



MCPS ATHLETICS

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

Fall Season Update—March 17, 2021

Dear MCPS Community:

To begin, we want to thank you for your efforts in successfully implementing the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#), as we prepare to kick-off the competition phase of our operations. The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on the following:

Cheerleading, Football, and Pompons
Gathering Sizes
[Fall Season Competition Guidelines](#)
Spectators
NFHS Network

Cheerleading, Football, and Pompons

As [communicated on Friday, March 12](#), cheerleading, football, and pompons activities have continued at their current levels of operations due to the risk designations outlined in the [Board of Health Regulation](#) passed on March 12 by the County Council.

The County Council will be meeting again on Friday, March 19 to review youth sports and existing guidelines. MCPS Athletics, led by the COVID-19 Task Force, will be prepared to move forward as necessary, pending action taken by the County Council. More information and updates will be provided as appropriate following the meeting, as part of the weekly Return to R.A.I.S.E. communication. We remain committed to providing the greatest possible experience for our student-athletes, consistent with our charge of We CAN, We WILL, We R.A.I.S.E.!

Gathering Sizes

The most recent Montgomery County [Board of Health Regulation](#) states that gathering restrictions are limited to 50 individuals outdoors and 25 indoors; however, as outlined in the regulation, organizations may submit a letter of approval to request that gathering sizes be exceeded. In order to maximize student-athlete participation, MCPS Athletics submitted this letter, which was subsequently approved. Therefore, all sports will be able to compete with their full rosters of student-athletes and coaches.

Fall Season Competition Guidelines

The [Fall Season Competition Guidelines](#) outline the general and sport-specific guidelines that will drive operations during the fall competition season. These guidelines are a supplement to the Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan. Competition opportunities for cheerleading, football, and pompons are contingent on future county guidelines for interscholastic sports; more information and updates will be provided as appropriate.

Spectators

Spectators are not permitted to attend contests at this time, due to gathering limitations per the Board of Health regulation. This includes the surrounding areas of the stadium, meaning that spectators are

not permitted to gather and view through the exterior fence. No spectators are allowed inside the building for volleyball. We appreciate the understanding and support of our communities, as we begin competition and encourage our parents and fans to enjoy contests on the NFHS Network.

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 after 72 hours. Information regarding programming will be provided by local schools.

We need everyone to continue to do their part to promote health and safety and comply with procedures and operations outlined in the [Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan](#). We appreciate the dedication and continued support of our student-athletes, coaches, and communities as we continue to champion our commitment to We CAN, We WILL, We R.A.I.S.E.!

Montgomery County Public Schools