



2020-2021 School Reopening Plan
Addendum to
Appendix 6: Teaching and Learning
Commencement of Higher Risk Sports
Revision February 24, 2021
Revised March 25, 2021

Commencement of High Risk Sports

The New York State Public High School Athletics Association (NYSPHSAA) and Section I have determined districts can commence certain sports considered high-risk for exposure to COVID-19. This determination is based upon orders of Governor Cuomo and guidance from the New York State (NYS) Department of Health. New York State and local County Departments of Health provided guidelines regarding health and safety for student athletes and coaches participation in these sports.

On February 24, 2021, the Yonkers Board of Education adopted *Resolution 11.2 to approve Higher Risk Sports* approving the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Athletics, to offer the following high-risk sports: boys and girls basketball, boys lacrosse, competitive cheerleading, football, volleyball, and wrestling. All eligible Yonkers Public Schools students must adhere to all guidance issued by the NYS and County Departments of Health, NYSPHSAA and Section I.

The Superintendent of Schools and the Director of Athletics will ensure that each student athlete has express permission to participate in these sports from their parent and/or guardian and that such notification contain the inherent risk factors associated with participating in these sports and the potential transmission of COVID-19. Each student athlete will have the District's required medical physical form on file. Any sports offered by Yonkers Public Schools shall be conducted in compliance with New York State's *Master Guidance for Sports and Recreation* and *American Academy of Pediatrics* guidance relative to the wearing of face coverings, unless more stringent protocols are put in place by the District or the County Department of Health.

Players and coaches will adhere to the District's procedures for COVID-19 monitoring and tracking, including:

- **Interscholastic Student Athlete COVID-19 Pre-Practice Screening Checklist** required to be completed daily regarding COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposure aligned to the YPS Attestation Form requirements, and
- **Voluntary COVID-19 Screening Test.**

The physical form obtained and submitted by student athletes will comply with the guidelines outlined by NYSED and will suffice, unless said athlete(s) had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis subsequent to that physical. In such instances, student athletes are required to have an in-person medical evaluation and clearance by a doctor, prior to participation in interscholastic athletics.

The Board of Education authorized the Superintendent of Schools to take any additional action he deems necessary and appropriate to ensure that such sports are implemented in a safe manner consistent with all guidelines provided by the state and the county. Board of Education Chief School Physician Dr. Ammir Rabadi is the COVID-19 Athletic Coordinator. In this capacity, Dr. Rabadi works with the Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics to implement a voluntary, weekly, COVID-19 testing protocol for student athletes and coaches.

Should there be a positive COVID-19 diagnosis among student athletes or coaches, all health and safety guidelines in the District's *2020-2021 School Reopening Plan* as well as CDC, State and County Health Department COVID19 Contact Tracing protocols will be followed. These include and are not limited to:

- Appendix 1 Health and Safety
- Appendix 2: Facilities.

All sports offered by the District shall be suspended should the District move from Hybrid Instruction to Online Remote Instruction due to COVID-19.

District Sports Facilities

All District sports facilities will adhere to the relevant guidelines in the District's Plan's Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. On March 4, 2021, the Westchester Department of Health provided new guidance for spectators at high school sports:

- Limiting spectators to two spectators per player, and
- All spectators must comply with District COVID-19 protocols for 6-foot social distancing, wearing a face covering, health screening and contact tracing.

As of this date, the District protocol for spectators at competitions/games are as follows:

- **As of March 25, 2021, spectators are ONLY allowed at outdoor sports.**
- ONLY Two (2) parents/guardians per player will be allowed
 - Only parents/guardians, NO SIBLINGS will be allowed
- Two days PRIOR to the competition/game, parents/guardians must notify the team's coach of their intent to attend the competition/game
- Two days PRIOR to the competition/game, the team coach must provide the list of parents/guardians attendees to the school principal, administrator game manager and the Director of School Safety and Security.

In addition: At Football Games ONLY

- FULLY VACCINATED members of the Yonkers Police and Fire Departments may attend competitions/games

This determination is subject to be reevaluated by the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.