

February 17, 2021

Dear RedHawks Student-Athletes and Families,

The last few weeks have brought us quite a few changes since our last newsletter in January. So to attempt to bring you up to speed, here is a quick rundown of what is happening athletically:

- Season 2 Football is up and going. We have opted in for full contact football per the Governor's change to outdoor full-contact sport status that was issued at the end of last week.
- Season 2 Soccer and Cross Country will begin official practice on Monday, February 22.
- Season 2 Volleyball is beginning as well on Monday but is restricted as we have to adhere to the county risk levels for indoor activity (6 athletes for 45 minutes at a time). I will refer to this below.
- For all OSAA Season changes for this school year, go to www.saredhawks.com and click on OSAA Seasons Update. You can also find other information on our website including required forms, athletic handbook, calendar, and so forth.

Although this has been quite an unusual year for our schools, activities, and athletics, all of us are extremely excited to get started! With covid measures in place and our requirement to adhere to them, there are some important topics we need to make sure parents and guardians are aware of for Seasons 2, 3, and 4.

Spectator Access

It is highly unlikely that spectators will be allowed to attend any high school sports competitions this year, regardless of indoor or outdoor venues. This is a difficult thing to hear but we are required to follow the county risk level guidance that the state has put forth in order for us to hold events and keep our students, coaches, and workers safe.

We are currently installing a live-streaming service at the stadium and in the gym that will cover our games through the NFHS Network. Our goal is to have them up and running for first week of competition. There will be more info coming in regards to this.

County Covid Risk Levels

Because GAPS operates in both Linn and Benton counties, we are held to the higher of the two county risk levels (see [Sector Risk Level Guidance Chart](#)). As an example, if Linn is in the high risk category but Benton is in the extreme risk category, we must adhere to the extreme risk category metrics for out-door and in-door activities

Hopefully, the numbers in both counties will continue to decline, but if they do not, there may be restrictions in regards to rescheduling practices and/or competitions.

Important

If a student-athlete is not feeling well, has any potential covid symptoms, or has been potentially exposed to covid, please do not come to practice and communicate with your coach. We just cannot take any chances during this time. We must ensure that everyone is kept safe. A positive exposure to covid could potentially shut down an entire team, which we obviously do not want to have to do. If a student-athlete answers Yes to any of the pre-screening questions, they will be sent home. There is also

guidance that we must adhere to in regards to a student-athlete returning to practice/games after a covid infection overseen by our athletic trainer and staff.

Out-of-Season Moratorium

Beginning February 22 (beginning of Season 2), all out-of-season sports programs will respect a two-week moratorium on any team practices, workouts, and activities to support and encourage multi-sport participation. Out-of-Season programs may resume voluntary activities beginning Monday, March 8 for those student-athletes who are not participating in a Season 2 sport.

Required Items Needed for Athletic Participation (must be completed and turned into athletic office before participation)

1. Athletic Participation Waiver (one for the school year)
2. District Covid Waiver (one for the school year)
3. A current OSAA sports physical (good for 2 years)

If you have any questions on the status of these forms for yourself or son/daughter, please email Amy Fraizer and she can relay that to you: (amy.fraizer@albany.k12.or.us)

All athletic forms are available at www.saredhawks.com or the main office lobby. Please submit all athletic forms to Amy Fraizer, athletic secretary, or Jason Platt, athletic director, in the athletic office.

Participation Fee

Our district is NOT charging a participation fee for athletics this school year. However, there could be costs associated with your particular sport. Please contact your head coach for more information.

Thank You

To close, on behalf of all of us here at South, we want to thank you for your continued patience as we navigate these challenging times together! Our students are amazing and we are thankful to be able to work with each of you and your family. We are proud to call ourselves RedHawks and to be associated with such a great community and group of kids. You make us proud every day.

Go RedHawks!

Jason Platt
Athletic Director
South Albany High School

Questions or need information:

www.saredhawks.com and www.osaa.org

Contact Jason Platt, Athletic Director: jason.platt@albany.k12.or.us
Contact Amy Fraizer, Athletic Secretary: amy.fraizer@albany.k12.or.us

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