



RETURN TO ATHLETICS

HIGH SCHOOL PLAN

Athletics Plan 2020-2021

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Return to Athletics



Statement to Community

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the CDC, UIL, school officials, and communities at-large to completely change athletics during 2020 and beyond. With this in mind, the coaching staff and campus administrators are working collaboratively within the Judson Independent School District to create a plan for athletes to return to in-person athletics. This plan is being written based on the current CDC informed UIL guidelines and regulations which have been released about governing safe and healthy operations as school districts and other organizations work to return to activities based on what is known to date about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and how to mitigate the spread of this virus. Our first priority is the health and safety of our athletes and staff, as well as any other individuals that are essential to our athletes. This includes the continued education of athletes, staff and spectators about current health and safety guidelines. Our next goal is to develop a design to provide our student athletes with quality face-to-face athletics. Our expectation is that this plan will be strategic, appropriate, respectful to participants, respectful to health and safety regulations, and an energizing catalyst of hope as we transition from digital instruction back into our physical school community one cautious step at a time.

Introduction

As optimism and reality come together for the projected start of UIL Fall sports, Judson ISD has taken all precautions necessary to ensure the safety of our students, faculty and spectators. In the “Return to Athletics High School Plan”, JISD Administrative, Staff and spectator procedures have been created in preparation for our return to learn. Each campus will have additional safety protocols and procedures outlined in their campus plan.

These procedures are contingent upon district, local and state guidelines, and pending no subsequent large spike in COVID-19 cases prior to or during the seasons. This plan is subject to change.



JISD ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES - COVID-19 RESPONSE

Concessions

- Staff, contractors, and volunteers involved in food service are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Sites should avoid leaving condiments, silverware, flatware, glassware, or other traditional table top items on unoccupied tables or at the counter. Sites should only provide condiments or flatware upon request, and in single use, individually wrapped items.
- Regularly clean and disinfect the food service counters and areas. Clean and disinfect dining areas (tables, etc.) after each patron departs.
- Limit contact between the individuals involved in food service and patrons as much as possible. Have employees, contractors, and volunteers follow proper food-handling protocols.
- Before each game, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen staff, contractors, and volunteers who will be involved in food service prior to events. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.

Facilities

- At each JISD campus, all interior surfaces, cabinets, etc. will be disinfected prior to and after games.
- JISD will ensure adequate cleaning supplies, hand soap and sanitizer are available in restrooms, facility entrances, and by identifying high traffic and touch surfaces and areas.
- JISD Staff will thoroughly disinfect all interior surfaces and sport specific equipment.
- Social distance markers and safety signs will be posted.
- Band/Spirit group participation in gyms will be determined by campus administration.
- Restricted areas will be marked – i.e., water fountains, locker rooms, restrooms etc.
- There will be adequate ventilation and spacing in athletic offices.

Transitioning Staff and Students

- **All students, coaches, athletic trainers, staff and anyone else at practice or games shall have a mask on unless on the field/court participating in the game/match.**
- Campus and athletic administration will communicate plans for returning staff and students.
- Parents & Students will receive information/updates via campus-specified communication platform.
- There will be daily health screening of staff and students.
- Staff will implement policies and procedures regarding high traffic areas as will be campus-specific.



- Campus and athletic administration will be responsible for implementing their campus policies and procedures to accommodate staff and students returning to duty/school/practice/games.
- Administration along with the guidance of custodial services will distribute cleaning protocols and guidelines for coaching staff.
- Each coordinator or designee will coordinate their school specific plan [entry/exits, holding areas, restrooms to be used, etc.].

Game Day Guidelines

- Coordinators will designate an area for teams to unload and load buses.
- Parents will drop off/pick up students in designated areas only.
- Officials will screen as they arrive at games/matches.
- Each campus will have an outdoor relocation plan for bad weather conditions for athletes.
- JISD athletic staff will keep an adequate inventory of needed supplies, i.e. gloves, masks, cleaning supplies, etc. and report to campus administrators if supplies are needed during contests.
- Administration will monitor gym capacities for social distancing. Bleachers will be marked with designated social distancing seats.
- Enforce social distancing guidelines.
- Plastic/Plexi-glass and/or face shields will be available in areas where staff interact with patrons.
- Implement health protocols, including social distancing following JISD, TEA, UIL protocols as well as Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29.



JISD SPECTATOR PROCEDURES - COVID-19 RESPONSE

Overview

- All spectators will be required to complete the COVID-19 Self-Screening process prior to entry. Posters will be displayed at venue entrances.
- Face coverings and 6 ft. social distancing are required at all JISD athletic events.
- Spectators who live together may sit together.
- Foldable chairs or other personal seating will be allowed at outside venues except at Rutledge Stadium.
- Rutledge Stadium games are scheduled to be live streamed on the following site www.TexasSportsProductions.com or on the TSP Mobile App.
- Tickets will be available for purchase at the ticket windows located at Rutledge stadium.
- Parents/Spectators will not be allowed to attend practices.
- Due to the COVID -19 social distancing requirements and venue size, spectator attendance for any game will be limited.
- To ensure maximum social distancing, all venues will be cleared immediately at the conclusion of the contest (no loitering).

Indoor Sports

- A voucher system will be used for indoor contests.
- Vouchers allow the bearer to purchase a ticket upon entry at a contest.
- Only spectators with vouchers will be allowed to purchase tickets. (No Voucher-No Ticket)
- Parents and guardians watching their children will be given priority for game attendance.
- Due to the COVID -19 social distancing requirements and venue size, spectator attendance for any game will be limited.



JISD COACHES PROCEDURES - COVID-19 RESPONSE

Overview

- Locker room use will be limited. Sanitation stations will be available in locker rooms. There will be mandatory active monitoring of locker rooms by coaches. Locker rooms will be sanitized after use.
- Coaches will make sure all sport equipment is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before/after the practice/game.
- Parents/Guardians must fill out the travel waivers/paperwork and receive approval from coaches prior to the season.
- Volleyball teams will not switch benches.
- Students do not have to shake hands at the conclusion of games/matches.
- All players will bring their own labeled water jugs to practice/games.
- All coaches will pre-screen participants at practice each day.
- Football will start practice and their 7-day acclimatization period on the designated start date.
- All sports will start their try-out process at the designated start date.
- Campus plans will be used for designated entrances and exits to mitigate exposure.
- Updated winter/spring sport information will come at a later date.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

- Student-athletes will be required to participate in a walkthrough (in person) of protocols and procedures on the first day.
- Student-athletes will complete a screening questionnaire, waiver, medical history and all medical forms prior to participating in athletics.
- Student-athletes will sanitize hands before entering and leaving athletic areas.
- Student-athletes will enter and exit athletic areas using social distancing protocols at one of the designated points as specified.
- Student-athletes will physically walk through the dimensions of every phase of the athletics. During this time, the staff member in charge will teach the student athletes what is expected at every phase.
- Student-athletes must be familiar with all guidelines and procedures.
- Student-athletes will wear face covering. Face coverings are mandatory when not engaged in physical activity.
- JISD is offering student-athletes the ability to attend athletic periods while participating in remote learning. The following guidelines must be met to attend athletic activities during the school day: obtain parental consent to attend athletic periods; provide transportation to and from the school; report directly and safely to athletic areas upon arrival, and depart from campus immediately following athletic activities; responsible for reporting to remote



classes on time; adhere to all JISD procedures and rules at all times; accept full responsibility for student acts or the acts of others while participating in and traveling in connection with this activity.

- Student-athletes must participate in JISD student character development programs.

Sanitization/Disinfection

- Facilities will be cleaned before, during, and after use according to the appropriate guidelines for ALL surfaces and equipment.
- Coaches will encourage players to properly wash hands before and after practice, and keep a bottle of hand sanitizer.
- Athletic staff will use district approved disinfectant sprays and wipes to thoroughly clean equipment.
- Per CDC COVID-19 guidelines, frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected daily, or between uses as much as possible.
- Designated staff members will frequently disinfect shared items at games and practices.
- High touch surfaces and areas such as door knobs, faucets, sinks, and other handles will be sanitized more frequently as per UIL/CDC/JISD guidelines.
- Any equipment used during athletic sessions must be thoroughly disinfected before and after.
- Enhanced measures will be taken in the event of any confirmed Covid-19 case and exposure. This may include season suspension or cancelation until it has been determined by UIL/CDC/JISD governing bodies that returning to athletics is safe.

Communication to Parents

- Each sport will host a virtual meeting with parents prior to the start of the season to (Zoom, SportsYou, etc.) cover all rules and guidelines pertaining to practice and games/matches.
- Students, parents, and staff will be informed on good hygiene practices.
- Protocols and procedures for daily health screening of students will be communicated to parents.
- Protocols and procedures for practice and game drop-off/pick-up times and locations will be communicated to parents.
- Parents/Guardians acknowledge participation in extracurricular activities has a risk of personal injury or property damage to students and to others which may be associated with the activity and accept responsibility.
- Parents/Guardians assume them by allowing their student to voluntarily participate in athletics and in any travel associated with this activity.
- Parents will receive enhanced health and safety protocols, procedures, and guidelines issued by JISD, UIL, TEA and Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29.



Athletic Staff Leadership

- All staff will complete health pre-screening prior to every practice/game/day.
- Athletic Staff will create systems for reducing the congregation of students and modify instruction to maximize social distancing for athletes to include practices such as but not limited to:
 - Restroom – one-in, one-out model.
 - Athletic Hallways – traffic flow and staggered rotations.
 - Locker rooms and training rooms - traffic flow and staggered rotations.
 - Weight rooms and meeting rooms- traffic flow and staggered rotations.
 - Student drop-off and pick-up locations.
- Athletic Staff will follow protocols and procedures for sanitizing equipment between rotations and/or sessions.
- Athletic Staff will follow protocols and procedures for use of weight rooms. Sanitize the weight room after each group use.
- Athletic Staff will regularly review practice and game schedules to determine if modification is needed.
- Athletic Staff will implement contingency plans for bad weather.
- Coordinators will designate an area for teams to unload and load buses.
- Teams and participants are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- The host site should designate a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.
- Visiting team /group locker rooms should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.
- Before each game, contest, or event, schools should follow the self-screening protocol for all staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event.
- Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be at least six feet from team /group areas such as team benches or performance areas. Where distancing is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as face coverings, implementing engineered controls such as physical barriers, or other risk mitigation efforts the school deems appropriate.
- As previously indicated, water or other drinks and/or food may be provided. Schools or host sites will do so in a manner that ensures student safety.



- Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.
- The host site should provide sports and contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
- Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
- Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
- All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans. Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events
- JISD athletic staff will be responsible for maintaining supplies and report to campus administration needed supplies during contests.
- Enforce social distancing guidelines.
- Athletic trainers, as healthcare professionals, will take the lead role in developing and implementing safe practices throughout the school to include, but not limited to: athlete hydration, training facilities, symptom checks, documentation, etc.
- Implement health protocols, including social distancing following JISD, TEA, UIL protocols as well as Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29.

District Transportation

- Safety protocol and procedures for transporting student-athletes on buses includes: hand sanitizers, sanitizing between trips, and social distancing.
- Buses should be sanitized before and after use.
- Sanitizer will be provided and kept on the bus.
- Buses will carry limited students based on current JISD transportation procedures.
- Athletic staff will follow all guidelines established by JISD transportation.



STUDENT-ATHLETE CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES

Judson ISD will take all safety precautions for our students.

Protocol

Confirmed Cases: If a student tests positive, communication from campus administration will be provided to the parents of students who came in close contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result. Student-athletes who have tested positive will not be permitted to return to play until the following criteria are met:

- At least ten days have passed since symptoms appeared or positive diagnosis;
- fever-free for 24 hours without medication;
- improvement in symptoms;
- cleared by a medical professional prior to starting return to play.
- If a student-athlete has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who has not been evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to play until the criteria above is met.

Required Actions if Individuals with Lab-Confirmed Cases Have Been in an Area Where UIL Activities Are being Conducted

1. If an individual who has been in areas where UIL activities have been conducted is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
2. Schools must close off areas that are heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 7 days have already passed since that person was on campus.
3. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any UIL activities. If the person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 participated in a contest against another school(s), the school must notify other school(s) and sports/contest officials involved in the contest.

Symptoms while traveling

- While traveling to/from an athletic event, if a student or staff member becomes ill or develops any symptoms of illness consistent with COVID-19 (e.g., new onset or worsening cough OR shortness of breath OR at least two of the following symptoms: fever of 100.4°F, chills, muscle ache, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell) the following general precautions will be taken:



- *The student/staff will be isolated and assessed by the school designee. The parent/guardian will be contacted immediately. Following coaches must contact the campus nurse, principal and athletic director.*
- Alternate transporting arrangements may be necessary. Coach should follow the steps outlined by the nurse and principal. We will follow district guidelines concerning quarantining and if necessary, cancel the game(s).