



MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Winter 2021–2022 Season Spectator & Game-Day Guidelines

Updated February 5, 2022

Following are spectator and game-day guidelines and operating procedures for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) high school athletic events. All protocols and procedures will comply with the [Return to R.A.I.S.E.](#) Strategic Plan and will be implemented for the 2021–2022 Winter Season.

Fundamental Points

- 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.
- This plan is for the 2021–2022 Winter Season. The plan will be assessed prior to the 2022 Spring Season and throughout the season, as necessary.
- All stakeholders are reminded to stay home when experiencing any possible [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
- Spectators must wear face coverings/masks indoors at all times.
- 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.
- Additional security resources and personnel will be employed to assist with game administration.
- MCPS will utilize GoFan digital ticketing to the extent possible during the winter season and will be offered for all events.

50% Capacity - Ticketed Spectators

Beginning Saturday, February 5, the number of **ticketed** spectators at contests in MCPS facilities will be increased to **50% of facility capacity**. For swimming and diving meets, attendance will be limited to two spectators per student-athlete, if facilities allow. There are no capacity limitations for outdoor competitions.

GoFan Digital Ticketing

[GoFan](#) is a digital, online ticketing platform for athletic events, which is utilized by MCPS and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA).

- GoFan digital ticketing will be utilized to the extent possible for the winter season and will be offered for all events.
- Tickets will be made available through GoFan digital ticketing at 12:00 noon on game day.

- For games with anticipated larger crowds, tickets will be available to families of participating student-athletes first through a presale (time communicated between the participating schools).
- A maximum of 4 tickets per transaction will be allowed.
- QR codes will be available at the gate for games in which onsite sales are allowed.

Ticket Prices & Admissions

For the winter season, the following adjustments have been made:

- There will be **one ticket price** for MCPS regular season events - **\$5 for all spectators 11 and older** (cash price is \$5/ticket, GoFan price is \$4 plus \$1 convenience fee).
- All children 10 and under will be admitted free, with a paying adult.
- Middle school students must purchase a ticket and be accompanied by a paying adult.
- Senior citizens over the age of 62 are still admitted without charge to all MCPS regular season contests.
- Current and retired MCPS employees (and one guest) are admitted free to regular season contests hosted by MCPS schools, per existing protocols and the availability of space.
- MCPS and MPSSAA passes will be honored for events, per existing protocols and the availability of space.

Concessions

Concessions will operate in compliance with the most current Return to R.A.I.S.E. Plan. Currently, indoor concession stands may open; however, eating and drinking in gymnasiums will not be permitted for spectators, including outside food and beverages.

Media

Media will be allowed at contests per the following guidelines:

- Media must confirm their attendance with the MCPS Public Information Office and host school athletics specialist prior to the contest. Approval from the school principal must be secured during this process. A 24-hour notice is requested.
- School media (newspaper/yearbook) may attend contests, per the approved procedures of the MCPS extracurricular activities program, along with the approval of the sponsor and athletics specialist.
- Schools will designate a viewing location for media that ensures appropriate social distance at all times and does not interfere with the operations of the contest.
- Media must wear masks at all times and maintain social distance protocols.
- Post-game interviews will occur in a designated location and with the approval of the athletics specialist or game administrator onsite. A minimum of six feet of social distance must be maintained at all times, with masks being worn.

Indoor Regular Season Events at MCPS Facilities

In addition to the aforementioned procedures, the following will be implemented:

1. Seating areas and gymnasium capacities should allow for a least six feet of space between spectator seating areas and team benches to the extent possible.
2. Spectators shall exit the facility immediately following the conclusion of the contest. Spectators may not gather outside of the gymnasium and should proceed directly to vehicles.

3. Admission will be charged for basketball and wrestling. Admission will be charged for cheerleading and pompons invitationals, per MCPS and local school procedures.

Countywide and Offsite Events

- MCPS student-athletes, teams, and spectators will comply with the COVID-19 guidelines and operating procedures of the host facility and/or county.
- GoFan will exclusively be used for the MCPS county championship basketball games, county wrestling tournament and pompons championships.
- GoFan will exclusively be used for MPSSAA region and state competition.

MCPS Athletics is excited to welcome back spectators to our events, as we continue with the winter season. We appreciate the collective cooperation of MCPS Sports Nation to ensure a safe and spirited experience for all, consistent with our R.A.I.S.E. core values.

Together, We RAISE!