

Beginning this school year, it looked as though the Edina Athletic Booster Club (the “Booster Club”) was not going to have much to “boost.” Fall sports did not look possible, and winter activities were TBD. Then, we got soccer, cross country, tennis and girls swimming, which felt like a beginning of a return to normalcy, but we were missing football and volleyball. Although it felt a bit more typical with some sports, it did not feel complete without attendance at the fall activities, e.g., homecoming, volleyball and the band at football halftimes!

Even with their seasons in question, the athletes were still putting in the time. They had hope and expectations of something to which they could commit. Something that they (and probably their parents!) had been working toward since they were kids...A chance to put on the green jersey and play for Edina!

COVID-19 challenges have made Booster Club support even more important this school year. The athletic needs are still the same...coaches, equipment, tape, field and pool time. For most of us, the idea of getting tickets to events as part of a membership package has been a focus, “..heck, the value of the tickets that you get with your package nearly equals what you would have spent anyway...” But now, with capacity limits at the events, and without the revenue-generating ability to sell more tickets and concessions, it is very difficult for the Booster Club to provide the support our teams have received in the past. Fundraising for team supplies, as well as long term projects like new scoreboards or gymnastics and wrestling mats, has been strained.

The needs of the athletes still exist...they will always exist. Booster supported activities encompass at least 1600 student athletes from Edina High School. The life lessons that sports provide are priceless. Being a Booster is not just an investment in tickets to go and watch your child, or neighbor’s child...it is an investment in an experience for many students. It is an investment in your community. Or your alma mater-maybe you remember the honor of having worn the Edina green yourselves!

So far, fan participation is anywhere from a bare minimum, to not at all. Live video streaming of some of the fall sporting events have helped a lot of supporters watch the events live, which the Booster Club helped to set up. Check that out at [www.edinaboosters.club](http://www.edinaboosters.club). You can also renew or donate there. We will continue to look at creative ways to assist. Last year’s spring fundraiser was online and was successful only because of a generous and supportive community (and some fantastic last-minute maneuvering by the booster committee!). There were a fair number of folks that renewed their EABC membership for this year-some prior to the pandemic news, and some with the knowledge that things would be different. Thank you for that!

**But help is still needed!** The Booster Club annually bridges an all-sports program funding gap of about \$90k, which is funding that is not covered by the school district, activity charges, or team fundraising. We are appealing to all the supporters of Edina High School sports that want to help to ensure that the student athletes get the resources they need.

Please visit [www.edinaboosters.club](http://www.edinaboosters.club) to donate, or consider becoming a member/renewing your membership, even if you might not be able to use all of your tickets this year. You will be helping to ensure the future of Edina sports excellence, and help to continue the legacy of success on and off the fields, courts, and pools.

**187 MN High School championships-and counting!**