



School District of Milton

*Opportunity · Achievement
Community*

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July 31, 2020

Dear Red Hawks,

The Covid-19 pandemic has created immense challenges in almost every aspect of our daily lives. As we inch closer to the start of the academic year, the School District of Milton is working tirelessly to provide students and families with an exceptional educational experience that holds the safety, health, and wellness of our students, staff and our greater community at the highest priority. Hand-in-hand with instruction, education-based athletics and extracurricular activities are a direct extension of the classroom and are an integral part of our students' educational experience.

Unfortunately, at noon today the Badger Conference will officially announce the cancellation of the conference fall athletic season in its entirety. This does not necessarily mean that there will be no WIAA athletics offered this fall at Milton High School. At this point, no official determination has been made by the School District of Milton in regards to fall sports. Moving forward, we will continue to explore every avenue and consider every contingency in offering high quality and safe extracurricular programming for the 2020-2021 school year. Ultimately, the final determination for fall athletics will be made by the Board of Education at the August 10th school board meeting. Until that time, the athletic and activities department will work hard to best navigate the ever-changing landscape of Covid-19 to best serve students, staff, and the community.

Attached you will find the official press release by the Badger Conference.

Thank you and go Red Hawks!

Jeff Spiwak
Athletics and Activities Director
School District of Milton



Badger Conference Fall 2020 Statement

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly posed challenges for planning events of all types throughout our nation, state, and local communities. The goal of the Badger Conference, first and foremost, continues to be the health and safety of our school district communities. Regardless of the type of event, health and safety must come first.

We have always viewed sports as an important component to the educational process. Participation in sports provides opportunities for developing and cultivating a variety of skills, such as communication, teamwork, discipline, leadership skills and respect for others.

The Badger Conference supports the fact that education-based athletics is a privilege, not a right, which requires an added level of responsibility for those who administer them and serve as a partner in the education of student-athletes.

While we look to guidance from a variety of sources, the ultimate source for school districts and athletics comes from local public health departments. Interestingly, the 16 schools of the Badger Conference must work with their local health department, (the conference spans 7 different counties), each with their own guidelines. This means that plans will vary in different parts of the conference and state, depending on how the virus is spreading in the local area and the guidance from county health departments.

Since all member schools are not able to participate fully in conference contests during the current fall season dates as scheduled, Badger Conference competitions will not be held and conference champions will not be named. The WIAA has said that schools which are unable to start fall sports in 2020, may have an opportunity in the spring to conduct their fall seasons. All schools will be supported in their local decisions and may have the option to schedule non-conference competitions in fall sports, so long as they follow the guidance of the WIAA and local public health officials.

We understand the need to be flexible, adaptable, and use creative thinking as we move forward and appreciate the understanding of our school communities as we continue to work together to navigate the COVID-19 situation. Therefore, we are committed to offering opportunities to our students, assuming it is safe and allowable as determined by public health.

We hope everyone remains safe and healthy. We will be back stronger than ever, when the time is right. "WE ARE BADGER CONFERENCE STRONG!"