

JDHS Covid-19 Athletics Protocols Fall 2020

Please note, this document is subject to change based on guidance from the NJDOE and the NJSIAA

Springfield Public Schools (SPS) is committed to providing its recognized athletic programs. SPS recognizes the importance of athletic programs in promoting student growth and development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the planning for the 2020-2021 school year. We recognize that the protocols developed and reviewed below are significantly different from previous years. These protocols follow the recommendations of the NJSIAA and the best practices established by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH).

Face Coverings:

The CDC affirmed that face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that reduces the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities. All individuals involved in athletics will be required to wear a face mask while involved in any school sponsored event.

Screening:

All individuals involved in athletics will be screened at least once daily for the presence of Covid-19 symptoms and history of exposure. Screenings will involve completion of a health questionnaire in OnCourse as well as a temperature check. All student athletes and staff will be screened for all Saturday and Sunday practices or games. All student athletes/ teams will submit to this screening prior to any form of travel for away games.

- Full time remote learners must complete the OnCourse COVID questionnaire prior to arrival at the practice site.
- All questionnaires must be completed prior to 1 pm the day of the practice or game.
- Printed copies of the questionnaire or late submissions will not be accepted.
- Coaches will complete a Covid Questionnaire using the same methods utilized by the students. They will then have their temperature checked by the ATC, Athletic Director, coach with an infrared thermometer.
- Students must present to the ATC, Athletic Director or designee, for a temperature check before they can participate in practices or games.
 - Students with a temperatures exceeding 100.4°F will not be permitted to participate.

- Individuals with a temperature below 96.0 °F will sit for 5-10 minutes before re-checking. (Automotive AC can drop surface temperature of the skin to the low 90's)
 - An athlete will have a 5-10 minute wait period allowed for a re-test of temperature given hyperthermia from the environment.
- If their temperature remains above the threshold, they will be sent home and a parent will be contact. The student must follow the directions set by the district regarding monitoring for the presence of a fever.
- People with temperatures at or below 100.3 F may continue into the shelter using normal procedures.
- Student's affiliated with JDHS athletics who attend a Magnet school will be screened via the Google Sheets Covid Questionnaire. They will proceed to ATC, Athletic Director, or designee for a temperature check before they can participate in practices or games.
 - Magnet students will complete the questionnaire prior to departure for the game. A coach will conduct the temperature check at the host school upon the student's arrival and notify the ATC of the result.

Remote Learning:

All students participating in a full day of remote learning are permitted to participate in athletics given that they have met all clearance requirements.

Hydration:

The sharing of water bottles and use of multi-person hydration stations is strictly prohibited. Student athletes are required to bring their own water or sports drink to practice to ensure proper hydration. A minimum of 32oz of fluid is recommended for each student.

- Each team will be provided one 10 gallon cooler of ice water for the refilling of individual water bottles. This process must occur one at a time in an orderly socially distanced manner.
- Ice chest(s) and cooler(s) will be sanitized daily following usage by any teams or individuals.

Hygiene:

- Students and staff should make every effort to wash their hands as often as possible.
- Hand sanitizer station(s) will be accessible at all times.
- Workout apparel or uniforms shall not be left at the school after any type of participation. Athletes will be responsible for laundering and maintaining cleanliness of school issued equipment.
- Tennis and cheerleader athletes/coaches will apply hand sanitizer pre and post practice/competition.
- Soccer and football athletes/coaches will wear gloves for all athletic activities.

Sanitation:

- There shall be no spitting, chewing seeds, or gum chewing during games or practices. Students identified as doing so will not be eligible to continue playing in the game.
- Facilities must be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with CDC and EPA guidelines.
- Equipment will be sanitized by the coaching staff after each athletic event.

Athletic Training Room:

The athletic training room will not be used during the fall season. Student athletes in need of medical attention will be treated on-field /outdoors. Injury ice and access to hydration will be provided by the ATC in a supervised and socially distanced fashion. The [NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy](#) remains in effect.

- A cooling tub will be available per the NJSIAA's heat acclimatization policy. This will be located outdoors next to the handicap access ramp on the ground floor opposite the athletic training room.
- Due to the social distancing requirements around Covid-19 providing tents for rest breaks in the shade is not practical or possible. Students are encouraged to bring a personal umbrella on high heat days to create their own shade.
- Students and staff should be encouraged to bring spare masks to use for practice in high heat due to perspiration.

Practices:

Coaches must maintain a high level of awareness to possible Covid-19 exposure throughout all practices.

- All face covering mandates apply.
- Coaches must ensure social distancing practices are maintained to the maximum extent practicable during all practices.
- Indoor practices / building usage for fall sports is not permitted.

Games:

- All face covering requirements apply.
- Social distancing practices must be observed to the fullest extent possible.
- Sidelines must be limited to essential personnel. Coaches must be realistic with the number of players at each game.
- A room will not be available for officials or teams.
- Half-time of games will be observed with each team gathering at opposite ends of the field in a socially distanced manner.

- Visiting teams are encouraged to keep their buses nearby for emergency use.
- Post-game handshakes are prohibited.

Facilities:

- A sheltered structure may or may not be provided, therefore it is recommended that each away team provides their own sheltered structure.
- Access to FMG, Jonathan Dayton High School buildings is prohibited.
- Access to locker rooms is prohibited.
- Teams are to be assigned locations on the field for pregame, halftime and post-game meetings.
- Concession stand is closed.
- Inclement Weather- In the event of inclement weather the following facilities will be utilized:
 - Jonathan Dayton- Home team- Café; Away Team- Bus; Spectators- Return to their vehicle.
 - FMG- Home team- Girls Gym; Away Team- Bus; Spectators- Return to their vehicle.
 - Meisel- Home team-Meisel Field House; Away Team- Bus; Spectators- Return to their vehicle.

Spectators:

All spectators attending outdoor events must wear face coverings, spectators must follow social distancing guidelines set by the host school district or facility.

- Based on facility capacity we have the following seating available.
- Maximum Capacity Limits (social distancing guidelines)
 - JDHS Field: 60
 - FMG Field: 50
 - Meisel- No limit
- Admission will not be charged for UCC/BCC Regular Season Contests.
- Football & Soccer: Based on social distancing maximum capacity limits at our facilities hosting soccer/football events it is recommended senior parents are given priority for attending athletic events at varsity soccer/football events. Information will be provided to parents of home and away teams prior to the event.
- Tennis: Spectators will not be permitted in the tennis facility. Spectators may view tennis matches from the parking area maintaining social distancing and face mask protocols.

Transportation:

- Proper protocols regarding athletic transportation must be followed based on the guidelines set by the school district.

- Face coverings are required for all staff and students while on busses, unless it would inhibit the individual's health.
- Temperature checks for all athletes will be conducted at the traveling teams school before departing.
- Schools should maintain social distancing practices on buses to the maximum extent practicable.
- Teams should limit travel to essential players and staff.
- Teams should consider parental transportation, if approved by the school district. Transportation form required.
- Teams will follow the transportation provider policy on capacity limits.

Cheerleaders:

- Must practice social distancing during performance.
- Home sites may have cheerleaders present. The cheerleading team must be located outside the team/coaches box...10yard line to 10 yard line.
- Cheerleaders will not travel to away games.
- No stunting is permitted.
- No halftime performances will be permitted.

Marching Band:

The marching band will not perform at home or away football games.

References:

[NJSIAA COVID-19 Fall Season Guidelines](#)

[Union County Conference - Fall COVID-19 Event Management Guidelines](#) -

[The Big Central Conference COVID-19 2020 Game Day Guidelines](#)