

Fairfield Public Schools
August, 25, 2023
Subject: Fairfield Hockey Program

Dear Parents and Players of the Fairfield Public Schools Hockey Program,

Over the past few years, there have been meetings and much discussion around the current and future status of the hockey program. The decision has been made to stay a cooperative Boy's Ice Hockey program for the 2023-2024 season.

According to the CIAC, the purpose of creating a cooperative team is to save the sport from being canceled and to increase participation over time. The ultimate goal would be for each school to form their own team. The CIAC does not consider the level of competitiveness or state tournament ramifications when authorizing cooperative teams. The CIAC's established participation limits for cooperative team approval is 15 players or fewer per school. The Fairfield Hockey Program numbers have exceeded the threshold for 7 consecutive years. A proposal was submitted last year to the CIAC Board of Control to increase the maximum number from each team to 17, but this request was denied.

The CIAC does not permit cutting student-athletes in order to get below the threshold. All students that register to play hockey count toward our co-op application and will be part of the team either on JV or Varsity. The hockey cooperative program follows the same expectations as all other programs. Fairfield Public Schools will support a junior varsity team if there are enough players to fill the team. It is expected that all players at both the varsity and junior varsity levels will attend all practices and all games. Failure to do so could mean suspension or removal from the team. Any changes in team numbers after the season begins will not change our cooperative team status in regard to the state tournament participation.

Online registration is now open for the 2023-2024 hockey season. All students must register by Friday, September 8, 2023. Registration takes place online through Infinite Campus (<https://athletics.fairfieldschools.org/registration/>). All registered students' names, along with the cooperative team application will be sent to the CIAC. If cooperative status is approved, students who have not registered by the September 8th deadline will not be eligible to participate if it exceeds the maximum number of players allowed per school. If the number of students registered at either school (15 per school) exceeds the threshold then we will function as a cooperative team for the season and lose our eligibility to compete in the CIAC State Tournament. We will still have a complete regular season and be eligible for the FCIAC postseason tournament.

Sincerely,

Gina DiGiacomo, FWHS Athletic Director
Todd Parness, FLHS Athletic Director