of our children. Both my kids will be going up to WLC this year "HOPEFULLY". I feel that the schools should go for it and be ready to fall back into virtual learning if we have to. I'm sure there's many different options out there. Almost all workers at their jobs have to wear a mask all day. Make it optional to students and if the teachers express concern so can they. With sports, I understand that is a tough one as well. I was just recently asked to be the coach for the boys varsity soccer team so that is a hard sell to you folks. Yes games and bus rides are close but practicing can be made into a safe environment. So I'm in support for school and sports to begin in some way. High risk students maybe there's a way they can follow class at home through their computer. Also worry about single parents with say two elementary students then they would have to stay home most likely won't have a job anymore. So thanks for what you folks do and good luck tonight. Thanks. Dan Nelson.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Kristina Fowler

From: 'Sean Fish' via SAU63-SchoolBoard <SAU63-SchoolBoard@sau63.org> on behalf of 'Sean Fish' via SAU63-SchoolBoard
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:48 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org
Subject: WLC Girls Soccer 2020 Season

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very concerned with the prospect of the WLC girls soccer season being cancelled. Traditionally the WLC has fielded some extremely competitive girls varsity teams as the many championship banners in the gymnasium can attest. My daughter, along with many other tremendously talented athletes, has been playing soccer in the Wilton athletic system since she was a very young girl. I am writing this email to voice my strong opposition to the proposed cancellation of the upcoming soccer season, or any other sport for either gender, the Covid-19 pandemic, while serious, surely does not warrant cancelling of any sport season. Please don't cancel the season, let the girls play and continue to develop their skill as they head toward college

Regards,

Sean Fish

Kristina Fowler

From: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org on behalf of Elisabeth Jacob
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 3:30 PM
To: sau63-schoolboard@sau63.org; b.lane@sau63.org; b.miller@sau63.org; danielayotte67@gmail.com; p.weaver@sau63.org
Subject: [From External Account:] Fall Soccer
Attachments: Fall Athletics.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Lane and the WLC School Board,

My name is Elisabeth Jacob and I am a rising junior at WLC. I am an individual who has a great passion for soccer and has been playing this sport for many years. I am writing this email on behalf of the several middle and high school student-athletes at WLC in support of a fall soccer season. My teammates and I have been looking forward to the fall season for a long time. It would be extremely devastating to our team and all of the student-athletes in the community if WLC chooses not to participate in the fall soccer season. The last five months have been very difficult for all of us, especially the student-athletes, who some of them have not been able to engage in athletic activities with their teammates since last February. With the fate of the winter season unknown, the school board should strongly consider allowing the student-athletes of WLC to participate in the fall soccer season if NHIAA shall choose to commence it. These students need some sense of routine in their lives and need to re-engage in activities with their peers for their well-being. Athletics provide students with several benefits that are truly an important part of the school experience. With the proper precautions and protocols in place, safety can be ensured for all student-athletes on both the playing field and at practice.

It would be very unfortunate for the student-athletes of WLC to be forced to the sidelines only to watch their peers from other towns have the opportunity to participate in the fall season. Please consider letting NHIAA determine the fate of our season.

Attached to this email is a presentation that outlines the importance of athletics to the student experience and the precautions that can be taken to ensure safety for all during the fall soccer season. Thank you very much for your time and for viewing the document that I created.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Jacob

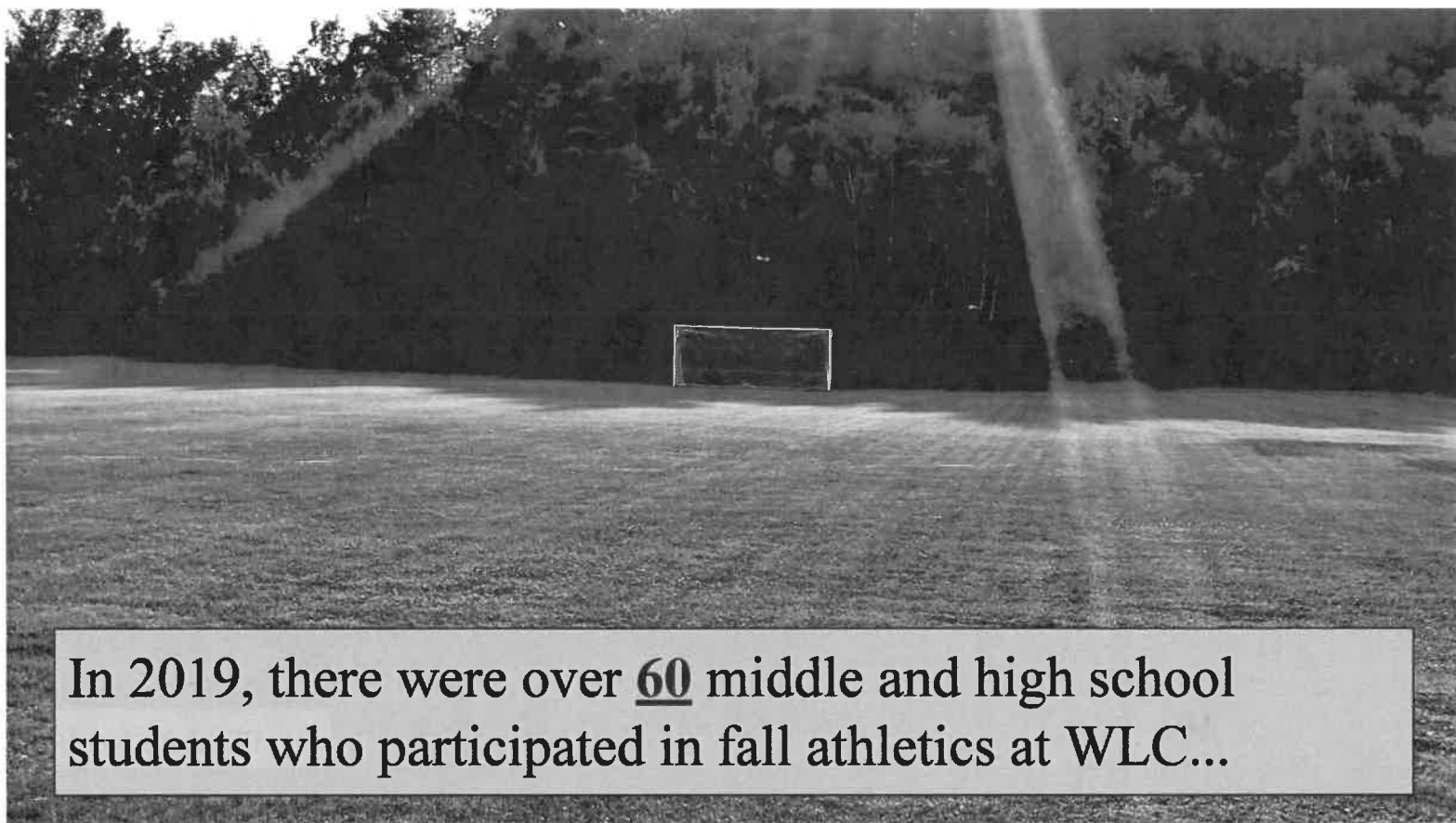
11th Grade WLC Student-Athlete



A Proposal For Fall Athletics

Wilton-Lyndeborough Middle/High School 2020

By: Elisabeth Jacob



In 2019, there were over 60 middle and high school students who participated in fall athletics at WLC...

A black and white photograph of a soccer field. The field is wide and open, with visible mowed stripes and white boundary lines. In the lower center of the field, there is a small flag on a pole, positioned on the center circle. The background shows the horizon under a dark sky.

The Benefits of Athletics

The Benefits of Athletics

Athletics:

- Encourage physical fitness and health
- Promote teamwork and leadership skills
- Foster social relationships
- Develop organization and time management skills
- Improve emotional and mental well-being
- Prepare students for real-life experiences
- Create camaraderie in the community

A black and white photograph of a baseball field. The image shows a close-up of the grass, with a white chalk line running diagonally from the bottom left towards the upper right. The background is dark, suggesting the outfield or stadium seating.

COVID-19 Cases in Opponents' Communities

Schedule: Girls Soccer Division IV

Wilton-Lyndeborough

08/28/20	at	Lisbon	(0)	04:00 PM
09/01/20		Sunapee	(0)	04:00 PM
09/14/20		Conant	(1-4)	06:00 PM
09/16/20		Hinsdale	(0)	04:00 PM
09/18/20		Gorham	(0)	03:30 PM
09/22/20	at	Holy Family	(54)**	03:30 PM
09/26/20		Concord Christian	(15)***	04:00 PM
09/30/20	at	Newmarket	(1-4)	04:00 PM
10/03/20	at	Sunapee	(0)	06:00 PM
10/07/20	at	Hinsdale	(0)	04:00 PM
10/13/20		Holy Family	(54)**	06:00 PM
10/19/20		Newmarket	(1-4)	06:00 PM
10/22/20		Farmington	(1-4)	04:00 PM

Listed on this schedule is the current number of active COVID-19 cases in each community as of 7/16/2020...

Wilton: (1-4 active cases)

Lyndeborough: (0 active cases)

**Manchester population: 113,441
(0.048% currently infected)

***Concord population: 43,840
(0.034% currently infected)

Schedule: Boys Soccer Division IV

Wilton-Lyndeborough

08/28/20	at	Lisbon	(0)	04:00 PM
09/01/20		Sunapee	(0)	06:00 PM
09/09/20	at	Pittsfield	(0)	04:30 PM
09/14/20		Conant	(1-4)	04:00 PM
09/16/20		Hinsdale	(0)	06:00 PM
09/18/20		Gorham	(0)	05:00 PM
09/22/20	at	Holy Family	(54)**	05:00 PM
09/26/20		Pittsfield	(0)	02:00 PM
09/30/20	at	Newmarket	(1-4)	06:00 PM
10/03/20	at	Sunapee	(0)	04:00 PM
10/07/20	at	Hinsdale	(0)	04:00 PM
10/13/20		Holy Family	(54)**	04:00 PM
10/19/20		Newmarket	(1-4)	04:00 PM
10/22/20		Farmington	(1-4)	06:00 PM

Listed on this schedule is the current number of active COVID-19 cases in each community as of 7/16/2020...

Wilton: (1-4 active cases)

Lyndeborough: (0 active cases)

****Manchester population: 113,441**
(0.048% currently infected)



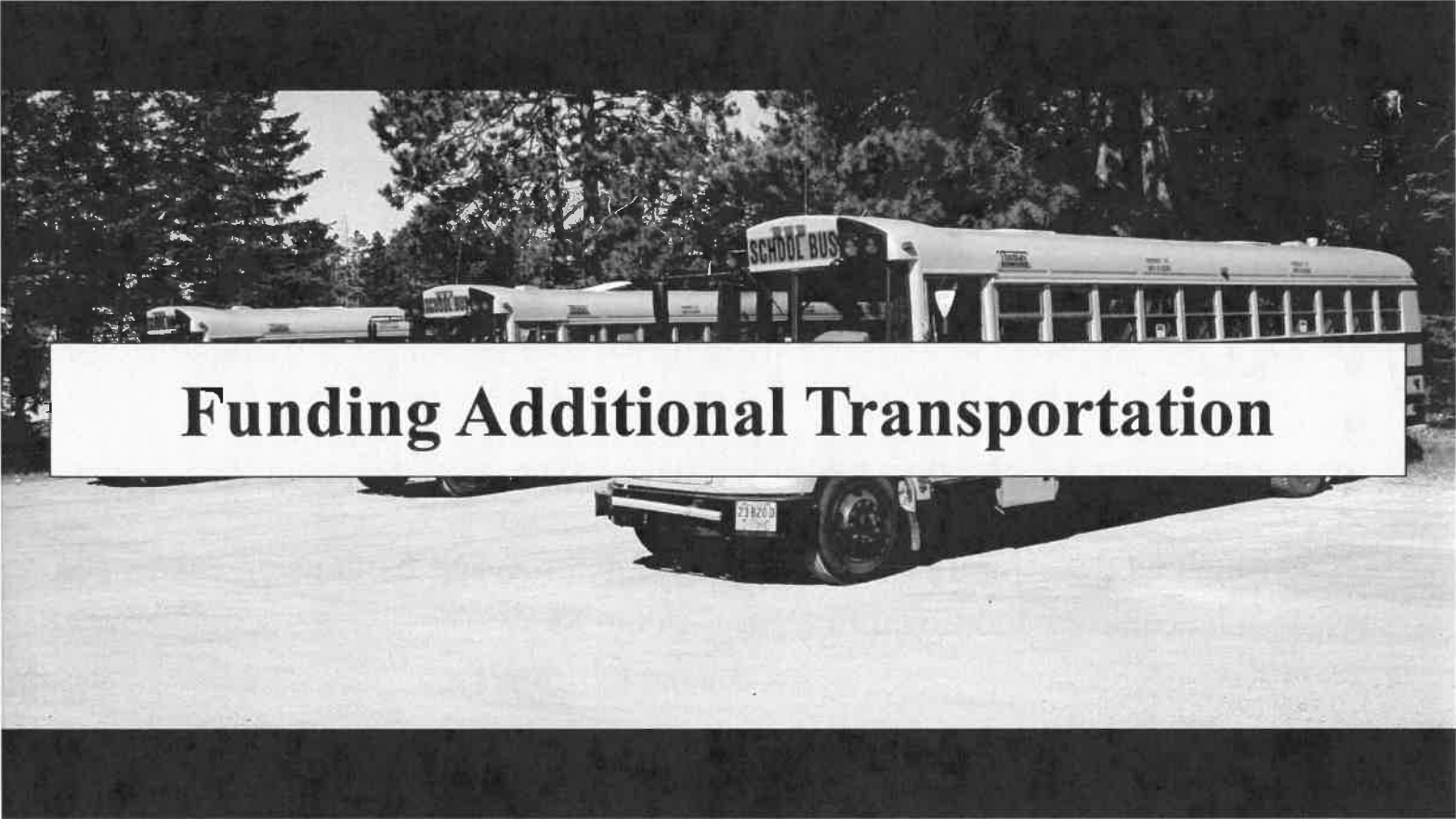
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

WLC has purchased the following PPE equipment for the fall:

- 5 touch-free digital thermometers
- Masks
- Gloves
- Additional purchases (hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes)

***Throughout the school year, community donations and fundraising events can assist with acquiring additional PPE for athletics.



Funding Additional Transportation

Explanation Why Additional Transportation is Needed

- In previous seasons, both the girls and boys varsity teams traveled together on the same bus for away games. A bus ride for an away game consisted of 40+ players/coaches and equipment.
- One bus has already been budgeted for the varsity fall season, but a second bus would maximize safety by allowing:
 - Staggered seating
 - Social distancing

Transportation: The CARES Act

The CARES Act (Passed March 27, 2020):

- The district is slated to receive a federal grant of \$69,774.02, with 10% going to community private schools.
- The district can use a small portion of these funds to assist with transportation in order to continue operations and services during COVID-19.
- The season is anticipated to be condensed with a reduced number of games, therefore reducing transportation costs.

Transportation: The CARES Act (Continued)

Varsity Athletics:

- Currently, each varsity team is scheduled to have 8 away games.
- CARES Act funding could be allocated to provide one additional bus for up to 8 games.

Middle School Athletics:

- The boys and girls middle school teams alternate travel for each away game (one team is at home while the other is away). Middle school transportation has already been approved and is part of the athletic budget.



What a Bus Ride Could Look Like

Bus Ride Precautions

- Players have the option to travel with their parents to away games.
- Two buses taken to each away game (one for the boys and one for the girls).
- Prior to boarding the bus, each player will have their temperature taken.
- Players will wear masks during the entire bus ride.
- Player bus seating will be staggered.
- Following completion of games, players will receive hand sanitizer before boarding the bus.
- Players will return to previous staggered seats and wear masks.
- Teams would avoid stopping for meals. Players can bring their own snacks.



Practice/Game Time Precautions

Practice Time Precautions

- Coach Ayotte has provided the administration with detailed guidelines to ensure safety during practices.
- The New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) will be releasing Phase 3 guidelines soon. These guidelines will provide guidance for safe practices and games during the fall season.

Game Time Precautions

- No community water jug. Everyone brings their own water bottle.
- No team half-time snacks.
- Masks and/or social distancing on the bench is encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available on the bench.
- No pregame huddles. Teams will have to develop a safe pregame ritual.
- No high fives during the games (instead thumbs up, cheers, clapping...)
- No high fives at the end of the game to opponents or referees. For sportsmanship, “good game” should be said to the other team. Referees should be thanked.


A black and white photograph of a soccer field. In the background, a goal net is visible, stretching across the frame. In the foreground, a soccer ball with a classic black and white pattern sits on the grass. A long shadow is cast across the grass from the left side. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the middle of the image, containing the text "Parent/Student Responsibility".

Parent/Student Responsibility

Waiver & Agreement

Parent Waiver: Parents of players participating in athletics this fall will sign an additional waiver that releases the district/school board of any liability related to COVID-19.

Student Agreement: Players participating in athletics this fall will sign a player agreement to follow the precautions and safety measures outlined by the district related to COVID-19.



This season, there will be 8 seniors who have high hopes of playing their last year of high school soccer before they graduate.



“Always work hard, never give up, and fight until the end because it’s never really over until the whistle blows.”

-Alex Morgan, *U.S. Women’s National Soccer Team*

Sources

- CDC.gov
- NH.gov (NH Department of Health and Human Services, NH Department of Education)
- New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR)
- New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA)

Thank you for your time...