



# AACPS Spring Sports Plan

April 17, 2021- June 19, 2021

Our county-wide Points of Emphasis are: **Participation, School-Community Engagement, and Social-emotional Support.** We want our communities to know that AACPS Athletics is here for them, in whatever capacity we can be, during these difficult times with the pandemic. The connection between a coach and their student-athletes is critically important (now more than ever). We will continue to honor and support that connection. We are planning for a 9-week spring program, with the last 4 weeks slated for competition.

Week		Type
Fall wk 1	April 17 - 24	Full tryouts / practices (up to 6 days/wk) <i>Note: must gather on April 17 to play on May 7</i>
Fall wk 2	April 26 - May 1	Full tryouts / practices (up to 6 days/wk)
Fall wk 3	May 3 - 8	Full tryouts / practices (up to 6 days/wk) <i>Note: competitions may begin May 7</i>
Fall wk 4	May 10 - 15	County Competition wk 1
Fall wk 5	May 17 - 22	County Competition wk 2
Fall wk 6	May 24 - 29	County Competition wk 3
Fall wk 7	May 31 - June 5	County Competition wk 4
Fall wk 8	June 7 - 12	County / state culminating events
Fall wk 9	June 14 - 19	County / state culminating events

## Procedures

- **Registration.** Registration is managed at the school level through FamilyID.
- **COVID.** With any COVID-19 situation that may arise, AACPS will follow protocols and procedures vetted and approved by the Anne Arundel County Department of Health. More details below.
- **Attendance.** Attendance will be taken on a standard tracking form.
- **Virtual sessions.** In the event we have to pull back our in-person sessions county-wide, or in the event a team is quarantined, coaches will transition to an all virtual program if necessary (details below).
- **“Film/classroom” sessions.** Any program who wishes to have a film or classroom session with their team will do so virtually.
- **Spacing.** The space assigned to each group will be maximized to provide for as much social distancing as possible. Coaches can move between groups if needed and must be listed on all tracking forms.
- **Session timing / arrival.** Athletic directors will purposefully schedule sessions with gaps of at least 15 minutes to allow groups/pods to enter and exit with minimal interaction, especially when the same field or area is being used, and to allow for appropriate cleaning to occur as needed. Student-athletes are asked to wait in cars until at least 10 minutes before the beginning of their session to prevent formation of groups in the parking lot or designated entrance areas.
- **Face coverings.** Face coverings should be made of breathable material that fits snugly, but comfortably over the nose and mouth. Neck gaiters and other similar products are not acceptable as face coverings. All staff and coaches shall wear face coverings at all times. Outdoor participants are required to wear face coverings except while on the field of play. Indoor participants are required to wear face coverings at all times.
- **Hydration.** Everyone will bring their own water bottles, towels, and equipment whenever feasible.
- **Restrooms.** Restrooms will be made available. To the extent possible, only one person at a time will use each restroom. AACPS operations staff will clean restrooms.
- **Gear/attire.** Student-athletes will report to workouts in proper gear and immediately return home to shower at the end of the workout. Shirts must be worn at all times - no exceptions. Schools may issue and collect gear and equipment. These items should not be shared between student-athletes.

- Locker rooms/similar spaces for changing. Limited access to locker rooms/similar spaces for the sole purpose of changing will become an option for hybrid students as of March 8<sup>th</sup> (the date that hybrid high school students are scheduled to begin to return to campuses). Schools will limit the number of students gathering in such spaces according to health and safety guidelines.
- Bad Weather Scenarios. In the event of dangerous weather scenarios that occur after a session starts (ex: lightning strikes), staff and student-athletes who can't leave campus immediately will move indoors to the largest indoor space that is located close to or has its own exterior entrance/exit point (typically a gymnasium/cafeteria/auditorium) while maintaining social distance and wearing masks until their rides arrive. ADs will ensure there is a plan in place to guarantee access to these spaces is always available while students are on campus. Additionally, in order to help reduce the likelihood of having to house large numbers of staff and students indoors, the county and or individual schools may proactively cancel in-person sessions based on conditions. If AACPS closes schools for inclement weather, athletics will operate under any county-wide directive regarding virtual engagement.
- Handbook. The guidelines outlined in the AACPS Athletic Handbook apply during these sessions. Any exception or modification to those guidelines that are needed during these unique circumstances will be documented and communicated.
- Removal / Failure to adhere to Guidelines. Student-athletes may be removed from these sessions for health/safety concerns or for discipline issues. In the event that a member(s) of a group fails to adhere to the guidelines in this document, the group will be given a verbal warning and must take corrective action. A second violation will result in another warning and that group session ending immediately. A third violation will result in that group being pulled from the schedule and appropriate discipline issued to the coaching staff.
- Outside Participation. Given the times we are in and in order to be efficient and consistent across the county, AACPS Athletics is providing a blanket allowance for student-athletes who have an outside participation conflict for athletics to participate on our teams for the fall season. This comes with three expectations: (1) We expect SAs/families to provide information on conflicts they have to their coaches as soon as possible, who will share with the AD, (2) We expect any student who is coming back from out-of-state to follow current health and safety protocols to include any quarantining, and (3) We expect coaches to be professional, fair, and safe in how they manage their SAs as it relates to participation in competitions.
- Contests – General Information for all sports
  - Attendance tracking form maintained by both schools (event staff in close proximity to SAs will be listed on the home team's form)
  - Visiting team should be ready upon arrival (no locker room access)
  - Face coverings for staff at all times
  - Face coverings for SAs when not in physical exertion/competition (indoors at all times).
  - Hand hygiene – before, during, and after contests
  - No sharing of water/hydration sources
  - No sharing of towels, clothing, equipment (if necessary, clean & dry between)
  - Maintain social distance whenever feasible, including in locker rooms and on the court/field
  - Air horns and electric whistles are encouraged
  - Schools will livestream on their Pixellot cameras.
  - Any shared space/equipment, such as chairs, tables, balls will be cleaned by school staff between events
  - Limit the number of non-essential personnel
  - No handshakes – pregame, postgame, etc
  - Encourage no spitting
  - Wear mouth guards throughout competition (where applicable)
  - Pregame conference – do in the middle of the field/court; limit to 1 official, head coaches, and at most 1 captain/team; keep social distance & wear mask; no handshakes
  - Pregame routines – maintain social distance throughout if at all possible
  - Bench/table personal – limit to essential personal only; combine responsibilities if possible; visiting team staff not considered essential (separate space in stands); maintain social distance throughout
  - Team gatherings/meetings for timeouts, between halves, etc socially distanced with masks

- There will be no introduction lines – SAs will be sent to their position for any introductions.
- The host school will purposefully space out table(s) for workers in the space available
- If needed, provide officials with as large of a space as possible for their changing needs
- JV/V double-header dynamic
  - Schools will purposefully schedule a JV and a varsity bus – each team arrives and departs separately
  - A coach should ride with both teams in both directions, following our athletics transportation procedures. In the event a coach is not available the AD will work with the OoA to make arrangements.
  - Families may opt to transport themselves to and from.
  - For each away event, schools will determine which SAs are using bus transportation
  - Drop-off: SAs to wait in the car until the visiting team bus arrives
  - Pick-up: SAs to arrange for rides to be available well in advance of the anticipated end time of the contest. Rides may wait in the parking lot the entire time. In the event a SAs ride is not immediately available at the conclusion of a contest, they may wait in the gym lobby (socially distanced with mask on).