



MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Update—February 3, 2022

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:

Spectators Increase to 50% Capacity

Beginning Saturday, February 5, the number of **ticketed** spectators at contests in MCPS facilities will increase to **50% of facility capacity**. While capacity restrictions are in place, please note the following:

- 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.
- MCPS and MPSSAA passes, season tickets, and MCPS staff admission will be honored.
- Spectators and school operations will align with the [Winter 2021–22 Spectator and Game-Day Guidelines](#).
- For non-MCPS facilities, operations will comply with the procedures and protocols of the host facility and/or jurisdiction.
- 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.
- Gymnasium events will continue to be streamed through the [NFHS Network](#).

MCPS Pompons Championship Competition

The 2022 MCPS Pompons Championship Competition will be held on Saturday, February 5 at Montgomery Blair High School. More information is available in the [Fan Focus](#). Schools will receive additional tickets to sell in GoFan, due to spectator restrictions being lifted from 25% to 50% capacity.

Wrestling Officials Exemption

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has approved an exemption to allow vaccinated wrestling officials to remove their masks while actively officiating.

Spring Registration

Registration for high spring sports and out-of-season conditioning is 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 exemption, and meet all other eligibility requirements, will be eligible to tryout and participate.

Winter Postseason

The winter postseason continues this week – the schedule is [here](#)! More detailed information regarding postseason events can be found on the [MCPS](#) and [MPSSAA](#) websites. Updates will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Overnight Travel

All overnight travel is cancelled through February 17. Updates will be provided when confirmed.

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.

Registration for middle spring sports (boys' and girls' soccer) will open through ParentVue on Monday, February 7, 2022. The first day of the spring sports season is Tuesday, March 8. 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.

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