



## OUTDOOR RETURN TO PLAY FAQ GUIDANCE

In order for IDPH to allow us to have spectators at our outdoor events, it is essential that all guidelines are followed.

- Please help us police and make sure social distancing is occurring and that only families are standing/seated within 6 feet of each other. If you are closer than 6 feet to another group- please spread yourselves out.
- Please make sure you and those in your party are properly wearing their mask while in attendance.
- School officials cannot monitor every aspect of our facilities- **WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION SO THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOT TAKEN AWAY FROM US AND OUR STUDENTS. Fans will need to spread out around the entire stadium and not just around a central location like the concession stand.**

Please read the below FAQs very closely so you are aware of the protocols that will be in place as our students begin competing once again. We understand that many of the requirements can be an inconvenience, but the important thing is our students are able to participate.

### FANS IN ATTENDANCE AT GAMES

#### 1. Are fans allowed to attend games?

Yes. IDPH guidance allows a limited number of fans to be in attendance at games (25% capacity). In order to meet IDPH requirements, a limited number of our home fans will be allowed to attend HOME GAMES in the following manner:

- a. We will not be taking tickets for outdoor summer events.
- b. Visiting fans will be allowed.
- c. Fans entering the game will be asked to ensure that they do not have a temperature and that they do not have any Covid related symptoms.
- d. No fans are allowed inside the fence at the track.

#### 2. When should fans arrive at the game since the start time is not always the same time?

- a. We would recommend that fans arrive approximately 20 minutes before the start time of each game.

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Mercer County High 1500 S. College Ave Aledo, IL 61231 309-582-2223 Fax: 309-582-5920	Mercer County Jr. High 436 N. Washington Joy, IL 61260 309-584-4174 Fax: 309-584-4257	Mercer County Intermediate 1002 SW 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Aledo, IL 61231 309-582-2441 Fax: 309-582-2440	Apollo Elementary 801 SW 9 <sup>th</sup> Street Aledo, IL 61231 309-582-5350 Fax: 309-582-3457	New Boston Elementary 301 Jefferson Street New Boston, IL 61272 309-587-8141 Fax: 309-587-3349
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# Mercer County School District #404

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### 3. Will events be streamed?

- a. All HOME events at the football field will be Live Streamed through the NFHS Network. We will post our games on Facebook Live/Youtube through our school pages.
- b.

- 1) Visit [www.NFHSnetwork.com](http://www.NFHSnetwork.com)
- 2) Search for Mercer County and go to our page
- 3) Subscribe and Follow

#### Subscription Options for Golden Eagle Fans

**Annual Pass- \$69.99**

**Month Pass- \$10.99/month**

\*There will be other schools we face that also use this network which will require a subscription to watch some of our road events. One subscription gives access to all NFHS Network participants.

- c. Due to the position of the baseball and softball fields, networking will probably not allow for live streaming of baseball and softball games.

### 4. Can we attend away games?

- a. Attendance to away events is up to the host school.
- b. Any attendance information will be communicated to the public as soon as possible for each event.
- c. Live streaming will be available for some away contests. Opposing schools will provide us with the web link for their Live Stream and we will pass the link information onto our fans.

### 5. Indoor Events (Wrestling)

- a. Because of limited space, indoor events will still require a ticket for entry. Tickets will be provided to the students prior to their contest.
- b. No visiting fans will be allowed for indoor contests at this time.
- c. Indoor events will be live streamed.

### 6. Baseball/Softball Games

- a. Like in the fall, spectators will be restricted from being in the area between dugouts.
- b. All spectators will be down the lines past the dugouts and in the outfield areas.
- c. The extra space behind the dugouts will be limited to the teams for social distancing purposes.

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## FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. **Will fans in attendance be required to wear a face covering even though we're outside?**  
Yes- and it must be worn properly (covering nose and mouth). This is required by IDPH in order for us to allow fans into the game. **We have no flexibility in this requirement.** Please do your part and wear your mask properly so we can continue allowing games to take place and we can continue allowing fans to attend the games.
2. **What if someone in my party refuses to wear a mask?**  
The game will be stopped until either the person agrees to wear the mask properly or the person leaves the venue.
3. **Will Mercer County have extra masks for fans who forget to bring one?**  
No. Although we will have disposable masks on hand for emergency situations, these are reserved for students to use during the school day.
4. **Do we need to social distance while watching the game?**
  1. Yes. Fans will need to sit in socially distanced clusters.
  2. Fans from the same household will be allowed to sit next to each other in the same X location. If 2 people attend the game to watch a player, and not all are from the same household- those from the same household may sit together on an X, and those from a different household must move to a different X in order to meet IDPH guidelines.

## MISC.

1. **Will I need to pay to attend home games?**  
No. Because of the circumstances, Mercer County is waiving admission fees at this time.
2. **Will a concession stand be available?**  
No. To help maintain social distancing and not pose the risk of virus spread to other parts of our building, it is recommended that concession stands not be in operation.
3. **Will restrooms be available?**  
Yes, but only for emergency situations.

## IHSA/IDPH Links

<https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/COVID-19>

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/sports-safety-guidance>

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