

Covid-19 Athletics Return to Play Policy

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Introduction

This first phase of Return-to-Play procedures will cover the 2020 summer offseason for all sports that wish to hold offseason athletic activities, effective upon approval. These guidelines were developed in coordination with state government and department of education recommendations and PIAA & NFHS guidelines.

The following procedures will be in effect from the date of approval by the School Board until the final day of the offseason (August 17, 2020). There will be updated guidelines & procedures for the beginning of the regular season. Our plan is subject to change as we receive updated guidelines. No athletic activity will take place if our county goes to phase red.

All offseason athletic activities (summer pickup games, open gyms, etc) are completely voluntary. No signature is required for summer activities, but all participants must carefully read and adhere to these guidelines.

Pre-Activity Symptom Screening with Coach Verification

- Prior to leaving home for an offseason athletic activity, students and coaches must have their temperature taken. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher or who exhibits any of the following COVID-like symptoms (*fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, exposure to known cases*) must stay home.
- Upon arriving at the location of the athletic activity, students must immediately report to their coach, who will take attendance & confirm the absence of all of the symptoms listed above on the [COVID Athlete / Coach Monitoring Form](#).
- Any individual that does not pass this screening must not participate in the athletic activity and should immediately return home or self-isolate until pick-up can be arranged as soon as possible.

Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° or higher, or who reports any [COVID-like symptoms](#) must not be allowed to participate that day or in any other athletic activity for 48hrs after symptoms cease. If symptoms persist, you are encouraged to visit a healthcare provider.

Guidelines During Athletic Activity

Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

Social distancing (or physical distancing) is a key tool we have to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Whenever possible, students & coaches must stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.

Spectators

No spectators or guests are allowed during summer activities. (Once the season begins, the school will adhere to the most current mass gathering limits to a level that will support social distancing. Home and away spectators will sit in different sections of the bleachers).

Use of Face Covering

[Per PA order](#) and subsequent clarification provided to school athletic departments, everyone must wear a face covering, such as a mask, unless that individual falls under a medical exception. Students with a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering should have that indicated in their school medical records.

Coaches and athletes must wear face coverings unless they are outdoors and can consistently maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet. Athletes are not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in workouts and competition that prevent the wearing of face coverings, but must wear face coverings when on the sidelines, in the dugout, etc. and anytime 6 feet of social distancing is not possible.

When traveling, students will be required to wear a mask. If students are riding to an athletic activity with someone other than their guardian, that individual reserves the right to require all occupants to wear a mask. We will not travel to counties that are in phase yellow to compete.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of transmission.

The school will promote frequent use of handwashing and hand sanitizer for athletes, coaches, staff, and participants. The school will perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, lockers, dressing areas) with an EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase disinfection during peak times or high customer density times. The school will frequently check and refill hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at all sinks.

Participant Responsibilities

All students, parents, and coaches must follow the guidelines listed above, paying careful attention to the Pre-Activity Symptom Screening with Coach Verification.

Parent Responsibilities

- Monitor how your child is feeling, and keep them home if they are sick.
- Inform the coach or staff member if your child tests positive for Covid-19.
- Consult with your family doctor before participating in sports if your child is part of a high risk group.
- Pick up student-athletes promptly at the designated time in order to minimize lingering.
- Make sure you or your student cleans personal equipment and clothing before the next athletic activity.

Student Responsibilities

- Be honest about how you are feeling. If you are feeling sick, stay home.
- Report directly to your coach upon arrival.
- Do not greet teammates with high fives, hugs, or handshakes. No group celebrations with person to person contact.
- Do not spit on the field of play.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after practices.
- Bring and use your own water bottles and bags. Hydration stations are for water bottle filling purposes only.
- Do not share individual sports equipment (such as mouth guards, water bottles, clothing, etc.) or any personal equipment (such as clothing, chapstick, deodorant, etc). If a player is in need of any items to practice, they should go to their coach for direction.
- At the completion of the activity by the coach, no student-athletes or coaches may use equipment or facilities for any reason. No lingering should occur by any person.

Coach Responsibilities

During Athletic Activity

- Avoid team communication in confined spaces. All team talks should take place in an open space and with all participants maintaining social distancing.
- Remind athletes as necessary of all the guidelines listed above.
- Limit equipment use to only what is necessary & keep track of what you and your athletes have used for sanitization after you have finished.
- Modify drills or activities to limit/reduce potential violations of social distancing requirements.
- Use hand-operated electronic whistles (as opposed to regular whistles) when possible.

After Athletic Activity

- Coaches must sanitize any equipment used during the athletic activity.
 - Volleyball: sanitize poles, balls, and carts. Return equipment to gym closets.
 - Basketball: sanitize balls & carts. Return equipment to gym closets.
 - Soccer: sanitize balls & cones. Return equipment to the field house.
- Coaches must send a picture of the Athlete Coach Monitoring Form to the Athletic Director, which also indicates they have followed the procedures listed above.
- At the completion of the activity, no student-athletes or coaches may use equipment or facilities for any reason. Lingering should not occur by any person.