



FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Golden Tornadoes

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Dear Franklin-Winnisquam Community,

Franklin and Winnisquam have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2026 high school football season.

This was not an easy decision, and it is not one that we made without a lot of thought and discussion. We know how much our players, coaches, families, and communities have invested to start this program, and we understand the disappointment that comes with this decision.

Ultimately, the number one priority has to be the safety of our student-athletes. With participation numbers declining, we do not feel we can continue the season and provide the safest possible experience for the players.

We also had to consider the long-term impact of continuing and potentially having to cancel later in the season. As a co-op, that could have resulted in a potential penalty that would have required us to play JV football for our next season. That would have affected not only the players who are currently in the program, but future Franklin and Winnisquam student-athletes as well.

As a member of the NHIAA, we also have a responsibility to the other schools in our division. Making this decision now gives those schools the opportunity to find replacement games and adjust their schedules. The football season is already short, and losing even one game can have a significant impact on a team's season and the division as a whole. We felt it was important to make this decision as early as possible so our fellow member schools have the time they need to make other arrangements..

We believe making this decision now gives us the best opportunity to move forward and rebuild for next year.

Our middle school program continues to have strong participation, and we are going to put a lot of effort into developing those players and building the foundation of our high school program. Our goal is to return to NHIAA competition next season with stronger numbers and a program that is in a better position to succeed.

We want to be clear that we are still committed to this co-op and to making Franklin-Winnisquam football work for both communities. This is a setback, but it is not the end of the program.

We appreciate our players and coaches for the commitment they have shown, and we thank our families and communities for their continued support. We know this decision is disappointing, but we believe it is the right decision for the safety of our student-athletes and the future of Franklin-Winnisquam football.