

## AUSD Pauses Planned High School Sports Re-Opening

Like public school districts across the country, AUSD has been working hard to find a way to allow high school student athletes to safely engage in conditioning, practices, and competitions this fall. We have two updates on our sports planning this week.

First, after conferring with families, coaches, and public health experts, AUSD had developed a plan to begin a pilot conditioning program for some high school sports on December 7. The current spike in COVID-19 cases in Alameda County, however, along with a new shelter in place order imposed by the Alameda County Public Health today, has caused us to postpone that conditioning program. We do not take this decision lightly and know it may be disappointing to some of our families. However, we are acting out of an abundance of caution and a deep concern for the safety of our students, our staff, and our families.

Second, the [California Interscholastic Federation \(CIF\) announced](#) this week that it is placing its full practice and competition start dates on hold until it receives further guidance about youth sports from the California Department of Public Health. CIF also announced that it is removing all regional and state championships for the fall season from the calendar, and moving Men's Volleyball to the winter season.

"As a district, we are aware of the pivotal role that high school athletics plays for students' academic, emotional, and social well-being," says Lani Molina, the athletic director for Alameda High School and Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School, "and we have been working hard to find ways to provide athletic opportunities for our students. We do have to adapt to changing public health conditions and follow public health orders, however. We will continue preparing to re-open high school athletics, and we will continue to hope that we can do so early next year."

You can find more details about AUSD's high school sports program on our [COVID-19 High School Information](#) web page.