



PREPARING STUDENTS
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Cincinnati Public Schools Athletics

Note to CPS Student-Athletes and Parents,

On behalf of Cincinnati Public Schools Athletics, we would like to share and reiterate that the health and safety of our students, coaches and communities remains a top priority and will continue to be a focal point for our department as we transition into a new season. Our collective progress would not be possible without the hard work and dedication from our coaches and athletic administrators, in addition to the commitment to excellence on and off the field from our students and families across the entire district! The purpose of this memo is to provide updates on the current fall sports season, looking ahead towards the winter sports season, new guidance from the Ohio High School Athletic Association, reminders about *Return to Play* protocol and more. Thank you and please continue to take pride in doing your part as it pertains to health and safety compliance so we can keep supporting athletics!

1. Fall Sports

a. Health & Safety Update

i. Student-Athlete & Staff Compliance

1. We've recorded tremendous results in regards to athletics and the ability to practice and participate in interscholastic competition. CPS Athletics continues to require daily symptom questionnaires and temperature checks for all students/staff upon arrival to facilities that must be filed by each athletic department. In addition, CPS Athletics has participated in practice audits and random site visits to ensure all schools are adhering to Return to Play protocol. Everyone must stay vigilant in mask wearing, social distancing and staying home when having COVID-19 symptoms!

ii. Facilities Update

1. Per the Ohio Governor's order, CPS Athletics will continue to ensure proper facility requirements are followed at all times. This includes, and is not limited to, providing sanitation stations throughout the facility, health and safety signage marked throughout the facility, limited capacity and proper social distancing practice.
2. Cincinnati Public Schools has been selected multiple times for OHSAA facility/game-site inspections throughout the fall season. District administration has worked closely with all school Athletic Directors to enforce all procedures.

b. City Championships

i. Football

1. Schools that have individually opted to not participate in the OHSAA tournament have been presented an opportunity to compete for a district-sponsored City Championship. Clark, Gamble, Riverview East, Western Hills and Woodward have been given a regular season schedule that will ultimately allow them to play each other and then seed those schools one through five. At the end of this mini-regular season, the top two teams will have the opportunity to play in a Championship game at Stargel Stadium on November 13 to see who is crowned City Champion!

ii. Volleyball

1. Schools that have individually opted to not participate in the OHSAA tournament have been presented an opportunity to compete for a district-sponsored City Tournament/Championship. Aiken, Clark, Gamble, Hughes, Oyler, Riverview East, Shroder, Spencer, Taft, Western Hills, Withrow and Woodward have been given a regular season schedule that will allow each school to play each other once. At the end of that regular season, these teams will be ranked and seeded into a 12-team tournament. The top four teams will receive a bye, and ultimately teams will go through a single-elimination bracket to see who makes it to the Championship game that will be played on November 4!

2. Winter Sports

a. Jr High Sports

- i. Jr. High sports will be permitted this winter. It is important to note that Jr. High opportunities will look different this year and there may be fewer practices, games and events this season and programs may be paused at any time.
 1. Schedules, facility protocol and more are being updated and Athletic Directors are meeting on a weekly basis to ensure schools are prepared to begin Jr. High sports.

b. Basketball

- i. CPS Athletics is continuing to work on consistent streaming options to assist the community in supporting our students and schools. The Ohio Department of Health has limited facility capacities to 15%.
- ii. [CLICK HERE](#) for updated modifications/recommendations for basketball per OHSAA/NFHS

c. Wrestling

- i. [CLICK HERE](#) for updated modifications/recommendations for wrestling per OHSAA/NFHS

d. Gymnastics

- i. [CLICK HERE](#) for updated modifications/recommendations for gymnastics per OHSAA/NFHS

e. Swimming & Diving

- i. [CLICK HERE](#) for updated modifications/recommendations for swimming & diving per OHSAA/NFHS

f. Bowling

- i. Modifications/recommendations for bowling have not been released.

3. OHSAA Updates

a. Scholarship Bylaw

- i. With the continued concerns about different schools' educational delivery methods as they relate to class sizes, building capacities and social distancing, OHSAA has waived this bylaw for eligibility. Athletic Directors will work with all students to assess their eligibility for the remainder of the fall and the upcoming winter season.

b. Winter Sports Schedules

i. Girls Basketball

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, October 23
- 2. First Contest – Friday, November 20

ii. Boys Basketball

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, October 30
- 2. First Contest – Wednesday, November 25

iii. Bowling

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, October 30
- 2. First Contest – Friday, November 13

iv. Swimming & Diving

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, October 30
- 2. First Contest – Monday, November 30

v. Gymnastics

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, November 6
- 2. First Contest – Monday, December 7

vi. Wrestling

- 1. First Day of Practice – Friday, November 13
- 2. First Contest – Thursday, December 3

c. Winter Sports Coaches Meetings

- i. All winter sports coaches will be required to attend three separate meetings in preparation for their respective seasons.
 - 1. OHSAA Winter Sports State Online Rules Meeting
 - 2. Districtwide Winter Sports Prep/Update Meeting
 - 3. School Athletic Director/Winter Sports Coaches Meeting

Past updates and more information can be found on the CPS Athletics website at <https://www.cps-k12.org/schools/athletics>, please contact your school [Athletic Director](#) with any questions.