



DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS
GAME DAY OPERATIONS
GUIDELINES

2021 Fall Athletics

Football

Cheerleading

Cross Country

Volleyball

Softball

In an effort to ensure all teams are ready to compete, please review the following Game Day Expectations and Guidelines. Our goal is to mitigate the spread of COVID 19 and its impact on activities all while keeping students-athletes, coaches and stakeholders safe.

Game Day Safety

Schools are required to mitigate exposures by:

- Maintaining social distancing while not on the field or court of play
- Requiring face coverings for every one
- Washing hands before and after competitions
- Using hand sanitizer at each water break
- Reducing or eliminating sharing of common equipment

Game Day Face Masks/Coverings

OUTDOORS- Unvaccinated athletes and coaches are asked to wear a mask. Masks are optional for fully vaccinated coaches and athletes.

- Only athletes who are engaged in active play/competition may remove their mask.
- All coaches and athletes must socially distance at all times.
- There will be no huddles, handshakes or high fives before, during, or after matches.
- Teams should immediately board the bus at the end of competition.

INDOORS All coaches and athletes are required to wear a mask at all times.

- Masks/face coverings must be worn when entering host facilities, including host team Athletic Training Room, and on the field of play during any pre-warm up and walkthroughs.
- Masks/face coverings must be worn by student-athletes while on the sidelines/benches and not actively engaged in competition “field of play.”
- Masks must not be shared.
- Mask must be worn while in bench areas but quickly remove mask/face cover “competition” and keeping individualized masks/face coverings separate and isolated in a container or plastic bag when not in use.
- The only exception to the mask is when strenuous physical activity is being performed, which essentially applies to the athletes only during active competition.
- Mouth guards should remain in the athlete’s mouth throughout the competition. If the mouth guard is taken out, proper disinfection of the mouth guard should be performed prior to reinsertion, if able. Hands should also be washed or disinfected before doing so.

Game Day Travel

- Game day travel will be limited to coaches, athletes and essential personnel.
- Number of occupants per bus will be in accordance of District Transportation protocols and procedures.
- All occupants must wear a face covering on bus at all times.
- Parents will be allowed to transport their child to all competitions. Athletes must be screened and have their temperature checked upon arrival and prior to interaction with the team.

Game Day Conduct

The following will not be permitted during any sports-related activity:

- Spitting, hugs, high fives, chest bumps, fist bumps, close team huddles; etc.
- No pre or post game handshakes.
- All athletes must be clothed appropriately at all times (i.e. no removal of shirts).

Game Day Event Staff and Officials

- All stadium and event workers must wear mask at all times.

Game Day Sidelines and Benches

- Each sideline/bench should be furnished with enough hand sanitizer to satisfy the needs of sideline/bench capacity.
- Teams should not share water bottles throughout the course of competition – each school is responsible for providing water, cups, bottles and hydration supplies for their student-athletes on competition days.
- All benches must be wiped down using proper cleaning agents before and after competition. Bench spaces should be wiped down as frequently as possible throughout competition.
- Towels should not be shared. If student-athletes prefer the utilization of a towel during competition, they should provide their own towel and should not share their towel with other members of their team. Used towels should be placed immediately in an open bin container to avoid cross-contamination.
- Sideline personnel will be limited to participating athletes, coaches, athletic trainers and administrative staff. No non-essential personnel should be allowed on sideline.
- When possible, benches, chairs and sidelines should provide adequate seating to allot for individualized seating for all student-athletes and members of the coaching staff for each team to allow for appropriate social distancing when not on the field.

Game Day Spectators

Allowing spectators will be contingent upon health conditions within the state and local communities at the time of competition and are subject to change. Please note, these are the guidelines as 8/9/21.

Stadium Spectators and Outdoor Sports (Football, Cross Country, Softball)

- There will be no spectator limit for outdoor events.
- Unvaccinated guests are asked to wear a mask. Masks are optional for fully vaccinated guest.
- All spectators are asked to maintain six feet of social distancing. Parent/guardian/family members will be encouraged to sit only with their family units.
- Spectators are prohibited from entering the field and will be asked to leave venue immediately following event.
- Spectators must remain in a reasonable distance outside of the fence or field area of competition.
- We will allow DCSD passes and GHSA passes.

In-Door Sports Spectators (Volleyball)

- There will be no spectator limit for volleyball at this time due to generally low attendance rates. (Decisions surrounding indoor capacity restrictions will be made closer to the basketball season)
- All guests must wear a mask at **ALL TIMES**, including when entering/exiting venue, during the competition, and whenever walking or moving about. No exceptions.
- All spectators are asked to maintain six feet of social distancing. Parent/guardian/family members will be encouraged to sit only with their family units.
- Spectators are prohibited from entering the court and will be asked to leave venue immediately following event.
- We will allow DCSD passes and GHSA passes.
- Upon conclusion of the contest, spectators must leave the contest area and not interact with others.

Game Day Scheduling

- There will be a minimum of a 30 minute buffer between double header games for cleaning and clearing of stadium.
- All spectators must leave stadium from the previous game.
- In the event a double header is scheduled an entrance and exit strategy will be developed by stadium manager and security personnel to ensure limited cross interactions of personnel.

Game Day Cleaning and Disinfecting of Facilities

- In addition to the normal cleaning rotation, stadiums areas will be sprayed with CDC approved disinfectants at least 2 hours prior to game. Areas to include restrooms, locker rooms, hand rails, high traffic areas, and any commonly touched surfaces.
- During a double header, the cleaning crew will enter the locker room to clean at the beginning of the 2nd half of the first game.
- Teams which are scheduled for the first game will not be allowed to re-enter the locker room after the beginning of the second half.

Game Day Locker Rooms and Uniforms

- Participants must wear masks in the locker room.
- There will be no showering at the facility.
- Locker Room should be cleaned and sanitized prior to visiting team's arrival and use of facility.
- Stadium locker rooms will be used for restroom use only by the athletes.
- All pregame and halftime meetings will be held outside of the locker room.
- Coaches (volleyball, softball) should collaborate with administration and custodial staff to ensure locker rooms have been cleaned and disinfected prior to visiting team's arrival.
- Stadium Managers (soccer/lacrosse/football) must ensure the locker rooms have been cleaned and sanitized.
- Coaches should ensure proper social distancing and monitor the number of athletes allowed in the locker room at any given time.

- Student-athletes should transport their individual equipment including uniforms, towels and shoes in a designated bag so they can take it home and disinfect appropriately after each contest.
- If coaches are responsible for cleaning uniforms, there should be a designated bin for transportation of uniforms/washable items.

Game Day Media

- All members of the media must wear mask at all times.
- Media will be restricted to areas outside of the team areas.
- Interview requests may be limited and should be accommodated only if social distancing protocols can be followed.
- Locker room access and access to student-athletes should be monitored or limited on a case by case basis.

Recommendations and restrictions are fluid and subject to change. Safety is our top priority.