



Middle School Interscholastic Athletics 2017-18

Students attending middle schools in the Bellingham School District will have the opportunity to participate in a quality athletic program. Registration deadlines are set to ensure viability of the program. Please see the list below for all our middle school offerings.

6th Grade Sports Offerings

Important!

ASB fee, online registration, & all paperwork must be complete and turned in by each deadline to ensure appropriate coaching ratios.

Fall	Aug 28 DEADLINE Begins Sept 5
Track Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer	
Pre-Winter	Oct 30 DEADLINE Begins Nov 6
Floor Exercise & Dance	
Winter	Jan 22 DEADLINE Begins Jan 29
Wrestling	
Spring	March 26 DEADLINE Begins Apr 9
Cross Country	

7th and 8th Grade Sports Offerings

Important!

ASB fees, online registration, & all paperwork must be complete and turned in by each deadline to ensure appropriate coaching ratios.

Fall	Aug 28 DEADLINE Begins Sept 5
Track Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer	
Pre-Winter	Oct 30 DEADLINE Begins Nov 6
Boys Basketball Floor Exercise & Dance	
Winter	Jan 22 DEADLINE Begins Jan 29
Wrestling Girls Volleyball	
Spring	Mar 26 DEADLINE Begins Apr 9
Girls Basketball Football Cross Country	

Registration:

In order to participate in middle school athletics, the **following items must be on file by the advertised turn in deadline for each sports season:**

1. **Physical:** Each student must have a current physical on file before participating in practice. Have your doctor complete the required form in the sports packet available at your middle school. A physical is good for 24 months.
2. **Online Activities & Athletics Registration** has been completed by parent or guardian to be accessed via school web site. (A computer will be made available at your school site.)
3. **Activities & Athletics Signature Page:** Printed, Read and Completed with student and parent or guardian signatures. This only needs to be done once per school year.
4. **ASB Fee of \$10:** This once a year fee makes students eligible to participate in school clubs and sports.

Middle School Practices and Game Schedules

Practices for each middle school sport will be held on a Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., & Fri. schedule and will run from 4-5:30 p.m. Practices will not be held on early release days and non-student days. Coaches will hand out game schedules for each sport the first week of practice. You may also check school web pages for game schedules after the individual sport season begins. Competition(s) will be held in place of a practice.

Q. What else is required for participation?

A. In addition to the above requirements, students participating in middle school athletics are expected to be in good academic and behavioral standing and attend all practices, games, and meets. Your coach will review these expectations with you.

Q. Why all the fuss about deadlines?

A. Our goal is to offer a quality, safe program for students. Participation numbers determine how many coaches can be hired and impacts transportation arrangements, so adequate lead time is necessary to ensure we can process the registration and fees. Also, you are required to participate in a specific number of practices in order to safely play in games or meets. Having all your paperwork and fees turned in on time allows you to participate!

Q. What if I change my mind?

A. If you try a sport and decide it is not for you, have your parent contact your coach and the school's office so that we can withdraw your student-athlete from the sport.

Q. When will practices be held?

A. The four middle schools have different court and field configurations. For that reason, each middle school will plan their practice times. Information about practice, game schedules, season end and start dates, and intramural offerings for coed volleyball and basketball for grade 6, will be communicated and updated on your middle school's website. Please contact your school office and coach for details.

Q. How long are practices?

A. Practices are currently 1.5 hours (90 minutes) a day for 5 days a week.

Q. If practice is before school, will showers and towels be available?

A. All middle schools have showers available. Students will need to provide their own towels.

Q. If practice is before school, will there be transportation?

A. Transportation for practices will not be provided. Transportation to games will be provided.

Q. Why were the seasons that sports are played changed?

A. This decision began with the decision to change the start/end times for middle school. The later end time to the school day means athletic competitions won't begin until after 4:30 p.m. Because football requires 10 practices prior to the first game, there was a need to change football to spring so that there would be daylight for those games. With the change of football as well as a need to plan for field and court space, some of the sport seasons had to be adjusted as well. The change will also avoid some conflicts in securing officials for games and will increase the number of district employees who might be able to coach sports at the middle school level.