



# General Information for Coaches

## 2021–2022

Following is general information for MCPS coaches regarding the 2021–2022 school year.

### 1. Resources for Coaches – coaches shall be familiar with contents in the following resources:

- *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook* (first 50 pages and applicable sport standards section)
- [MPSSAA Handbook](#)
- Applicable [MPSSAA tournament bulletin](#) (with rules modifications)
- Applicable rules book (refer to the 2021–22 rules book)
- [MCPS Athletics web page](#) – [General Coach Information](#); [General Parent Information](#); [Health & Safety](#);
- [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#)
- [Equity Initiatives Unit Resources](#)

### 2. MCPS Athletics Changes and Initiatives for 2021–2022

2021–2022 Changes for MCPS Athletics:

- Two institutional changes have been made to champion the MCPS Athletics core values of equity and access and support anti-racist efforts across the school district:
  - The academic eligibility policy has been revised to increase access for students in their first year of high school.
  - The allocation of funds for high school athletic programs has increased to provide additional support for field maintenance, security, and transportation.
- The COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage will continue to provide the latest updates regarding program operations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- A compliance action plan has been developed and will be implemented to enhance compliance in coach and athletics specialist certification, athletic registration and roster generation, after-school supervision, and athletic department finances.
- County championship games will be administered for open tournament team sports on a pilot basis (field hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, and softball).
- Officials and athletic trainers' contracts have been renewed.
- Bocce Standards have been added to the handbook.

2021–2022 Initiatives for MCPS Athletics:

- Start with Who: renew and create new connections outside and across the MCPS athletics program, including promoting student-athlete participation.
- MCPS Athletics will align with actions and recommendations from the Anti-Racist Audit of the school district.

- MCPS Athletics will engage in actions and activities surrounding Title IX and gender equity, including the generation of the systemwide gender equity report and local school program assessments, along with the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Title IX.
- A Student-Athlete Medical Advisory Committee for MCPS Athletics will be established, transitioning and evolving from the COVID-19 Task Force.
- The scheduling of contests will occur throughout the school year, to allow for an accelerated release of schedules on an annual basis.
- A plan for enhancing and integrating the technological aspects of MCPS Athletics will be developed.
- Processes and logistics regarding admissions will be reviewed, including digital ticketing for contests.
- Actions and recommendations from the After-school Design Team will be developed and implemented, including Culture of Respect Training for students.

### **3. Health & Safety**

Health and safety expectations for coaches are included on a memorandum titled [MCPS Coach Health and Safety Expectations](#), and on documents located on the MCPS Athletics web page. These are reviewed in the “Health and Safety” portion of the systemwide and local school preseason meetings.

### **4. Coach & Athletic Department Personnel Certification & Compliance**

- All coaches and athletic department personnel must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online course entitled: *COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators* prior to the start of in-person activities and/or the season. The completed certificate must be submitted to the Athletics Specialist.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be distributed to coaches through their local school athletics specialist, if needed.
- Coaches and athletic department personnel must maintain required certification and compliance as outlined in the *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook*.
- Athletics specialists will submit a *Coach Certification Verification Report* prior to each season.

### **5. Volunteer Coaches – must complete the following:**

- Be hired and approved by the school – must sign contract with principal/AD
- Be fingerprinted and clear a criminal background check, which is kept on file with Human Resources
- Annually complete the online module: [Preventing and Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
- Complete annually the [Volunteer Coach Application and Contract](#) (on the MCPS athletics web page)

### **6. Schedules / Cancellations / Weather**

- For most sports, 2021–2022 is the first year of a 2-year schedule
- Schedules, scores and results posted on County Sports Zone
- No schedule changes unless AD obtains approval of director of systemwide athletics
- Reschedule postponed games on the earliest possible available date
- Review Postponed/Cancelled Events section in *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook*

- Review *Non-School Day Inclement Weather Policy*
- Review Weather and Heat Guidelines in *MCPS High School Athletics Handbook*

## **7. Online Athletic Registration**

The forms required to participate in athletics are completed electronically through online registration. Coaches must ensure that all parents/guardians and student-athletes have completed the registration process PRIOR to participating. Required forms are available on the MCPS athletics web page, if needed.

## **8. Electronic Rosters & Eligibility**

Expectations for coaches and athletics specialists are included in a memorandum titled *ParentVue Online Registration and Roster Program*.

- All rosters are completed electronically through Synergy and must be approved by both the coach and athletics specialist.
- Roster Days:
  - The fall roster day is August 24, 2021.
  - The winter roster day is December 1, 2021
  - The spring roster day is March 16, 2022.
- There are many factors that affect eligibility other than academics that must be researched and confirmed, including age, residency, years of participation, etc.
- All students are academically eligible to participate in athletics for the first marking period of the 2021–22 school year, per the Montgomery County Board of Education.
  - Ninth grade students are academically eligible for their first year of high school. To remain eligible, they must achieve eligibility requirements for the fourth quarter of their freshman year.

## **9. Technology Platforms**

- NFHS Network – all stadium and gymnasium events will be broadcasted on the NFHS Network. The NFHS Network is also available to stream other events.
- VidSwap – local schools have the option of utilizing VidSwap, a video management platform, for instructional and recruiting services. Schools may also use other platforms, if approved by the principal through the MCPS process for securing contracts.

## **10. Protocol for Questions**

If coaches have questions or concerns, they should consult their athletics specialist or the appropriate sport director first, depending on the nature of the question/concern. The sport director or athletics specialist will consult Dr. Sullivan, Ms. Green, or Ms. Rossiter, if necessary.

## **11. Out-of-Area/Overnight Travel**

Coaches should see their athletics specialist regarding travel parameters, restrictions, and procedures for trips over 100 miles (one way) from the Carver Educational Services Center (CESC) or all overnight trips.

## **12. Purchases/Bid List**

Coaches should see their athletics specialist regarding purchases and ordering. Coaches are asked to provide feedback regarding items on the MCPS bid list, including the quality of current items on the list as well as potential new items.