
MCPS Athletics

Middle School Virtual Fall Sports Q & A

When are the Virtual Seasons?

Fall – September 21st through October 9th ([registration is now open!](#)) *closes 9/16/20*

Winter – October 26th through November 20th (registration will open prior to the start date)

Spring – November 30th through December 18th (registration will open prior to the start date)

Do students need to register for the virtual engagement seasons?

Yes! Students can be registered (by a parent/guardian) [using this link](#).

Do students need an up to date physical in order to participate in the virtual engagement seasons?

No! Due to the strenuous nature of selected activities, each student is encouraged to consult their physician concerning fitness to participate in the program. Parents/legal guardians authorize and consent to their child's participation in interscholastic athletics and sports and assume the risk of any injuries that may occur while participating in virtual athletic activities. During any live engagement, parents/guardians and students must ensure that surroundings are free of obstacles and that an appropriate plan is in place on how to access help in the event of an emergency.

Do I need to submit paperwork for the parent permission slip?

No, this form is incorporated into the google form. There is no form to submit. Simply agree to all the questions asked.

Are there tryouts for the virtual engagement season?

No – virtual engagement is open to any students who are interested in a sport. There are no tryouts or cuts during the virtual engagement.

How often will the virtual engagement meet during the defined season?

The middle school virtual athletic seasons includes two student-athlete and coach engagement sessions per week, for a total of six engagement sessions over the course of three to four weeks. For most schools, the engagement sessions will occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays after the school day ends. Check with your local school for the exact schedule.

Is there an academic eligibility requirement?

MCPS has waived the academic eligibility requirement for the first semester of the 2020–2021 school year. (Normally, students must have achieved at least a 2.0 GPA on the most recent report card).

Will all sports be offered through virtual engagement?

Yes – all of our traditional sports will offer virtual engagement.

What is virtual engagement, anyway?

Virtual engagement will include systemwide (MCPS) resources, schoolwide activities, sport-specific engagement and team-specific opportunities. Examples include guest speakers, conditioning workouts, character development, chalk talks, film study, social-emotional support, and other engaging activities.

Can we meet in-person with our coaches, or organize in-person gatherings among students to workout or meet?

At this time, MCPS is *NOT* permitted to engage in any in-person activities.

Can I participate in more than one sport per season?

This is a local school decision. Please reach out to your local school's [athletic coordinator](#) for more information.

Will there be any in person sports this year?

At this time, MCPS is planning for in person seasons starting in the second semester. All decisions will be based on local health decisions.

Do I need to participate in virtual sports in order to do the spring in person seasons?

No. The two seasons will be *independent* of one another. If you choose not to participate in the virtual program, you can still participate in the spring season during the in person season. At the same time, participation in the virtual season does not guarantee that you will be part of the team in the spring. *There will be full tryouts and cuts for the in person season.* Virtual participation will have no bearing on spring cuts.

Can we have captains' practices?

Per MCPS policy, captains' practices are always prohibited.

Will the actual coaches be running the virtual practices?

Yes the actual sport coach will be running the virtual practices?

Will we need any equipment?

No. At this point no equipment will be required since all instruction is virtual.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your local school's [athletic coordinator](#).