

Northeastern School District Athletic Department

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Bryan Stephens
Athletic Director

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Northeastern Families,

Over the course of the last three months, the Northeastern Athletic Department has been trying to navigate the many guidelines, restrictions and mandates from the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Health, the Governor, Northeastern School District leadership and our own league, the York-Adams Interscholastic Athletic Association (YAIAA.). Northeastern has worked hard to enact the recommended procedures and required policies, and I am proud of the work we have done. This week we have been presented with another change. Recently, the Governor of Pennsylvania has lifted the mandate barring spectators from interscholastic athletic contests. However, the Governor has maintained the strict attendance limitations of 250 people (teams, officials, staff, and spectators) for outdoor events and 25 people for indoor events. These attendance limitations are part of Governor Wolf's mandate. As a government entity, Northeastern School District cannot simply disregard the mandate.

In conjunction with the YAIAA league-wide policy presented to member schools on Thursday, September 10, 2020, the Northeastern Athletic Department is committed to developing a plan to permit some spectators at athletic events in a manner that will consider the safety of our guests, the details of the Governor's mandate and restrictions, and our families' desires to support their student participants by attending their contests. The first home athletic contests this season are girls tennis matches on Monday, September 14 and Wednesday, September 16. We will use these two events as a soft rollout of our procedures to permit spectators at athletic events. Because the girls' tennis team is a relatively small team, and they compete outdoors, these events will provide us an opportunity to develop and practice procedures that we plan to apply to other on-campus contests. In order to permit spectators, we must employ a number of regulations for these tennis matches.

- Spectators will be limited to home team fans only. Visiting teams' fans are not permitted to attend the contests.
- All spectators must enter the athletic campus via the parking lot between the High School and Middle School
- All spectators must wear a face covering while in attendance. Failure to wear a face covering could result in the spectator's dismissal or stoppage of the contest
- Spectators from different households must maintain a minimum of 6 feet of social distance.
- Tennis spectators may bring their own chairs to watch the match.
- Each Northeastern tennis player will receive four tickets to give to family or friends to attend the event. Ticket holders will present their ticket to event staff upon arrival at the athletic campus. Staff will be located at the top of the driveway leading to the tennis courts.

Again, we remain committed to permitting spectators at our athletic contests. However, the restrictions of the current mandate do make for a unique set of challenges. The District is optimistic that we can accommodate

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tennis, cross-country (jr. high and varsity), field hockey (jr. high and varsity), boys and girls soccer, and JV and jr. high football with the following guidelines in place:

- Spectators will be limited to home team only
- All spectators must enter the athletic campus via the parking lot between the High School and Middle school.
- All spectators must wear a mask while in attendance. Failure to comply could result in dismissal from the contest or stoppage of the contest
- All Spectators must maintain a minimum of 6 feet of social distance
- Each student-athlete will receive a minimum of 2 tickets for each home contest (potential for more depending on roster sizes)

Lastly, varsity football contests, which include our marching band and cheerleaders, and Varsity/JV girls' volleyball pose an interesting challenge due to the mandate restrictions presented by the Governor. As more details come forward on how to handle these situations, we will relay our intentions for these two types of events. We will communicate our plans and any decisions as quickly as possible.

Northeastern believes it is important that spectators, specifically parents and guardians, be a part of the high school sports experience. Despite the very challenging circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working hard to create an appropriate system to permit spectators at contests. We thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we work to develop that system.

Respectfully,

Bryan Stephens

Athletic Director

