

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ripon Winter Season Plan**

**Ripon, WI** – Ripon High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Bill Kinziger announced Ripon High School (RHS) winter sports teams, including basketball and wrestling, will go on as planned. Ripon will compete in their usual East Central Conference with opportunities for additional non-conference events as with any previous season. There will be differences from a typical year with regards to spectators and safety precautions due to COVID-19, as Mr. Kinziger shared in a recent FAQ document.

Spectators will be limited at games. Each athlete will be given two laminated season tickets with the player's name, which must be presented by the spectator at the door to enter each event. Social distancing and masks will be required at all times while in district facilities. No concessions will be sold. Community members may view all varsity events held in the Ripon High School gym via the Ripon Channel or a school YouTube channel. Those streaming links will be provided via district social media prior to events.

Earlier this fall, Ripon's Board of Education approved the use of WIAA's Alternate Fall Schedule in the spring for high-risk sports, including football, soccer, and volleyball, which require close contact with other athletes. Low-risk sports, Girls Tennis and Cross Country competed this fall and will finish their seasons this month. The Board reviewed the impact an outbreak could have on all of the other students and staff in the district, including those who choose not to play sports.

Kinziger shared, “We appreciate having had the opportunity to open school and focus on academics while monitoring the impact of COVID-19 across the entire middle and high school staff and student body. At the same time, we successfully ran the Girls Tennis and Cross Country seasons without outbreaks. Now we are in a good position to monitor these high-risk sports and find ways to safely bring back other extracurricular activities such as forensics, drama, music, and art. The current HS/MS Cohort Instructional Model allows students to participate in extracurricular activities that enhance their high school career and support their social-emotional wellbeing while minimizing the risk of the spread of COVID. ”

Virtual meetings will be held with the coaches, parents, and players of each sport in the coming weeks to answer any questions and ensure everyone is aware of the changes.

Any comments or questions, please contact Bill Kinziger at (920) 748-4616.

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