

# KUNA HIGH SCHOOL RETURN TO ATHLETICS - FALL 2020

Physical activity and athletic competition are necessary for the physical and mental well-being of students in the Kuna School District. The need for a safe and intentional plan for providing activities is necessary. We rely on guidance from the Governor of the State of Idaho, the Idaho State Board of Education, the Idaho High School Activities Association and Kuna School District leaders.

## Key Points of Emphasis

The six key points of emphasis during this unprecedented time include the following:

1. Engage in physical distancing of at least 6 feet when appropriate.
2. Wear face coverings.
3. Stay home if sick.
4. Practice good hand hygiene.
5. Cover coughs and sneezes.
6. Disinfect surfaces and objects regularly.

## The Plan

All schools who host events are required to have a plan in place for spectators and teams in attendance. It incorporates guidance from the Governor's reopening guidelines, Central District Health Department, and Kuna School District leaders.

## Infection Risk Levels

The IHSAA compiled the infection risk for high school sports. High, Moderate and Lower levels of infection risk are listed below with the sports found at that level.

**High risk sports** involve close, sustained contact between participants with a lack of significant protective barriers and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Sports in this category include: Football, Wrestling, Performance and Competitive Cheer, and Dance/Drill that involves stunting.

**Moderate risk sports** involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory transmission between participants or intermittent close contact or group sports that use equipment that cannot be cleaned between participants. Sports in this category include: Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Soccer, and Swimming Relays.

**Lower risk sports** can be done with physical distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors. Lower risk sports include: Golf, Cross Country, Individual Swimming, Weightlifting, Individual Running Events, Performance and non-Performance Dance/Drill with no stunting.

## Community Spread Level - Green, Yellow, Red

The Idaho State Board of Education released a framework for schools to reopen in the Fall. The plan provides guidelines in 3 categories - Green, Yellow and Red. Each category is based on the coronavirus' level of community spread in an area, such as determined by local health districts. These categories serve as a guide to help us determine how to safely protect our student athletes - i.e. cancelling practices, events, advancing or returning to a

previous stage. Please click on the 2020-21 Kuna High School Activities Protocol link to read about each of these categories.

[Kuna High School Activities Protocol](#)

## **The Stadium**

There will be specific requirements relating to our football stadium as we move into Fall activities. During Category Red, the facilities at Kuna High School will be shut down. During Category Yellow, the facilities will be closed to spectators with only essential workers, teams with coaches, and officials. Concessions will be closed. During Category Green, the amount of people within the facility will also be limited. Concessions and gates will be open. The football stadium will be at roughly 25% capacity or 600 spectators in seats. The home side will seat 490 spectators and the visiting side will seat 110. The total number does not include support staff, coaches, players, and officials attending the game.

## **Stadium Expectations**

The following criteria will be implemented to ensure that a safe and secure environment are present during Category Green:

1. Limited attendance in the stadium.
2. Online ticket purchases.
3. Assigned seating locations.
4. Personnel to seat spectators - children must remain with parents at all times.
5. Social distancing is expected.
6. Limited options for concessions.
7. Increased activities personnel.
8. Face Coverings are expected - any local, state, or federal mandates will supercede district guidelines.

## **Essential vs. Non-Essential**

According to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA), there are three tiers of who is most necessary at competitions. In the event that we return to a more restrictive stage as designated by the Governor of the State of Idaho, the Idaho State Board of Education, the Kuna School District or the IHSAA we may significantly restrict attendance at the venue or shut down altogether. The following tiers are listed below:

1. Tier 1 (Essential) - Athletes, Coaches, Officials, Event Staff, Medical Staff and Security.
2. Tier 2 (Preferred) - Media
3. Tier 3 (Non-essential) - Spectators and Vendors

## **Safety Precautions Off the Field/Gymnasium During Category Green**

The Kuna School District is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, coaches, support staff and parents. The following precautionary measures have been implemented to promote safety:

1. Event staff, security and coaches will wear face coverings.
2. Gate/Concession workers will wear face coverings and gloves.
3. Sanitization stations will be available at specific locations.

4. Increased signage promoting proper hygiene, social distancing, using face coverings and washing hands.
5. Increased activities personnel.
6. Face Coverings are expected - any local, state, or federal mandates will supercede district guidelines.

## **Spectator Information**

It will take a complete team effort to ensure that our Fall activities are a success. Spectators have a role to play and will be asked to follow the safety guidelines set forth by the Kuna School District. We have set the following expectations for our spectators as they attend activities at Kuna High School.

1. Tickets will be pre-purchased in advance (for Varsity football only) for visiting and home teams.
2. Spectators will have assigned seating.
3. Kuna High School players will receive a predetermined number of tickets.
4. Limited student tickets will be available.
5. The band will be limited in size and moved from the bleachers to a designated location on the grounds and cheerleaders will be socially distanced on the track.

## **Visiting Team Information**

There will also be a protocol for our visiting teams as they travel to Kuna. For Football on each Monday of game week, the Kuna School District Activities Director will send a game day itinerary regarding KHS facilities to the opposing athletic director. Please click on the link to see a sample of the details we will be covering. [Kuna Kavemen Football - Game Day Itinerary](#)

## **Girls and Boys Cross Country**

For girls and boys cross country, expectations and guidelines are dependent upon the requirements of the host school.

## **Girls and Boys Soccer**

Girls and Boys Soccer will play their matches at the KHS Soccer Field. Both teams will play an occasional game on the football field - determined at a later date. Tickets will be purchased from the ticket booth or on the GoFan Application - to be determined. Boxes will be painted along the west sideline for families to watch the game while physically distanced from one another. There will be a 2 minute intermission every 15 minutes to sanitize equipment.

## **The Gymnasium**

There will be specific requirements relating to our gymnasium as we move into Fall activities. During Category Red, the facilities at Kuna High School will be shut down. During Category Yellow, the facilities will be closed to spectators with only essential workers, teams with coaches, and officials. Concessions will be closed. During Category Green, the amount of people within the facility will also be limited. Concessions and gates will be open. The gymnasium will be at roughly 30% capacity or 400 spectators in seats. The lower and upper levels of gym bleachers will be utilized. The total number of spectators does not include support staff, coaches, players, and officials attending the game.

## **Volleyball**

The number of people allowed in the gymnasium will be determined by the category. Category Red - gymnasium will be closed. Category Yellow - gymnasium will be restricted to essential personnel only. Category Green there will be determined at a later date. Spectators will be permitted in a limited capacity. The visiting team will receive a limited amount of tickets to purchase for the event. The remaining tickets will be distributed to Kuna spectators.

## **Official/Referee Protocol and Safety**

The safety of officials is also very important. We have set up a protocol to maintain the safety for our visiting officials during varsity football games. We are currently working on protocols to protect officials for our other activities. Please click on the link to view the process for football officials.

[Official Safety Protocol](#)

## **Transportation**

Because of Covid-19's social distancing challenges, the Kuna School District's Transportation Policy for students attending activities off campus has changed. Please click on the link to view the new policy. School transportation will not take place for competitions that begin after 4:30, with the exception of Freshman events. It will be the responsibility of the parent to transport their student to the event. Football and track are also exceptions to this policy because of the size of those teams. Additional buses will be utilized for football and track to ensure we are adhering to the Covid-19 safety protocol.

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## **Athlete Safety**

The training staff is extremely concerned about athlete safety and will take the following precautions to avoid large scale outbreaks of Covid-19.

1. Daily temperature checks of athletes before practices and competitions.
2. Daily monitoring of student-athlete health (questions asked by coach or athletic trainer and documented on google form) - with a positive test of Covid-19 we will contact Central District Health and turn over all of our information to begin the contact tracing process. This will help medical professionals determine the severity of the situation.
3. Encourage hand washing.
4. Mandatory face coverings when not able to physically distance or in active competition.
5. Coaches, activities personnel and training staff will wear face coverings.
6. Cleaning of equipment before, during and after use.

Please see the link to Kuna High School District Protocol for our action plan involving positive Covid cases and the Return to Participate Plan.

[COVID-19 Protocol for Kuna High School Athletics](#)

## **Reality of the Situation**

Due to the near certainty of recurrent outbreaks this coming school year in some locales, we must be prepared for periodic school closures and the possibility of some teams having to isolate or quarantine for two or three weeks while in-season, possibly multiple times. When a school or district closes due to Covid-19, there should be no practice, training, or competition among athletes in that school or district.