



Wilson Central School District Department of Athletics
Return to Athletics Plan
January 2021

The following plan is based on the guidance from the following documents: “Return to Interscholastic Athletics” (NYSPHSAA, Sept 4th, 2020, revised January 12, 2021), “Interim Guidance to Sport and Recreation” (NYSDOH, Aug 15, 2020, revised January 22, 2021), and the NYSDOH Interim Guidance for Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (NYSDOH, July 13, 2020). This plan is subject to change as further guidance comes.

General Information:

- The NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association), under the direction of the NYSDOH (New York State Department of Health), has determined that high-risk sports may begin practices on February 1, 2021. The Niagara Orleans League and Section VI have approved. In Wilson, this means the following sports and levels:
 - Girls Basketball (JV, Varsity)
 - Boys Basketball (JV, Varsity)
- Spectators will not be permitted indoors. All home games will be live-streamed.
- The NYSPHSAA has moved football, fall competitive cheer, and girl’s volleyball to a new season called Fall II beginning March 22nd, 2021.
- The NYSPHSAA still plans to run a traditional spring season with tennis, baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, and boys and girls track & field. Wrestling will also compete in the spring. This season is to begin on May 10th, 2021.

Protocols

1. Screening

- a. All student-athletes will need to be screened prior to practice, games, or getting on a bus to away contests. The screening is found here at <https://www.wilsoncsd.org/Page/1640> or on the Wilson CSD website under COVID Daily Screening/ Athletics COVID Screening/ and then click on your team. In addition, students will take their own temperature before practices, games, or getting on the bus. Students who have not completed the screening will not be allowed in the building, on the bus, or at practice. This is a specific athletic screening by sport.
- b. If student-athletes are feeling sick, please stay home and let your coach know.
- c. Any child with a temperature of 100.0^oF or higher or displays one of the symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home from practice/games and should remain home until the return to school guidelines have been met. In order for your child to return to school and sports, they must be fully recovered and meet **all** the following protocol:
 - i. Medical practitioner clearance to return to school and athletics.
 - ii. Resolution of symptoms for 24 hours.
 - iii. A confirmed Negative COVID-19 test.
 - iv. If COVID-19 Positive:
 1. A written release from isolation from the Niagara County Health Department.
 2. A medical Doctor release form signed and submitted.
 3. The Gradual Return to Activity release form completed, signed, and submitted.
- d. If your child is diagnosed with a medical condition other than COVID-19, **all** of the following conditions must be met in order to return to school:
 - i. Medical practitioner clearance to return to school, along with the diagnosis clearing the student of COVID-19.
 - ii. Your child has been without a fever and feeling well for at least 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Motrin, aspirin, etc.).



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- e. All coaches will need to be screened daily. If coaches are feeling sick, please stay home and call the Athletic Office
2. Face Coverings/ Masks
 - a. Per NYSDOH Sports and Recreation Guidance and the RTIA, student-athletes are required to wear face-covering unless they feel they are “unable to tolerate a face-covering”. According to state officials ‘unable to tolerate’ does not require any note or medical issue. If a student-athlete feels their breathing is restricted while participating in an activity they simply tell the coach they cannot tolerate it.
 - b. NYSDOH Interim Guide to Sports and Recreation states: “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”
 - c. Student-Athletes will be required to wear masks when not actively participating (e.g. on the bench, during halftime, etc.)
 - d. Coaches, trainers, and event supervision will be required to wear masks at all times.
 - e. Additional masks are available in the high school and middle school main offices.
 3. Personal hygiene
 - a. Hand Sanitizer will be provided in every medical kit for each team.
 - b. Select restrooms will be open.
 - c. Student-athletes are encouraged to shower at home as quickly as possible after practices & games.
 4. Social Distancing
 - a. Student-athletes, coaches, trainers, and officials will be required to establish routines that encourage social distancing of 6 ft or more at all applicable times.
 - b. During games, players not in the game will need to stay socially distanced.
 - c. Linear benches are not permissible to use.
 - d. No hugging, fist bumps, high fives, or shaking hands.
 5. Afterschool
 - a. Athletes should report directly to their assigned gym.
 - b. Students should come to practice/games with the proper attire for their sport.
 6. Locker Rooms & Restrooms
 - a. Locker rooms are not available. Students will be asked to bring their materials with them.
 - b. Remote students will need to come to practice dressed for practice and games.
 7. Equipment cleaning/sharing
 - a. Teams will limit shared equipment.
 - b. Team equipment will be disinfected by the coaches at the end of practice.
 - c. Team equipment used (cones, etc) should only be touched by coaches.
 - d. Personal items (water bottles, towels, etc.) shall not be shared.
 - e. Each team member should bring their own water bottle and towel.
 - f. Parents are expected to disinfect their child’s personal equipment after each practice and game.
 8. Transportation
 - a. Student-athletes and their families will be responsible for transportation to and from practice all days including when the students are remote learning.
 - b. Masks must be worn at all times on buses.



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9. Officials
 - a. Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sideline related to physical distancing, face coverings & illness.
 - b. Officials should plan to arrive at each athletic venue fully dressed in uniform. Locker rooms and changing rooms will not be available for use.
 - c. Officials must wear face coverings at all times.
10. Spectators
 - a. Per Section VI - No spectators will be allowed at events.
11. Emergency Procedures
 - a. Emergency Action Plan will be enacted for medical emergencies.
 - b. Only coaches and medical personnel will be allowed to move within the necessary distance of the victim.
 - c. Student-athletes will stay 6ft apart from one another with masks on.
12. Response to COVID-19 Infection within a team (Student-athlete, coach, or family member)
 - a. The Wilson CSD will work jointly with the Niagara County Department of Health and follow their guidance and direction for a positive COVID-19 test, contact tracing, and quarantine protocols.
 - b. NYSDOH guidance states that if a school is closed for in-person education during the school year due to an increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases, school-sponsored sports must be suspended until in-person education is resumed.
13. Notification
 - a. This plan will be posted on the Wilson CSD website under Athletics.
 - b. Questions or concerns about this plan or anything related to Wilson CSD Athletics should be directed to Athletic Director Jeff Roth. jroth@wilsoncsd.org; 716-751-3200 x175