



## **VPA FALL SPORTS UPDATE 8/21/20**

As of today, all VPA Sports Committees have met and have made decisions about the 2020 Fall Sports Season, so we now know what it will look like. Listed below is a breakdown of each sport. Also, guides For each sport will be on the VPA website soon.

### **General Information**

All sports may begin practice on Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. At this time, we will be in Step 2. In Step 2 Teams may conduct practice and may conduct inter-squad scrimmages, but you cannot conduct scrimmages or games against other schools. It is anticipated that we will be in Step 2 for two weeks.

At this point, only one practice per day, per sport may be conducted.

The decision to move from Step 2 to Step 3 will be made by the VT Department of Health and the VT Agency of Education. Once we enter Step 3, schools may begin games/events against other schools as long as they have completed the 10 practice requirement. The actual schedule of games will be determined by the NVAC or SVL for the regular season. Independent schools will be responsible for developing their own schedules.

Facial coverings are required at all times in the sports of Field Hockey, Football, Volleyball and Soccer. Students participating in Bass Fishing and Golf will need to have mask with them and will need to use them when they cannot socially distance. Cross-Country Running has been given a waiver and will not be required to wear mask.

Schools will be required to develop a) a plan for what happens if a student tests positive COVID-19 and b) a spectator plan for home events. Current guidelines allow for up to 150 spectators.

### **Specific Sport Information**

**Bass Fishing** – the state championship is on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> @ John Guilmette State Access  
In South Hero, VT

Participants must have a facial covering with them and the facial coverings needs to be used in when social distancing is in question (6 feet).

Specific information on the rules of Bass Fishing will be on the VPA website.

**Cross-Country Running** - the state meet will occur on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> @ Thetford Academy.

The number of meets required to qualify for the state championship has been reduced from 4 to 3.  
The number of participants in any meet may not exceed 150.  
A meet may involve multiple groupings through the day if the groups do not interact with each other.  
Staggered starts and departures should be considered  
Meet organizers must maintain a list of participant for 30 days to assist in contact tracing if needed.  
Schools may practice while we are in Step 2, but meets with other schools may not begin until we enter Step 3 and a student(s) have 10 practices.

**Field Hockey** – the state Championship will occur on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Site – TBD  
For the 2020 season, eye protection is recommended, not required. This is due to a recent change in NFHS rules concerning eye protection.  
For the 2020 season, there will be a tournament entry fee of \$125 (one year only)..  
Schools may practice and conduct inter-squad scrimmages in Step 2, but games with other schools may not begin until we are in Step 3 and students have 10 practices.  
Jamborees or tournament style play (one team playing multiple games vs multiple opponents in a single day is not currently permitted.  
Tournament and rules information (dates) will be in the Field Hockey Guide.

**Football** – there will be no state championships this year.  
Games will follow a 7 vs 7, no contact format. During Step 2, schools may practice and conduct inter-squad scrimmages. Games with other schools may not begin until we are in Step 3 and the 10 practice requirement has been met.  
Specific playing rules and the outline of the season will be on the VPA website.

**Golf** – Girls Golf Championships will be on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at Champlain Country Club  
Boys Golf Championships will be on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at Barre Country Club.  
D1 Boys Qualifier will be on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ Neshobe Country Club.  
D2 Boys Qualifier will be on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> @ Woodstock Country Club  
For this year, golfers scores from practices will be allowed for qualifying for the state tournament. This is due to the short time frame between starting the season and having to register for the state tournament.. Upon entering Step 3, schools may play matches with other schools.  
Specific playing rules and guidelines will be in the golf guide.

**Soccer** – soccer championships will occur on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Site – TBD Please note that some championship games may be put on Friday night (November 6<sup>th</sup>) if necessary.  
For the 2020 season, there will be a tournament entry fee of \$125 (one year only).  
During the tournament season, the use of the Select Royale soccer ball is required.  
Jamborees or tournament style play (one team playing multiple games vs. multiple opponents in a single day is not currently permitted.  
Tournament and rules information will be in the Soccer Guide.  
During Step 2 teams may practice and have inter-squad scrimmages. Upon entering Step 3, schools may begin games as long as the 10 practice rule has been met.

**Volleyball** – there will be no state championships this year.

Schools may practice and conduct inter-squad scrimmages in-doors during Step 2.  
Facial coverings have to be worn at all times both indoors and outdoors.  
Upon entering Step 3, schools may play matches with other schools, but they must be outdoors.  
All outdoor matches must be on grass or turf surfaces.  
The use of a “outdoor” volleyball is highly recommended for outdoor games.