**Mobile County Public Schools**

**2021 Spring Sports**

**Guidelines and General Information**

1. Seating should be at 20% capacity to allow for meeting social distancing guidelines. Seats in the bleachers will be marked, allowing four (4) spectators to sit together. A space of six (6) feet will be marked as a "no seating" area directly next to each of the four (4) seats. One (1) row will be designated as a "no seating" area between all groups of four (4) seats. Each group of four (4) seats will be "staggered" from one row of seating to the next to provide the greatest distance between spectators but still allow for adequate total seating. As soon as the bleachers are marked, each school will have the exact number of useable seats. Once you have the precise number of useable seats, subtract the tickets available for the visiting team. This total will give you the final number of available seats for pre-sale. These seating guidelines should be followed at all MCPSS spring sports events.
2. Tickets will be **purchased online** based on the number of available seats, as described in #1.  **Ticket prices will be $7 for varsity games and $6 for junior varsity games.**  Tickets will be sold utilizing the "Go Fan" app.  **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE GAME. NO TICKET, NO ENTRY.**Visiting teams should receive their allotment of tickets per game for pre-sale if needed.

* Tickets should be prioritized for parents and family members of the home team before the general pre-sale begins.
* Varsity tickets will be sold on Go Fan for $7 per ticket at checkout, and the school will clear $6 per ticket. JV tickets will be sold on Go Fan for $6 per ticket at checkout, and the school will earn $5 per ticket.
* If three (3) or more games are being played, you can pre-sale tickets on GoFan for $10 per ticket at checkout. Please understand capacity limits and review the AHSAA best practices below regarding multiple games in 1 day.

1. The host school must communicate with the officials and/or umpires before the contest. The following accommodations must be provided for officials:

* Officials will be paid through Dragonfly.
* Each school must pay the administrative fee to the officials and/or umpires association if needed.
* Officials and/or umpires will be provided an area to enter and exit the facilities.
* Officials must be provided with a dressing and meeting area that has been sanitized, contains hand sanitizer, and provides appropriate social distancing spacing.

1. All spectators will be required to have a mask and will be required to wear the mask at all times.  **NO MASK, NO ENTRY.**
2. **Any time multiple games are played on the same day by different teams, all shared equipment, team benches, and locker rooms should be cleaned. This process could require more time between games than usual.**
3. All pregame and postgame physical contact must be avoided, and the Postgame sportsmanship should occur without handshakes.
4. The locker room should be large enough to maintain social distancing requirements, and masks must be worn in the locker rooms.
5. Locker rooms must be cleaned before a new team enters. Locker rooms should be cleaned as the team exits to start the game, after halftime, and after the team departs.
6. Schools should avoid using the same locker room for a different team on the same day unless it can be sanitized between usage.
7. Team benches must be extended or modified to accommodate social distancing. Benches must be cleaned and sanitized between games. Masks must be worn by players on the team bench when not actively participating in the game.
8. No concessions until further notice.
9. ALL MCPSS COVID 19 guidelines and procedures MUST be adhered to at all times.

**The remainder of the document outlines the AHSAA’s Return to Play Spring Sports 2021 Best Practices released on January 20, 2021.**

**Baseball Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. Attendance will be determined after each school marks their seating on the bleachers for social distancing. Seating should be marked just like the gym and football bleachers.
    2. It is recommended that spectators be allowed to bring personal chairs in order to socially distance from others.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Contest Management
    1. Umpires will meet with head coaches only. The coaches should stay outside the batter’s box keeping 6ft of distance.
    2. Mask is required at all pre-game meetings with officials, in coaching boxes, and during any time-out conferences with players.
    3. Players should not leave the dugout area to congratulate a runner that scores.
    4. Players and coaches should refrain from spitting sunflower seeds or gum.
    5. Players should provide personal water containers.
  + Equipment
    1. Plastic shields covering the entire face **(unless integrated into the face mask and attached to a helmet)** shall not be allowed during contests.
    2. Facial coverings must be of one color, not distracting, and no designs. Pitchers cannot wear optic yellow cloth facial coverings.
    3. The game ball should be cleaned and placed at pitcher’s mound prior to the start of the game and between innings.
    4. Teams may opt to furnish their own game balls to prevent crossover contact.
    5. Game balls should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
    6. It is recommended that players do not share helmets, bats, drying towels, or catcher’s equipment if possible.
  + Postgame Meetings
    1. Sportsmanship meetings should take place without handshakes.
  + Regular Season Contests
    1. Due to ADPH and CDC sanitization guidelines and limited officials available, the maximum number of games played on the same date and in the same gymnasium should be limited.
  + Area Contests
    1. Regular season area contests should be played as early as possible. but no later than April 17 for 1A-6A and April 24 for 7A.
    2. If a scheduled area game is cancelled, the original contest is entered in DragonFly as a forfeit. When and if the game is rescheduled and played, the score is entered for that contest, and the original forfeited game is removed from the schedule. Area contests should be played if at all possible and take precedent over non-area contests. Forfeitures will be calculated for final area standings.
  + Tournaments
    1. The number of teams should be limited unless multiple facilities are used.
    2. Entrances and exits should be different for spectators and participants.
    3. Round-robin format is encouraged to avoid crossover of fields and to keep teams from waiting around to play.
    4. Large gatherings under tents (Also known as tent cities or communities) should be discouraged.
  + Team Dugouts
    1. Team dugouts/benches will need to be extended or modified to accommodate social distancing.
    2. Team benches should be cleaned and sanitized between games.
    3. Create space between the dugout and spectator seating. No spectators should be seated or standing within 6 feet of dugout.
    4. Players, coaches, managers, etc. on team bench should wear facial coverings when not actively participating in the contest.
    5. Dugouts should be limited to individuals essential to playing the contest.
    6. Assistant coaches, bookkeeper, statistician, trainer, photographers, etc. should be outside the dugout if social distancing cannot be maintained.
    7. Team rosters may need to be reduced to maintain social distancing in the dugout.
  + Press box
    1. The scorer’s table/box should be limited to essential personnel with a recommended distance of six feet between individuals. The number allowed is determined by the space available in the box. **Mask will be required.**

**Softball Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. Attendance will be determined after each school marks their seating on the bleachers for social distancing. Seating should be marked just like the gym and football bleachers.
    2. It is recommended that spectators be allowed to bring personal chairs in order to socially distance from others.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, a mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Contest Management
    1. Any time multiple contests are played on the same day, dugouts and benches should be cleaned and disinfected between games. This process may require more time between games.
    2. For pregame meetings, umpires will meet with head coaches only. To ensure physical distance is maintained, coaches should stay outside the width of the batter’s box at home plate, maintaining 6 feet of distance between each person.  
       Coaches should wear facial coverings during pre-game meetings, when within coaching boxes, and during time-out conferences with players. Pregame handshakes between officials, coaches, and players should be avoided.
    3. Players shall not enter the field beyond dugout area to congratulate a runner that scores. Players and coaches should refrain from spitting sunflower seeds or gum in the dugout or on the field of play.
    4. Players should provide personal water containers.
  + Equipment
    1. Plastic shields covering the entire face **(unless integrated into the face mask and attached to a helmet)** shall not be allowed during contests.
    2. Facial coverings must be of one color, not distracting, and no designs. Pitchers cannot wear optic yellow cloth facial coverings.
    3. The game ball should be cleaned and placed at pitcher’s mound prior to the start of the game and between innings.
    4. Teams may opt to furnish their own game balls to prevent crossover contact.
    5. Game balls should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
    6. It is recommended that players do not share helmets, bats, drying towels, or catcher’s equipment if possible.
  + Postgame Meetings
    1. Postgame sportsmanship meetings should take place without handshakes.
    2. Teams shall not gather at the pitcher’s circle for postgame celebrations.
  + Regular Season Contests
    1. Due to ADPH and CDC sanitization guidelines and limited officials available, the maximum number of games played on the same date should be limited.
  + Area Contests
    1. Regular season area contests should be played as early as possible and no later than April 24, 2021.
    2. If a scheduled area game is canceled, the original contest is entered in DragonFly as a forfeit. When and if the game is rescheduled and played, the score is entered for that contest, and the original forfeited game is removed from the schedule. Area contests should be played if at all possible and take precedent over non-area contests.
    3. Forfeitures will be calculated for final area standings.
  + Tournaments
    1. Number of teams should be limited unless multiple facilities are used.
    2. A round-robin format is encouraged to eliminate teams from having to remain throughout the day/night to play.
    3. Tournament contests should be played in sessions to clear venues between sessions to maintain social distancing.
    4. Entrances and exits should be different for spectators and participants.
    5. Large gatherings under tents (also known as tent cities or communities) should be discouraged.
  + Team Dugouts
    1. Team dugouts/benches will need to be extended or modified to accommodate social distancing.
    2. Dugouts should be limited to individuals essential to playing the contest.
    3. Assistant coaches, bookkeeper, statistician, trainer, photographers, etc. should be outside the dugout if social distancing cannot be maintained.
    4. Team rosters may need to be reduced to maintain social distancing in the dugout.
    5. Players and coaches not actively participating in the contest should wear facial coverings inside the dugout at all times.
    6. Batter on deck should retrieve previous batter’s bat to eliminate other players from entering the playing field.
    7. Team dugouts and benches should be cleaned and sanitized between games.
    8. Create space between the team dugouts and spectator seating. No spectators should be seated or standing within 6 feet of dugout.
  + Press box
    1. The scorer’s table/box should be limited to essential personnel with a recommended distance of six feet between individuals. The number allowed is determined by the space available in the box. **Mask will be required.**

**Golf Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. The number of participants and spectators will be determined by the local courses and should be in accordance with the minimum requirements of the state health order. Mask are required and should be worn if not participating in the event.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Event Management
    1. Schools should become knowledgeable of individual course guidelines, restrictions, and requirements BEFORE playing a course.
    2. All players will wear masks or gaiters before practice/matches while putting, chipping, or moving about the practice area, etc.
    3. As normal golf etiquette and play-no sharing of any equipment will be allowed. Each player should carry hand sanitizer in their bags.
    4. All players will wear mask or gaiter while playing the round but can remove facial covering while playing their shot or walking on course when they are 6ft or more from other players in their group. This should be through the green on each hole.
    5. It is the coaches’ responsibility to have their players educated on the process of social distancing in golf. This process should be used during practice as well.
    6. While teeing off, players need to stay distanced. This should be the same practice on each green.
    7. All groups will be threesomes.
    8. Scorecards – Options to keep the score card process safer.
    9. Score cards will be issued to each player and each player will keep the whole group’s score on each hole. Cards can be compared at scorer’s table.
    10. Each player has their own card with name, school name, etc. and the starter hands out the scorecards, giving the players an opponent’s card to keep score (This option keeps players from handling two different cards) then when round is complete, the scorer handles the cards without players touching. Handing cards to players for checking hole by hole score.
    11. Use score cards as we always have, but players must handle with gloves while switching with opponents and handling in scoring tent. Most players wear a glove during play, if not they can use while switching.
    12. The process of final scoring must be used in a way that social distancing is kept. Recommendations include, but are not limited to, scoring table is larger than usual with 3 chairs and scorer 6ft away from each other; each player will have to examine each scoring card; masks must be worn during scoring; coaches should have their team not standing together around other teams while waiting for completion of scoring.
    13. Tournament play- social distancing protocol should be established by each tournament director/coordinator and sent to team participants one week before said tournament. Teams will be led by their coaches to make sure all protocols are followed.
  + Postgame Meetings
    1. Sportsmanship meetings should take place without handshakes.

**Soccer Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. Attendance will be determined after each school marks their seating on the bleachers for social distancing. Seating should be marked just like the gym and football bleachers.
    2. It is recommended that spectators be allowed to bring personal chairs in order to socially distance from others.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, a mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Contest Management
    1. Any time multiple contests are played on the same day, team benches should be cleaned and disinfected between games. This process may require more time between games.
    2. For pregame meetings, separate meetings should be held for coaches and team captains.
    3. Officials will meet with head coaches first, then meet with team captains. Each school is allowed one coach and one captain in pregame meetings.
    4. To ensure physical distance is maintained, the pregame meetings with officials will take place around midfield.
    5. All pregame handshakes between officials and players should be avoided.
  + Equipment
    1. The game ball should be cleaned and placed at midfield prior to the start of the game.
    2. Game balls should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
  + Postgame Meetings
    1. Sportsmanship meetings should take place without handshakes.
  + Regular Season Contests
    1. Due to ADPH and CDC sanitization guidelines and limited officials available, the maximum number of games played on the same date should be limited.
  + Area Contests
    1. Regular season area contests should be played as early as possible but no later than April 19, 2021.
    2. If a scheduled area game is canceled because a team cannot play on that date, the original contest is entered in DragonFly as a forfeit. When and if the game is rescheduled and played, the score is entered for that contest, and the original forfeited game is removed from the schedule. Area contests should be played if at all possible and take precedent over non-area contests.
    3. Forfeitures will be calculated for final area standings.
  + Tournaments
    1. The number of teams should be limited unless multiple facilities are used.
    2. Entrances and exits should be different for spectators and participants.
  + Team Benches
    1. Team benches will need to be extended or modified to accommodate social distancing. Benches may be extended to the edge of the penalty box in order to maintain physical distance between players.
    2. Team benches should be cleaned and sanitized between games.  
       Create space between the team benches and spectator seating or place team benches opposite spectator seating.
    3. Players, coaches, managers, etc. on team bench should wear facial coverings when not actively participating in the contest.
    4. Substitutions should be made closer to center line except for injuries or cautions (when they can sub from the bench). In order to maintain social distance, fields should have a designated an area for each team’s subs to stand near midfield, but 6 feet from the other designated area so as to not intermingle the teams.

**Tennis Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. Attendance will be determined after each school marks their seating on the bleachers for social distancing. Seating should be marked just like the gym and football bleachers.
    2. It is recommended that spectators be allowed to bring personal chairs in order to socially distance from others.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, a mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Contest Management
    1. For pre-match meetings, the host coach will have a welcome meeting with each team being on the court on their established home and visitor side of the net (appropriately social distanced). During this meeting, the following topics should be covered in addition to usual information that is shared at this meeting.
    2. Home and Visitor benches will remain constant throughout all matches. Only home players will sit on or touch the bench on the home side and visiting players will sit on or touch the bench on the visitor side.
    3. Social distancing should be maintained, and masks worn during pre-match meetings.
    4. All pregame handshakes between officials and players should be avoided.  
       Players may offer an acknowledgment such as a nod, a thumbs up or a “good match” or a racquet tap instead of shaking hands.
    5. Benches should be at least 6 ft apart
    6. Any time multiple matches are played on the same day, player benches should be cleaned and disinfected between matches. This process may require more time between matches.
    7. The visiting team could always get the choice of serve or side, so there is no need for a racket spin or if coaches choose to use the spin social distancing must be maintained.
    8. Establish a home and visitor side of the net to remain constant throughout the entire match. Only home players would sit on or touch the bench on the home side and the same for the visitor side. Benches should be at least 6ft apart.
    9. Players shall stay on their side of the court and at least 3 feet from the net when introducing themselves, for the racket spin (if used) and for discussion between players during the match.
    10. Players will change only his/her score and will not touch the opponent’s score.
    11. Players should not hand balls to each other.
    12. When changing sides/crossovers, players will change sides of the net at opposite ends.
    13. Hand sanitizer should be available for players to use at the cross overs.
    14. Players should bring their own personal water containers, towels, and any other personal items they may need and store those items in their tennis bag when not in use.
    15. Coaches shall wear facial covering that covers both nose and mouth when coaching players at the fence.
    16. At the conclusion of the match, players may meet at the net 6 ft apart and extend rackets over the net and tap them.
  + Tournaments
    1. All communication should be done digitally (text or email) or with a public address system.
    2. Players should not gather in groups waiting to be called to a court or to turn in their score. Text/email the coach and the player to call them to the court. Scores could also be reported in the same manner.
    3. Limit the number of teams or make sure venues provide enough space to allow social distancing for the number of teams in the tournament.
    4. Team tents that allow multiple individuals different households to gather should be discouraged.

**Outdoor Track Best Practices**

* + Attendance
    1. Attendance will be determined after each school marks their seating on the bleachers for social distancing. Seating should be marked just like the gym and football bleachers.
    2. It is recommended that spectators be allowed to bring personal chairs in order to socially distance from others.
  + Mask
    1. No mask, no entry policy for all of our venues. In compliance with the current health order, a mask should be worn at all times unless participating in the event.
  + Event Management
    1. Utilize NFHS considerations to best handle the meets you are hosting according to the size/capacity of stadium/complex.
    2. Schools should make a judgement call on the number of schools and athletes that participate in the Meet. Not all venues are the same; some have very limited space, while others may be able to accommodate a much larger group.
    3. Host schools can mark off sections in the bleachers or fields to keep schools/teams away from one another.
    4. Teams hosting events can have athletes from the same school throw or jump in a row to eliminate cross contamination with other athletes. Once all athletes from that school are finished with their events, they will leave the facility.
    5. Create spacing in the clerk area at check-in to maintain social distancing.
    6. Space heats out around the track to maintain social distancing.
    7. Limit number of teams and/or number of entrants to keep the flow of the meet from bogging down.
    8. Athletes and coaches not actively participating in an event should be separated from the spectators.
    9. Athletes not actively participating in an event should wear facial coverings.
    10. Field access should be limited to essential personnel only. This would include “active” participants, officials and meet personnel.
    11. Coaching boxes should be limited to one coach per school per box.
    12. When possible, athletes should warm-up outside the field.
    13. Athletes should wear a facial covering until they have moved into their lane for the competition or it is their turn for a field event. Immediately upon completion of their race or event, the facial covering should be placed back on the athlete.
    14. When possible, once an athlete has finished his or her events for the day, he or she should exit the facility for the day.
    15. All athletes and coaches should have their own labeled beverage container as there should be no shared water coolers or containers.
    16. Hand sanitizer should be available throughout the facility and used by all athletes before and after touching the starting blocks.
  + General Considerations

*(SP-shot put; DT-Discuss Throw; JT- Javelin Throw; LJ- Long Jump; TJ- Triple Jump; HJ- High Jump; PV- Pole Vault; RL-Relays)*

* + 1. SP, DT, JT should enforce social distancing for all athletes and officials.  
       To limit contact: athletes can provide their own implements (that pass inspection) and retrieve their own implements after all throws. If athletes cannot provide their own implements, then it is recommended that implements be sanitized between each use.
    2. LJ, TJ should enforce social distancing for all athletes and officials.
    3. HJ, PV should enforce social distancing for all athletes and officials. To lower the risk of these events meets can cover pits by a tarp that is removed and disinfected after each athlete (therefore multiple tarps needed to keep event moving). To limit contact: athletes should not share vaulting poles or poles should be sanitized after each use.
    4. Sprint, Hurdle, relay events run entirely in lanes, may use every other lane to assist with distancing. Blocks should be disinfected after each heat / race. Recommend not using baskets at start line for apparel.
    5. RL events. Batons should not be shared between teams and should be cleaned after each race.

**Below are the schools with their total gym seating capacity and their capacity at 20%.**

Baker

Total = 1,000 seats

20% Cap = 200 seats

Blount

Total = 1,250 seats

20% Cap = 250 seats

Bryant

Total = 1,750 seats

20% Cap = 350 seats

Citronelle

Total = 1,100 seats

20% Cap = 220 seats

Davidson

Total = 2,000 seats

20% Cap = 400 seats

Leflore

Total = 1,250 seats

20% Cap = 250 seats

MGM

Total = 750 seats

20% Cap = 150 seats

Murphy

Total = 1,000 seats

20% Cap = 200 seats

Rain

Total = 1,000 seats

20% Cap = 200 seats

Theodore

Total = 850 seats

20% Cap = 170 seats

Vigor

Total = 1,000 seats

20% Cap = 200 seats

Williamson

Total = 750 seats

20% Cap = 150 seats