Dear Parent/Guardian of MS Fall Athletes:

Fall sports season is approaching. We will be offering Football, Girls Basketball, and Cross County again this fall. The coaches for this year’s Football team will be Josh Kelhofer and Paul Currier. The coaches for Girls Basketball will be Garrett Parrish and Tyler Thurman. The coaches for the Cross-County team will be Chris Cook and Cory Laughary. If your son/daughter is planning on participating in Middle School Fall sports, please make sure that you have filled out all the necessary paperwork and that we have a current physical on file. **Please be aware that the school district will not be providing transportation to Garfield or Palouse after home Middle School games.**

MS Football practice will begin on Monday, August 23. Practice will start at 3:00 PM. The bus for Football practice will leave the Palouse School at 2:30 PM. The bus will leave Garfield after practice at 5:15 PM and arrive back in Palouse around 5:30 PM.

MS Girls Basketball practice will begin on Wednesday, September 1. Practice will start at 3:15 PM. The bus will leave Garfield after practice at 5:15 PM and arrive back in Palouse around 5:30 PM.

MS Cross-Country practice will begin on Monday, August 23. Practice will begin at 6:00 PM. The bus for Cross-Country practice will leave the Garfield School at 5:15 PM for Palouse. The bus will leave Palouse after practice at 8:15 PM and arrive back at the Garfield School around 8:30 PM.

Practice for Cross-Country will be in the evenings until September 1, the first day of school. Starting September 1, practices will be held right after school. Both Football and Girls Basketball will practice in Garfield. Cross Country will practice in Palouse.

Please check the school district website at [www.garpal.net](http://www.garpal.net) for updated information. If you have any questions please contact the Garfield School at 509-635-1331.

Sincerely,

Nate Holbrook
MS Athletic Director
Garfield School District
The following is the current guidance for athletics for the 2021-2022 school year. As always, this guidance is subject to change as we receive new and updated information. Please contact the Garfield School if you have any questions.

Sporting Activities

Sporting activities must follow the requirements listed below. In this document, universal masking means that face coverings are required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status. Physical Education (PE) classes are curricular classes and are not considered sporting activities. Students and staff must all wear masks indoors during PE classes. Masks are not required outdoors.

The use of cohorts within the team limits the potential for team-wide transmission in the event of an exposure or outbreak and should be considered for practices, warm-ups, and when traveling.

Travel trips must follow CDC’s order for all riders and drivers to wear a mask on buses or other public transportation, regardless of vaccination status. Seat cohorts together on the bus and separate the cohorts by at least 3 feet to the degree possible. Increase ventilation by opening windows as weather permits.

Athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel should maintain at least 6 feet to the degree possible when not playing (e.g., on the bench, in the dugout, on the sideline, in locker rooms and other similar situations). Please also refer to DOH’s Guidance for Sporting Activities for additional information.

Mask Requirements for Sporting Activities

- **Universal masking is required by all athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and support personnel when in weight rooms, regardless of vaccination status.** Weight rooms are high-risk indoor settings. They are often poorly ventilated, crowded and used by athletes from sports of multiple contact levels, as well as PE students. Practice physical distancing to the degree possible.

- **Masks are not required for athletes while competing in low-contact or moderate-contact sports indoors, regardless of vaccination status.** Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing. Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in DOH’s Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities.

- **Masks are not required for fully vaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports.** Masks are not required for unvaccinated athletes competing in high-contact indoor sports if they participate in screening testing. Masks are encouraged when practicing indoors. **Universal masking is required indoors when not practicing or competing.** Contact risk levels for individual sports are referenced in DOH’s Guidance for Sports and Fitness Activities.
  - Indoor basketball, wrestling, and water polo are high-contact sports and
require screening testing of unvaccinated individuals in order to participate. See the section on Screening Testing for Sporting Activities below.

- Cheer is a high aerosol-generating activity. Fully vaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing, performing, or competing. Unvaccinated cheerleaders do not have to wear a mask when practicing performing or competing if they participate in screening testing. Masking of cheerleaders is required indoors when not practicing, performing, or competing.

- High contact indoor athletes who are engaging in practices off-season must either:
  - Practice universal masking at all times, regardless of vaccination status; or
  - Initiate the screening testing protocol of unvaccinated athletes to allow the removal of masks by all athletes, vaccinated and unvaccinated, while practicing. Masks must be worn at all other times when not practicing, regardless of vaccination status.

(This applies to MS Football, Cross-County, Baseball, and Track)

- Masks are not required for outdoor sports of any contact level but are recommended in settings where unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and/or support personnel are in close proximity, such as standing on the sidelines, in a huddle, or sitting in a dugout.
- All coaches, athletic trainers, and other support personnel involved with sporting activities must wear face coverings indoors in K-12 settings, regardless of vaccination status.
- Referees who are fully vaccinated do not have to wear face coverings indoors when actively officiating and running (e.g., basketball). When they are not running, masks are required (e.g., talking with coaches, between quarters). Unvaccinated referees must wear face coverings at all times when they are officiating, unless they participate in screening testing.
- Masking is required universally for all spectators attending indoor K-12 sporting activities, regardless of vaccination status. Audience members should be seated in “family units” and those small groups should be spaced at least 3 feet apart.

Screening Testing for Sporting Activities (This applies to MS Girls/Boys Basketball)

- Screening testing is required for all unvaccinated athletes in high contact indoor sports (basketball, wrestling, water polo). Fully vaccinated athletes do not have to participate in screening testing. Screening testing must be performed twice weekly using a molecular or antigen test. A rapid antigen test should be performed on all unvaccinated athletes within 24 hours of the competition. In a multi-day event, testing should occur before each competition. The second test during the week should be performed 3-4 days prior to or after the competition and may be a molecular or antigen test. If a molecular test is performed, the athlete does not need to isolate while awaiting screening test results unless they are exhibiting symptoms.
• Unvaccinated athletes participating in indoor low or moderate contact sports are recommended, but not required, to participate in screening testing once or twice weekly. This is especially important when community transmission is substantial or high. Please see the CDC’s matrix (Table 1) for definitions of levels of community transmission.

• Any athlete with a positive test must be excluded from the event and removed from the venue. See Responding to Cases or Suspected Cases of COVID-19 for more information. Positive test results must be reported to the local health jurisdiction as outlined in the Reporting Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health section.

Contact tracing should be performed per guidance in the What to Do if Someone is a Close Contact of Someone with COVID-19 section. The team should work with local public health to determine how to approach isolation, quarantine, and further testing.

• Unvaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should quarantine immediately, even if they recently had a negative test.

• Fully vaccinated athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and other support personnel identified as close contacts should be tested 3-5 days following a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result. They should isolate and follow appropriate guidance if they test positive. If they develop symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

• All point of care test results should be reported to the DOH in accordance with guidance available at the Reporting COVID-19 Test Results for Point-of-Care Testing Facilities site.