

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Rowland Hall Boys Soccer 2021! My name is Joe Murray, and I'm delighted to announce that I have recently accepted the Head Coach position for the Boys Soccer team, having previously served as Assistant Coach to Scott Langone in 2020. I have a long history in the sport, having played from a young age in Ireland. I originally came to the States when I was offered a soccer scholarship from the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS) in 1995. UIS reached the NAIA National Championship semi-finals in both 1995 and 1996. After completing my studies, I continued to play on club teams and have now progressed to the senior ranks of the local O-40 and O-46 leagues. I began coaching during my time in Illinois, coaching club and high school teams in the late 90s before pursuing a 20-year career in information technology. A career change at the end of 2018 has allowed me to return to coaching. In addition to my role for the boys' team in 2020, I also served as the Assistant Coach for the Rowland Hall girls soccer team in the fall of 2019, and both roles have allowed me to understand and appreciate the students and the vital part that sports can play in their education and growth at Rowland Hall. I am honored and very excited by the opportunity to take on the responsibility of Head Coach for the boys' team this spring.

Your son has indicated an interest in playing Soccer on the Rowland Hall Upper School team this spring. Given that, I wanted to share some important information with you.

A mandate from the UHSAA has taken effect REQUIRING A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION BE PERFORMED each school year. This means that you need to schedule an appointment now in order to have exam done by a physician and the Physical Exam Form A completed, signed and submitted by February 10. If your student participated in a fall or winter sport, we already have your form on file.

Several other forms are also required and will be read and E-signed by you and your son as you register him for Boys Soccer on the UHSAA site called "**Register My Athlete**", that procedure outlined in another attachment to this email. **Registration on the "Register My Athlete" site needs to be done by February 10 or before.** All forms except for the Physical Exam and Consent Form will now be **electronically signed by you and your student.**

Our schedule and some other boys' soccer related information can be found through your Parent Portal.

A required **Parent Meeting** via Zoom will be held on **Monday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m.**, a link to that meeting to be sent at a later date.

Though the pandemic will have an impact on some of our team protocols and expectations which will be discussed at the parent meeting, we are looking forward to an exciting, successful season of Winged Lion soccer, especially since our season was cut short last spring! Thanks for your continued support of Rowland Hall athletics.

Sincerely,

Joe Murray
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