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## MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Update—December 1, 2021

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Dear MCPS Community:

Thank you for a successful start to the high school winter season. The first games are on December 7! Following are some key updates and reminders regarding program operations.

#### Winter Spectator Guidelines

Spectator guidelines for the high school winter season are available [here](#). Highlights include:

- MCPS is committed to providing the safest, greatest experience possible for student-athletes, coaches and spectators, consistent with the R.A.I.S.E. core values of MCPS Athletics.
- MCPS will utilize [GoFan](#) digital ticketing to the extent possible during the winter season and will be offered for all events.
- During the regular season, schools may offer a cash option for games, depending on the anticipated attendance.
- There will be one ticket price for MCPS events - \$5 for all spectators 11 and older (cash price is \$5/ticket, GoFan price is \$4 plus \$1 convenience fee). Senior citizens over the age of 62 are still admitted without charge.
- MCPS student-athletes, teams, and spectators must comply with the COVID-19 guidelines and operating procedures of the host facility and/or county.
- Spectators are expected to demonstrate behaviors consistent with the R.A.I.S.E. core values of MCPS Athletics. Spectators who do not comply with MCPS expectations will be asked to leave the premises and may be banned from attending future events.

#### Masks/Face Coverings

The current indoor mask guidance remains in effect for MCPS Athletics:

*For indoor sports, masks must be worn at all times, except as noted below:*

- *Basketball – fully vaccinated student-athletes are not required to wear face coverings*
- *Cheerleading – when actively engaged in stunting/tumbling/flying*
- *Swimming/Diving – in the water, because a wet face mask may be more difficult to breathe through*
- *Wrestling – during wrestling contact, a mask could become a choking hazard and is discouraged unless an adult coach or official is closely monitoring for safety purposes.*

*Spectators, coaches, and officials must wear masks at all times indoors. All participants shall bring their own mask/face covering; extra masks are available at all activities.*

MCPS has submitted a request for an exemption to the Montgomery County Board of Health that would include that face coverings are not required indoors for student-athletes actively participating in activities, practices and contests; however, students who are not fully vaccinated (with approved medical exemptions) would be strongly encouraged to wear face coverings. Additionally, the exemption request includes that during competition, face coverings would not be required for coaches and officials who are fully vaccinated. This request will be reviewed by the Board of Health on December 7. Additional guidance will be provided following the meeting, which would take effect as soon as allowed.

### **Indoor Track and Field Update**

The Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex announced that the fieldhouse will be opening on December 15 for track and field activities. There will be restrictions in place, including limitations on the number of participating student-athletes and spectators. Preliminary information is available [here](#). Updated information will be provided prior to the first meet, as necessary. We look forward to a safe and successful indoor track and field season!

### **Middle School Athletics**

Tryouts and practices for middle school basketball begin on December 7. Registration is completed through ParentVue. A "Quick Guide to ParentVue for Athletics" for parents/guardians when registering their students for athletics can be found [here](#). Further information for parents/guardians can be found here in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

### **Student-Athlete Vaccination Requirements**

All high school and eligible middle school student-athletes are required to submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination prior to participation. This requirement applies to the winter and spring sports seasons, as well as all out-of-season activities conducted through MCPS Athletics. Only medical exemptions will be permitted. [MCPS Form 560-30A: COVID-19 Vaccine Medical Exemption Request for Student-Athletes](#) must be completed by a licensed health care professional and submitted during the registration process for athletics.

### **Vaccination FAQs**

[Here](#) are answers to FAQs regarding the vaccination requirements for MCPS Athletics.

### **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.

We appreciate your continued commitment and support. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#), [athletic coordinator](#) (AC), or coach.

Montgomery County Public Schools