



Deputy Minister's office (E-1)  
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

September 15, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

RE: School sports during the 2020-21 school year

---

Now that schools are settling into their new routines and following the health and safety guidelines set by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, many are thinking about school sports opportunities.

The Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health has released health and safety guidelines for [sports and recreation](#) and [contact sports](#). More recently, public health officials have provided the Department of Education with further guidance on physical education and school sports through the physical education and school sports guidelines, which are attached for your reference.

In July, we [surveyed students, families and school staff](#) about their experiences learning during their time away from school in April and May last school year. Many of the participating students identified extracurricular activities and school sports as something they missed about being at school.

Physical activity and opportunities to play school sports have always been a valuable part of the school experience for students. We recognize the benefits of these opportunities and are working together with school administration and the Yukon Schools Athletic Association to plan these opportunities for students while following important health and safety guidelines.

## **School sports**

### *Getting started*

At this time, each school is able to move forward with practices, skills development and competition opportunities for their school sports within their school and existing school teams.

### *Competing against other schools*

We recognize that school sports typically involve competition opportunities against other schools. Superintendents are checking in with school administration and the Yukon Schools Athletic Association to determine opportunities for inter-school competitions for sports that normally involve playing against other schools within Whitehorse and rural communities.

Some elementary schools have expressed interest in opportunities to play together this month and school-based reps have been working with the Yukon Schools Athletic Association on participating in an outdoor soccerfest on Thursday, September 17. This event will take place outdoors and will follow the sport and recreation and contact sports guidelines and will ensure no more than 60 participants.

While this outdoor event is moving forward, we continue to work with the Yukon Schools Athletic Association on additional opportunities for inter-school competitions. As plans for any sporting events and/or league play are determined, further updates will be provided to school staff, students and families.

### **Physical education classes**

While some initial guidance was provided around physical education in the [health and safety guidelines for K-12 school settings](#), the physical education and sports guidelines provide further clarification on types of activities and how they can safely be provided. School staff will be reviewing these guidelines to ensure physical education for students are following this updated guidance. Like school sports, physical education opportunities should also follow the health and safety guidelines for sports and recreation and contact sports.

This is not a normal school year and the health and safety of students and staff continues to be our first priority. Thank you for your patience while planning continues to adapt school programming opportunities for the 2020-21 school year.

If parents have any questions, we encourage them to contact their school directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicole Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Morgan".

Nicole Morgan  
Deputy Minister of Education