

Athletic Department

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Athletic Director

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NEWTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Incoming 7th Grader Parents,

Welcome to the Newton Public Schools athletic program. Here are a few informational items to help make your child's 2026-27 athletic year a success.

- ☐ The athletic director for Newton Public Schools is Brian Becker. Taylor Counts is the assistant athletic director. Their offices are located at Newton High School along with the athletic administrative assistant, Michelle Bergquist (michelle.bergquist@usd373.org).
- ☐ The following sports are available:
 - o SUMMER – Strength and Conditioning will begin June 1. S&C Registration/fee and physical are due by *May 27*. Late registrations accepted but participation may be delayed until requirements have been verified in the athletic office.
 - o FALL – Practices begin Monday, August 17, 2026 for football, volleyball, cross country, and girls tennis.
 - o WINTER – Start date TBA (October) for girls basketball and boys wrestling.
 - o WINTER 2 – Start date TBA (January) for boys basketball and girls wrestling.
 - o SPRING – Start date March 1, 2027 boys/girls track and boys tennis.

☐ Athletic Participation Requirements

- ☐ An athletic physical, online athletic registration, Pay for Participation fee, and code of conduct meeting attendance must to be on file with the athletic department *before* your athlete is allowed to practice.
- ☐ All required links and instructions to the following are posted on the USD 373 Athletics & Activities web site. (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1giEhwX2yRTqCOHj9KJDRF5r3nNaacN8LajOfHNjrFJQ/preview>)
 - o Physical forms can be printed from the link above.
 - *Physicals must be the current version: **Rev. 9/2025**. See the bottom left of the forms for this date.* It can be downloaded (and filled in digitally if you prefer) at the following link <http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/PDF/Form-PPE.pdf>. Medical offices might only provide the physician's pages of the physical. Be sure to include the completed KSHSAA Eligibility Checklist (page 5) when submitting the packet to NHS.
 - Physicals will not be accepted if they are incomplete or dated before April 1, 2026 (KSHSAA).
 - *Physical forms **MUST** be checked by office staff when delivered to the NHS athletic office; they cannot be accepted by coaches.* Incomplete physicals will be returned to athletes (or held in the NHS office after emailing the family) until the missing information is complete.
 - o Online Athletic Registration Page 2 of the following document has step by step instructions to complete the registration. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1giEhwX2yRTqCOHj9KJDRF5r3nNaacN8LajOfHNjrFJQ/edit?tab=t.0>
 - ❖ The Railer Way, our code of conduct, requires consent from all 7th-12th grade participants and their parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians will receive info and forms at one of the required meetings in August. *Please watch your email, our website, and social media for required meeting dates in August. Regardless of the season in which your athlete will participate, we ask that you attend a meeting in August.*
 - o A Pay for Participation fee is required to participate in athletics.
 - It must be paid **by noon on the second Monday of practice**. If it is not paid, the athlete will not be allowed to practice with the team until it has been paid. Watch for payment instructions in August and at the fall required parent meetings.
 - The Pay for Participation fee for middle school is \$50.00 per sport. The fees for students who qualify for reduced lunch payment are \$40.00; for students who qualify for free lunch payment the fee is \$30.00, *provided there is a signed waiver on file with the district office.*
 - o Any student who chooses to participate in two (2) sports/activities in the same season will pay for each activity.
 - o The Athletic Department encourages you to complete your athlete's requirements AS SOON AS POSSIBLE regardless of the season in which they will participate. Official season due dates are ***the Wednesday before the first day of practice***. You may submit the items after practices begin (by noon each day) but there may be a one day delay before your athlete may participate.
 - o If there are additional forms/fees required (summer programs, for example), the links will be found on our website.

Do you still have questions?

- **Frequently Asked Questions** (<https://usd373org.finalsite.com/athletics-activities/athletics-activities>)
- **2026-27 Athletic Requirements** (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1giEhwX2yRTqCOHj9KJDRF5r3nNaacN8LajOfHNjrFJQ/edit?tab=t.0>)
- Email us with any additional questions

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