

St. Matthew Athletic Department

Return to Play

The St Matthew Athletic program is governed by the Archdiocesan Interscholastic Athletic League (AIAL) which has received approval from the San Antonio Archdiocese and the Department of Catholic Schools to proceed with offering an abbreviated fall season. All athletic departments are required to follow all safety guidelines that their schools are incorporating.

The approval of sports this fall comes with some major changes from the league.

- Football
 - Season reduced from 10 games to 5 games.
 - No Playoffs, No City Championship
 - Reduced Attendance - 50% capacity of venue
- Volleyball
 - Season reduced from 13 games to 5 games
 - Will only play District games.
 - No Tournaments
 - No Playoffs, No City Championships
 - Reduced Attendance - 50% capacity of venue
- Cross Country
 - No entry into meets that have more than 8 schools or 100 participants
 - Possible running of Satellite meets
 - Most meets are invitational and will only allow public schools, small private schools could be left out.

The Athletic Department and School Administration has been following all mandated and recommendations issued by Federal, State and Local governing bodies. We have also incorporated information from the CDC, National Federation High School Association (NFHS) and the University Interscholastic League (UIL) when determining the fall sports season for our students.

At this time a decision has been made with the safety and well being of our student athletes and school community to offer an alternative fall sports season that would stay on our school campus and facilities. This decision was made to reduce our students' exposure to outside schools and their community and still allow our students to participate in a sport this fall. We will not be playing in the AIAL League this fall.

Alternative Sports Plan Overview

- **Volleyball**
 - No Cuts - Everyone who comes out will play on a team
 - Depending on turnout, will determine the number of teams.
 - Develop a season schedule and end of year playoffs.
 - Practice twice a week after school - help reduce social interaction time.
 - Games will be played in SMAC.
- **Football**
 - No Cuts - Everyone who comes out will play on a team
 - Non-tackle football
 - Incorporate a 7on7 league with the players
 - Two below league
 - 7 players on each side of ball
 - Depending on turnout, will determine the number of teams.
 - Develop a season schedule and end of year playoffs.
 - Practice twice a week - help reduce social interaction time.
 - Games will be played at Sports Complex
- **Cross Country**
 - No Cuts - Everyone who comes out will play on a team
 - Practice will be twice a week around the gym.
 - Will develop a few meets at the sports complex for the team

All safety requirements that are mandated will be followed and adjusted to assure the safety of the student athletes that choose to participate. The safety of all student athletes, coaches, staff and fans is the top priority. The school and athletic department will continue to evaluate and assess the impact of COVID-19 on our campus and will continue to follow federal, state and Archdiocesan guidelines and best practices. At any time the School Administration and Athletic Department could suspend or cancel any further activity if the situation calls for it.

Further sports specific and safety plan information will be forthcoming as we continue to prepare for the school year. We thank you for your understanding of our decision and your understanding of our ultimate goal of keeping everyone involved on our school campus safe.

Chris Juarez A.D.

