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## MCPS ATHLETICS

### RETURN to R.A.I.S.E.

Update—January 21, 2022

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Dear MCPS Community:

Thank you for your continued support of MCPS Athletics, as we navigate the ever-changing challenges and dynamics of COVID-19. Here are some important program updates and reminders:

#### **Spectator Restrictions Continue**

In order to minimize indoor gathering sizes, account for potential reductions in staffing, and prevent the spread of COVID-19, **spectators are still not allowed at contests in MCPS facilities** through January 28. An update will be provided on or before January 28 regarding future spectator limitations. Please note the following:

- For non-MCPS facilities, operations will comply with the procedures and protocols of the host facility and/or jurisdiction.
- There are no limitations for outdoor competitions.
- All swim centers are aligning with the MCPS Spectator Guidelines; therefore there will be no spectators allowed in swim centers until further notice. All meet personnel (scorers, timers, diving judges) should be verified by the head coach with the swim center staff.

#### **Overnight Travel**

All overnight travel is cancelled through January 30. An update will be provided on or before January 29 regarding future overnight travel restrictions.

#### **Spring Registration**

Registration for spring sports and out-of-season conditioning is now open through ParentVue! The first day of the spring sports season is Tuesday, March 1. Only students who have completed the registration process, which includes submitting verification of vaccination or medical exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

#### **Basketball Rescheduled Games**

Basketball games impacted by COVID-19 have been rescheduled on an equitable basis across all 25 high schools, to the extent possible. Special emphasis was placed on division games, as division championships will be awarded based on winning percentage in division games. All MCPS varsity teams will exceed the minimum number of games (15) for seeding purposes and qualify for the state

tournament. A schedule of the rescheduled games will be posted on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) website when confirmed.

### **Winter Postseason**

The winter postseason begins on Saturday, January 29 with the bocce division tournaments! More detailed information regarding postseason events can be found on the [MCPS](#) and [MPSSAA](#) websites. Updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

### **NFHS Network**

Contests in stadiums and main gymnasiums will continue to be broadcast live on the [NFHS Network](#). Parents and fans can [subscribe](#) to the network and have access to all games for a monthly subscription of \$10.99/month (or yearly pass for \$69.99/year). All games are free after 72 hours. Information regarding programming is provided by local schools.

### **Middle School Athletics**

Middle school basketball schedules are available [here](#). Any potential rescheduling of middle school contests impacted by COVID-19 will continue to be coordinated through league coordinators and the Athletics Unit.

### **Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan Operations**

The [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan](#) will continue to drive program operations in regard to COVID-19 procedures and protocols. The plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis by the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics. The latest version is always available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage.

### **Communication and Resources**

Our COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics will continue to evaluate and implement the latest safety measures. Updates and guidance from the Task Force will continue to be provided and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator \(AC\)](#), or coach.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support of our student-athletes and MCPS Athletics!

Montgomery County Public Schools