

To: Penns Grove High School Opponents

From: Anwar Golden, Athletic Director

Date: September 24, 2020

Subject: Temporary Protocol and Game Procedure Changes Due to COVID-19

In an effort to follow the regulations and protocols set forth by the NJSIAA and TCC and to maintain the health and safety of our athletes, staff members, and spectators, the following changes will be put into effect regarding athletic competition. All changes are temporary and specific to the current extenuating circumstances. Updates may be made, as necessary.

ALL SPORTS:

• **Water**

- Shared team water bottles will no longer be used.
- Student athletes will be responsible for providing their own water bottles. 64oz of water is recommended for each athlete.
- Coolers and cups will no longer be provided to each team for practices. Should an athlete run out of water, the coach will call the athletic trainer and more water will be brought to practice for refills when possible
- During football games, water bottle will be used, but players will not touch any water source. It will be handled by our athletic training team.

• **Masks and Social Distancing**

- Any athlete on the sidelines or not currently competing must practice social distancing and wear a mask. No exceptions will be made.
- Coaches and event staff must always practice social distancing and wear a mask.
- The scorers' table must maintain social distancing. The home team gets priority and the visiting team scorers may need to sit with their team to maintain social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer must be provided by the home team at the scorers' tables.
- A new mask can be provided to athletes, coaches, or staff if need be.

• **Game day protocols:**

- Team handshakes before or after games are suspended.
- Pregame conferences will include one official, and one head coach and one captain from each team.
 - Pregame conferences will be conducted at midfield if applicable.
 - All spectators will be expected to wear a mask and maintain a social distance. There will be signage posted as they enter the athletic facilities.
 - Failure to abide by the protocols will result in immediate removal from the venue.

- **Transportation**
 - The maximum capacity of each bus is 22 people in addition to the bus driver.
 - This includes:
 - A minimum of 1 coach
 - Playing team members
 - Non-playing team members and managers
 - Only if seats are available
 - The head coach is responsible for ensuring that all team members traveling have been screened and approved before the bus leaves.
 - Anyone that has not been screened and approved is not allowed to play, coach, or be on the sidelines.
 - In the rare occurrence that a student athlete must use another form of transportation, other than the school provided bus, it is the head coach's responsibility to ensure that the athlete is screened upon arrival.
- **Temperature Screenings and Clearance**
 - Penns Grove High School staff is responsible for screening Penns Grove High School athletes before home and away competitions.
 - Penns Grove High School staff may choose to screen the visiting team, should personal be available to do so.
 - If an athlete is traveling with their parents to an away game, they must still have their temperature screened and be cleared.
 - The home team is responsible for screening all officials and event staff.
 - The visiting team is responsible for screening any individual associated with their program.
- **If there is inclement weather:**
 - The visiting team will return to their bus.
 - If the bus is not available, the home team must provide them shelter.
 - The visiting team must alert the home team upon arrival that their bus will not be staying for the game so that the home team can prepare a location.
 - The Penns Grove High School indoor athletic facilities may be utilized on an “as needed basis” and specific locations will be determined by the athletic director.

FOOTBALL:

- **Managing Players and Coaches**
 - Home games
 - Players box:
 - The sideline players box will span the 10-yard lines (80 yards total). Athletes will be expected to maintain social distancing and wear a mask while on the sidelines.
 - The visiting team side will be required to maintain the same expectations.

- A “locker room” area will be designated outside so that no athletes, coaches, officials, or visiting teams will be utilizing our indoor facilities. Tents will be provided for both home and away teams.
- Both teams will be assigned a designated area for before the game and at halftime.
- Additional Porta Potties will be set up in these designated areas for both teams.
- The home team will enter the stadium from the side entrance by the Boys Locker Room. The visiting team will enter the stadium from the rear of the concession stand and will use the track saver mat to access the field.
- Referees will utilize a designated area under a pop-up tent for before the game and halftime.
- Away Games:
 - A list of all traveling members of Penns Grove High School will be provided to the hosting team’s athletic director.
 - Penns Grove High School athletes will maintain a social distance and wear masks while standing on the sideline. If the hosting team has set any distancing guidelines, the athletes and coaches will utilize what is available.
 - Players will utilize their personal water bottles during the game.
- **Managing Spectators**
 - Ticketing
 - The week prior to the game, 280 tickets will be distributed.
 - Tickets will be distributed at the beginning of the week to all Penns Grove High School football players, cheerleaders, members of band, and coaches for all games.
 - No additional tickets will be provided or purchased at any time. Lost tickets will not be replaced.
 - There will be no exchange of money at the ticket gate.
 - Tickets must be presented to enter Penns Grove High School grounds.
 - There will be no re-admittance to the stadium. (i.e. a spectator cannot leave the stadium and come back once their ticket has been scanned)
 - The visiting team will be provided with up to 170 tickets for the away bleachers only.
 - Tickets will be given to the athletic director of the visiting school ahead of time. They will be responsible for distributing tickets to their team and making parents aware that no one will be admitted into our stadium without a ticket.
 - The visiting team will provide the hosting team with a list of all traveling field personnel (athletes, coaches, managers, administration, medical staff, and cheerleaders).

- Anyone not named on this list will not be granted field access.
- Entrance and exit
 - One gate will be used for entering the stadium and one will be used for exiting the stadium.
 - Football game security staff will monitor the bleachers and fence to ensure social distancing and wearing of masks.
- Concession Stand and Bathrooms
 - Concession stands will be closed during all football games
 - All indoor bathrooms are closed, and porta-potties will be provided.

CHEERLEADING

- The cheerleading team may be attending away football events per the approval of the home team athletic director.
- Stunting or any maneuvers that break social distancing rules will not be allowed. Athletes must always wear a mask.

FIELD HOCKEY, SOCCER AND TENNIS

- Spectator bleachers have been removed to stop spectators from congregating. Spectators will be required to socially distance and must always wear a mask. Security guards will oversee monitoring spectator compliance.
- See the NJSIAA website for more information on post season and COVID-19 regulations.
- For Tennis, each school should bring their own tennis balls and mark them to identify as yours.
 - Each school should only serve with their schools' balls.
 - Proceed with play, making sure to pick up your set of numbered balls only.
 - Should a ball with the other number wind up on your side of the court, do not touch the ball with your hands. Use your racquet head or feet to advance the ball to the other side of the court.
 - Regular season challenge match forms are not required.

CROSS COUNTRY

- A copy of the NJSIAA regulations and rule modifications must be provided at every competition.
- Finish line sticks or paper will need to be provided separately for both boys and girls finishers.
- These should not be shared and should be disposed of after each finish.
- A maximum of 7 runners from each school may compete in each race.
- It is recommended that starters be lined up on spots spaced out 6ft apart in lines of 7 for home events.
 - It is recommended that home courses should be at least 6ft wide at its narrowest point.

- See the NJSIAA website for more information on tournament, championship, and COVID-19 regulations.