



MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Fall Season Update—March 19, 2021

Dear MCPS Community:

Today is opening day! As we officially kick off the fall competition season, we want to thank our COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics, which has been planning since June 2020 to ensure that our program was prepared every step of the way. We are writing to provide key updates that become effective at 5 p.m. today, March 19. Updates are available [here](#) and are summarized below.

Cheerleading and Pompons

- Cheerleading may proceed with stunting and full activities.
- Pompons may proceed with kicklines and full activities.
- Exhibition performance opportunities will be provided for interested schools that wish to receive feedback on routines. More information will be forthcoming.

Football

- Football may proceed to full contact and activities.
- To promote student-athlete safety and ensure students have received appropriate instruction on tackling and fundamentals, games scheduled for March 25-27, will be played in a controlled scrimmage format as follows:
 - During the originally scheduled times, under the lights
 - Game officials/referees will assist in the promotion of safe progression, instruction, and technique
 - Student-athletes will wear full uniforms
 - Coaches of the two schools will coordinate the structure to allow for a differentiated experience based on the current level of progression. This will be communicated and approved by the athletics specialists of both schools.
- The locations for games scheduled for April 9 and 16 have been modified to allow for each school to host a home game following spring break. An updated schedule is available [here](#). Only intrasquad practices and scrimmages are allowed over spring break.

Spectators

Current limitations do not permit spectators to attend contests at this time. This includes the surrounding areas of the stadium; spectators are not permitted to gather and watch through the exterior fence. No spectators are allowed inside the building for volleyball. We encourage parents

and fans to enjoy contests on the NFHS Network. Updates will be provided as gathering limits change.

NFHS Network

Contests in stadiums and main gymnasiums will 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 to view 72 hours after being played. Information regarding programming will be provided by local schools.

Spring Season Update

Student-athletes interested in participating in the spring season are encouraged to get pre-participation physicals now. More information is available on the [MCPS Athletics webpage](#). Registration for spring sports will open in ParentVue on **Monday, March 22**. The spring season begins Saturday, April 17.

R.A.I.S.E. Awareness

We ask that parents/guardians continue to assist with entrance and exit procedures and ensure compliance with COVID-19 protocol and procedures. Student-athletes should also continue to demonstrate a commitment to health and safety protocol and procedures while on campus, at home and in the community. This [public service announcement](#) for students discusses the required commitment to safety to participate in athletics.

Masks must be worn at all times—indoors and outdoors (refer to the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#) for exceptions). Whenever possible, 6 feet of physical distance should be maintained. Student-athletes may remove themselves from activities, if needed, to remove masks and rest. Coaches should schedule breaks during practice to allow student-athletes to rest, hydrate and remove masks while physical distancing.

Communication and Resources

Updates and guidance from the COVID-19 Task Force will continue to be provided on a weekly basis through each school's athletic department and are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage](#). The [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#) provides operating procedures and safety protocol that are being utilized; the latest updates will always be shaded in gray.

We look forward to another successful week of program operations and appreciate the collective commitment to health and safety by the MCPS community. Specific questions should be directed to your school's [athletics specialist \(AD\)](#) or coach.

Montgomery County Public Schools