

Great Falls Public Schools has long supported our students' physical and mental growth and development through our athletic and extra-curricular offerings. The individual and team development that is promoted by our coaches and programs is a vital part of the overall experience we provide for young people in our school system. It is our strong belief that participation in athletics and other extra-curricular programs enhances our student-athletes physical, social, and mental-emotional well-being. The Montana High School Association has released guidance for conducting Spring Activities during this time of the pandemic. The choice to participate in extra-curricular activities/athletics remains strictly voluntary. While schools remain open and are offering instruction to students, the Great Falls Public Schools Athletic Department is committed to taking measures to mitigate the risk of participation to the degree that is possible and feasible.

During this time of the COVID-19 outbreak, we recognize the need to put extra-curricular activities in the proper perspective. Further, as we have throughout the length of the outbreak, we will continue to solicit and adhere to the directives and recommendations put forth by our local County Health Department, Board of Trustees, Superintendent of Schools and Governor. Given the MHSA's decision to offer opportunities for fall athletes, we are issuing the following proposal for the management of events/competitions hosted by GFPS in local facilities.

Under the terms of the Governor's directives, the "sponsor" of an event is responsible for ensuring compliance with applicable requirements issued by the Governor or the local Health Officer, including but not limited to the use of masks and the maintenance of appropriate physical social distancing throughout the entirety of the event. For purposes of athletic events and activities, the School District of the home team is deemed to be the sponsor of the activity and is therefore responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements for all in attendance, including both the home team and the visiting team. It is therefore incumbent upon the District of the home team to ensure that visiting teams from outside of Cascade County are aware of the terms of this plan and provide an indication that they will comply with them, prior to the activity or event. The aim of this plan is to mitigate and manage the range of risks associated with school sports and activities, while acknowledging that there likely be cases of Covid-19 associated with these activities. We acknowledge that some school districts/counties may have policies that are more or less restrictive than these guidelines.

**General Guidelines for Contests/Games/Athletic Events:**

1. All individuals connected to the event must understand that attendance and/or participation in the event poses a risk related to the Covid-19 virus. Those working and/or participating understand said risk and choose to be involved under their own free will. Signs will be posted at facilities as a reminder that anyone experiencing Covid related symptoms should not enter the facility.
2. Signage related to the Covid-19 virus will be posted in all facilities whenever possible.
3. Hand sanitizing stations will be made available in all facilities.
4. All participants/spectators/game personnel will wear a mask/face covering when appropriate social distancing is not possible. Family groups are allowed to sit together. Players participating in the contest will not be required to mask at times when they are actively involved in competition or immediately recovering.
5. When a public address is available, announcements will be made throughout the contest reminding patrons of Covid procedures including masking when maintaining social distancing is not possible.
6. All teams/players, coaches, event workers and support personnel, and spectators are expected to follow MHSA's guidelines for masking and social distancing when applicable throughout the duration of the contest.

**Transportation/Overnight Trips:**

1. The AA conference and GFPS has altered schedules to eliminate the need for overnight stays. At this point there will be no regular season events that require teams to stay overnight. We do expect there will be post season events that do require overnight stays.
2. When traveling on a bus, GFPS athletic programs will strictly adhere to the following procedures:
  - a. Occupancy is limited to the number of available bus seats.
  - b. Coaches will be required to fill out a seating chart upon loading of the bus specific to that particular bus. Seating charts should be kept by the coach for potential contact tracing.
  - c. Occupants will load the bus from back to front and exit the bus from front to back.
  - d. All occupants will "gel in" with hand sanitizer prior to getting on the bus each time.
  - e. All occupants will mask for the duration of the time on the bus.
  - f. Coaches will have a plan for meals that can be consumed outside/prior to getting on the bus.
  - g. Bus will be sanitized upon exit and before departure.
  - h. Parents can have their athletes travel with them as long as proper paper work is filed prior. Do not have more kids on the travel roster than what can be held in the facility or participate in the event/competition.

**Spectators:**

1. At this point in time, GFPS will not limit the number of spectators, or require a "screening in" process. We will, however, ask that those in attendance maintain appropriate social distancing throughout the duration of the event and use a mask or face covering when social distancing is not possible.

**Concessions:**

1. Concessions will not be offered at any district facility until further notice.

**Event Workers:**

1. All event workers will follow established masking procedures when social distance cannot be maintained.
2. Only workers deemed essential for the management of the event/contest will be utilized.
3. Event workers will maintain a social distance of 6 feet at all times.
4. Hand sanitizer will be provided for event workers.

**Media:**

1. At this point in time, there will be no limits on media with the exception that media members should be respectful of social distancing and masking measures on the field of play.

**Specific Facility Management Plans:**

**Memorial Stadium (track and field)**

1. All participants will adhere to MHSAA guidelines related to Covid related changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, spectators, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. All individuals involved in the meet will maintain appropriate social distancing in the event areas and will be remain masked unless involvement in the contest is immediate.
4. Spectators viewing events held in the stadium will be required to sit in the grandstand area. The stadium floor will be limited to athletes, coaches and event workers. Spectators viewing events held in the field area will be asked to socially distance outside of the throwing sectors and wear a mask/face covering when they cannot maintain appropriate social distance from athletes or other patrons.

### **Tennis courts (CMR, Hurd, MLCC)**

1. All participants will adhere to MHSA guidelines related to Covid related changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, spectators, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. All individuals involved in the meet will maintain appropriate social distancing in the event areas and will be remain masked unless involvement in the contest is immediate.
4. Spectators viewing matches will be required to sit outside of the fence. Courts will be limited to athletes, coaches and event workers. All spectators will be asked to socially distance and wear a mask/face covering when they cannot maintain appropriate social distance from athletes or other patrons.
5. Matches held at MLCC are subject to club rules regarding Covid protocols.

### **Multi-Sports Complex (softball)**

1. All participants will adhere to MHSA guidelines related to Covid related changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, spectators, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. All individuals involved in the meet will maintain appropriate social distancing in the event areas and will be remain masked unless involvement in the contest is immediate.
4. Spectators viewing events held at the complex should utilize areas behind their dugout and along their team's baseline for seating. As per the MHSA, the area directly behind the backstop and home plate should be avoided by spectators. Spectators viewing games will be asked to wear a mask/face covering when they cannot maintain appropriate social distance from athletes or other patrons.

The event plan/procedures listed above are the collaborative effort of GFPS Administration, the Athletic Department and the Cascade County Health Department. All entities understand that the Covid outbreak presents unique and fluid challenges of a dynamic nature. Collectively, we will review and evaluate the plan periodically and make necessary adjustments. All information is subject to change and may do so under short notice. We will make every attempt to ensure that all changes and necessary information is communicated to all parties to the best of our ability.