

HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON UFSD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT
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Frequently Asked Questions for Return to Interscholastic Athletics- COVID-19

- 1) My family has chosen the remote learning plan for our son/daughter, is he or she eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics?**
 - *As per the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), “a pupil should be eligible for interschool competition or inclusive athletic activities in a sport during a semester, provided that he or she is a bona fide student, enrolled in the first 15 days of such semester , is registered in the equivalent of three regular courses, is meeting the physical education requirement, and has been in regular attendance 80 percent of the school time, bona fide absence caused by personal illness is accepted.” On August 10, 2020, the NYSPHSAA clarified this by saying “in discussions with representatives from the New York State Education Department, the above regulation provides a student with the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics if they are receiving credit for three courses and physical education, regardless of the education platform utilized by the school district (i.e. remote only, hybrid, etc.) Students who opt for a remote only education because of the COVID-19 crisis would be eligible for interscholastics if they meet the Bona Fide student regulation above.”*

- 2) If my child is participating in a full remote learning program, or his home working remotely during a hybrid schedule, will transportation be provided for my child to return to school for practice?**
 - *No, with practices occurring after school hours at varying hours, it will be the responsibility of the student-athlete, and their family, to get to practice.*

- 3) I understand that my child needs an up-to-date physical on file with the school nurse prior to participating in athletics. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, I was not able to solidify an appointment for my child to get a physical completed, can he or she still participate?**
 - *Depends on the date of your last physical. Hastings School District policy is that all Junior Varsity and Varsity athletes (grades 9-12) must have a valid physical with a complete immunization record on file in the Health Office within 1 year from season start date. No student-athlete will be admitted to try out or practice until all mandatory medical information has been received.*

- 4) Will my child need to partake in daily screening for interscholastic athletics?**
 - *Yes, the screening tool for interscholastic athletics will be shared with each of the students, and their families. Daily, this must be completed in*

order to participate in athletics. We are also waiting for no-touch digital thermometers to use at the field.

5) Will there be protocols in place to enhance cleanliness and sanitizing?

- *Yes, each team will be supplied with a hand sanitizer to be used at practices/games, along with sanitizer that can be used on equipment when needed. Each field will also be equipped with hand sanitizing stations.*

6) Will the services of our Athletic Trainer in Hastings-on-Hudson still be available?

- *Yes, however there are specific protocols on utilizing the training room, including when student-athletes can enter and how many athletes are allowed at a time.*

7) Are student-athletes required to wear face coverings while participating in athletics?

- *As per NYSPHSAA, "In accordance with the NYSDOH guidance, responsible parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times whether indoor or outdoor, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing); provided however that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering.*
 - *Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings and disposable masks that cover both the mouth and the nose.*

It will be vital that the masks are worn while participating in all aspects of interscholastic athletics.

8) Will coaches be required to wear face coverings?

- *In accordance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Guidance, responsible parties should work to ensure a distance of six feet. When a shorter distance is needed, face coverings are required. Thus, coaches will be required to wear masks.*

9) Will spectators be allowed at games?

- *In accordance with NYSDOH guidance, only two spectators per participant are permitted. Protocols, and practices, are still being developed by school districts across Section One. Visiting Team Spectators are not allowed at any events at this time.*

10) Will the Hastings athletic events be streamed live?

- *Not at this point. The Athletic Department is currently looking into different streamlining services. The goal is to try to have streamlining available for events on the fields and in the gymnasium at some point in the future.*

11) How will “team water” be handled to ensure proper hydration?

- *Student-athletes need to bring their own water bottles, with their name clearly labeled on. For various athletic events, water jugs may be provided where students can refill their own bottles. Student-athletes may not share water bottles with each other.*

12) In the past, various equipment was shared amongst teams, how will that be handled this year?

- *The sharing of equipment will be minimized as much as possible. When applicable, student-athletes will be provided with equipment that they will use exclusively, such as practice pinnies. When equipment must be shared, coaches will be supplied with a sanitizer. Student-athletes are encouraged to launder their cloth items daily.*

13) My child left their practice gear in the locker room daily, how will that be utilized?

- *Locker rooms will not be used, due to the congregation there. Student-athletes must take their practice gear and equipment home daily.*

14) In the press, it says that Fall Sports begin on September 21, why are Hastings teams not beginning until September 29?

- *The NYSPHSAA is allowing Fall Sports across the state to begin on September 21. However, our region, Section One, chose not to start until September 29, allowing for more districts to transition from remote learning to hybrid learning.*

15) My child is in sixth grade, can I sign him/her up for interscholastic athletics.

- *No, as New York State only offers the opportunity for students in grades 7-12 to partake in interscholastic athletics.*

16) With sport seasons potentially being moved, can my child play two different sports that are typically both offered in the fall season?

- *Yes, as long as the sports are offered at different times, one can play tryout for both teams.*

17) Which sports begin on September 29 at Hastings-on-Hudson?

- *The only sports beginning that day are the Varsity and JV teams of Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Boys & Girls Cross Country and Girls Tennis.*

18) How do I sign my son or daughter up for one of the teams beginning on September 29?

- *As the district has done in the past, we have partnered with FamilyID in order to sign up for interscholastic athletics. This portal is located on the district website, under the Athletics tab. It can also be found using this link: <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/hastings-on-hudson-ufsd>*