

Nezperce Joint School District #302

2020-2021

High School and Junior High Athletic Activities Fall Sports Plan

The purpose of this plan is to outline the general guidelines for high school and junior high athletic activities for the 2020-21 school year in relation to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This plan has been adopted by the school district with the use of the Idaho High School Athletics Association and the Whitepine League guidelines for athletics.

The ultimate goal of the district is to ensure that student athletes are able to participate in their respective sports throughout the school year. The district is adopting this policy in order to ensure that the participation is done in a way that keeps student athletes, coaching staff, referees, fans, the school, and our community as safe as possible.

This plan will change as needed if situations in relation to the health and safety of our student athletes arise. Pending the outcome of fall sports, determination for winter sports will be made.

Sport Specific Guidelines

CROSS COUNTRY

- **Coaches/Athletes** should wear a mask when unable to socially distance.
- Host smaller meet invites instead of opens. Whenever possible these meets will be open to Whitepine League schools only. Decision to compete outside of WPL meets will be determined by the Superintendent and AD
- Spectators spread out throughout the course, be aware of physically distancing, especially at the finish line.
- Planning a XC meet: Recommended number of 35 runners per race. 40 max. XC Meet. Varsity only
- Varsity, JV and JH all separate meets this season.

FOOTBALL

- **Coaches/Players** should wear a mask when unable to socially distance. Players will have shields on their football helmets. Masks not required on the sideline, but encouraged when not wearing a helmet or keeping a physical distance of 6 ft. Protocols will be determined by individual schools. Team box on the sideline has been expanded to encourage physical distancing.
- **Limited non-coaching personnel:** Each team will provide their own ball boy who will keep their teams ball on their side and clean it every time he/she has it. Team may have a water person as well that is charge of refilling water bottles. This person shall wear a mask and make sure to be careful to avoid any cross contamination.
Photographer/media asked to physically distance themselves or wear a mask.
- **Chain gang** will operate on home team side. Approved by FB commissioner.
- **Starting lineups** stay at 40yd line for introductions, limitations of captains for coin toss.

VOLLEYBALL/JH GIRLS BASKETBALL

- **MASKS**
 - **FANS** will be required to wear masks within the gym. If they need to remove their mask for the purpose of eating and drinking they will be asked to put it back on as soon as they can.
 - **ATHLETES** seated on the bench will wear masks after catching their breath and getting a drink of water.
 - **COACHES** will wear masks.
 - **ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL:** Clock operator, scorebook keeper, etc will wear masks at the scorers table. Locker room must be disinfected before the visiting team arrives. Away team bookkeeper will NOT sit at the scorers table.
- Both sides of the gym will be open and signage will be placed to designate home and visitor sections. Fans will be encouraged to stay within their designated areas while watching the games.
- Teams will not switch sides before/after each set.

- No hand shake before the game.
- Designated personnel at the scorers table will be in charge of disinfecting the game ball when possible. Two game balls should be at the scorers table to allow for the referee to switch out as determined necessary.

COVID CASE RESPONSE

If a player or coach tests positive the team and all involved will be asked to quarantine for 14 days according to Public Health District Recommendations. Attendees of any events in which it is believed a student was positive will be notified via the school district Facebook page. The district will follow the district plan for positive testing within the district and will follow the guidance of the Regional Health District.

The athletic director will take appropriate measures to ensure that the AD of any visiting schools is informed of the positive case. Superintendent will notify all other District II schools of positive cases on any team.

Athletes and/or coaches that test positive must have a cleared physicians note to return to play.

General Whitepine League Athletic Guidelines - FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES - Every district will develop their own unique guidelines.

- **For Fans** – The Whitepine League asks that you physically distance yourself from others when attending outdoor sporting events. If you cannot safely physically distance, you are strongly encouraged to please wear a mask, for the safety of our players, coaches and others in attendance. Thank you for our cooperation and understanding. While masks are only encouraged at outdoor events at the moment, this could change as the situation develops.

Individual schools may require the wearing of masks for their sporting events given different health requirements in their community. As the stages change, requirements will follow based on school protocols in conjunction with regional health. Schools that have an indoor mask requirement are to communicate with other league schools to help prepare teams and fans be prepared when traveling to other league schools. If a school in the district requires masks the Nezperce School District will work to make sure that parents and fans are aware of this policy before attending an away game.

Fans are strongly encouraged to stay on their own side of the field or gym and limit interaction with people from other communities.

A reminder to physically distance when using the restrooms. Recommend additional restroom

facilities at outside venues.

No occupancy limits currently, but this is determined by the host schools within the League and could change.

- **Concessions** will be available as the host school determines to be fit. Workers within the concession stand will be required to wear masks and gloves while serving concessions. One worker who is also masked and gloved will be tasked with taking payment only.
- **Locker Rooms** -Each school that has a locker room available for the visiting teams will ensure that the locker room is cleaned with disinfectant prior to the team's arrival. The locker room will also be cleaned again following the team's departure from the school. Coaches are asked to encourage student athletes to have an in and out type manner with their locker room use. When appropriate half time conversations should happen in a more open environment. If not possible athletes and coaches should wear masks.
- **Gym** - When weather permits doors should be open. Circulation fans should be running when permissible as well. The exhaust fan should always be running when student athletes are present in the gym.
- **Bussing** - As with district policy bus drivers will wear a mask when loading and unloading but are not required to do so when driving down the road. Athletes and coaches will sit in socially distant seats when possible to do so. Families of athletes will be required to sit together. When it is not possible to be socially distanced on the bus athletes and coaches will wear masks. Athletes, coaches and drivers riding in the vans for transportation will be required to wear masks. Disinfecting of busses and vans will happen after transportation has occurred and will be done by the bus driver or coach in charge.
- **Coaches** - Coaches are asked to wear a mask whenever it is not possible to socially distance themselves from their athletes. This should be done at practices and games.
 - Coaches will keep accurate records of each athlete's stats prior to the start of a practice or a game. They will take their temperature and ask about any symptoms or contact with an ill person. If an athlete has any symptoms or has been in contact with a Covid-19 positive person they will not be able to practice or participate in the game. If temperature is 100.4 or above the athlete will sit on the sideline for 10 minutes and have a recheck of temperature. If temperature is still 100.4 or above the student will be asked to leave practice/game for the day.
 - Coaches are responsible for washing uniforms and masks after competition, student athletes will not take these items home.

- **Athletes** - Athletes will have a mask available to wear when asked to do so. Athletes will provide their own water bottles and towels if they use one. Athletes should be in a different change of clothing for practices every day. This clothing should go home to be washed and cycled out daily. If an athlete is feeling ill or has a fever they **SHOULD NOT** attend practice and/or the game. They should communicate this with their coaches.