

Athletics Safety Plan

Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

Ensuring safe and spirited athletic and school events is a priority for MCPS Systemwide Athletics. Promoting R.A.I.S.E values and implementing additional supports will be a focus going forward to keep athletic events safe for all participants. Decisions about additional strategies will be made using an equity lens and prioritize safety while encouraging the positive outcomes and engagement that football games bring to the school and community.

TIER 1

Tier 1 - Immediate actions starting Sept. 23

- » Students of the participating schools will be allowed to attend with a valid ticket and by presenting their student ID or Synergy verification of their schedule. All other school-aged spectators must be accompanied by an adult chaperone - this includes all elementary and middle school students and high school students from other schools - *adult chaperones must stay and supervise students for the duration of their stay at the game.*
- » Spectators should expect to take additional time to gain entrance to events, as school IDs and enrollment are verified at the gate.
- » Students and spectators must sit in the stands during the course of the game. While there will be potential gatherings at halftime and postgame, large gatherings will not be allowed during the game.
- » There is no re-entry to events. Spectators will not be admitted after halftime.
- » Backpacks are not allowed.
- » Separate entrances, staggered exits, and additional support and security coverage in high traffic areas will be utilized.
- » Inappropriate and unruly behavior at athletic events may result in suspension from subsequent MCPS athletic activities.
- » Only student-athletes, coaches, game officials, athletic department staff, and credentialed personnel and media are permitted on the sidelines at contests.

TIER 2

Tier 2 Actions

- » Only students of the home school, with ID or Synergy schedule, will be allowed to attend, along with the families of student-athletes and participants (football team, pompons, cheerleaders, marching band).
- » Further spectator capacity limitations may be imposed to assist with event management, including limiting the number of attendees to a percentage capacity
- » Teams that engage in brawls or severe, inappropriate behaviors may be excluded from postseason competition or suspended for multiple contests.
- » Game times/dates may be altered to provide more daylight and assist with event management. Games may be moved to the afternoon hours, Thursday evening, or Saturday, pending availability of officials, security, and police.
- » Potential scheduling adjustments may be implemented, per the following:
 - » Thursday night - moving up to 3 games to Thursday night, based on stadium availability (not impacting other sports from an equity perspective)
 - » Friday afternoon - 3:30 games are extremely difficult for officials. 5:00 is difficult for transportation. Visiting schools would need to take 1:35 buses, arrive at the destination, and be in a supervised location until game warm-ups (approximately 2 hours of time). Moving 3 games to 3:30, while swapping with previously scheduled JV or adjusting the JV schedule
 - » Saturday morning/afternoon - police would have challenges with covering games

TIER 3

Tier 3

- » Concession stands may be closed.
- » Only families of student-athletes and participants (football team, pompons, cheerleaders, marching band) may attend.
- » Further spectator capacity limitations may be imposed to assist with event management, including limiting the number of attendees to a percentage capacity.
- » In extreme circumstances, no spectators may be allowed.

Decision Guidelines

Future decisions regarding additional actions or implementation of Tier 2 and Tier 3, including spectator capacity limitations and game time/date adjustments, will be made using the following criteria:

- » Level of anticipated spectator attendance
- » Historical rivalries between schools
- » Historical occurrence of incidents, including this year and previous years
- » Facility layout, including lighting, spectator seating, and parking lot layout
- » Incidents in the community that may impact school and athletic event operations, which are communicated through a collaborative process with police partners