



MCPS ATHLETICS UPDATE OVERVIEW

July 17, 2020

MCPS Sports Community:

To begin, I hope you and yours are safe and well. The purpose of this communication is to provide important updates regarding the operations of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program. This serves as the fourth communication updating the status of program operations due to COVID-19, since the conclusion of the spring season (May 29, June 15, July 1). Due to the ever-changing dynamics caused by COVID-19, MCPS Athletics has utilized an incremental, strategic decision making process that is founded on state and county guidelines and recommendations. To the extent possible, this process will continue to guide operations to ensure decisions are made consistent with the guiding principles of our COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics, state recommendations, MCPS school district operations, and Montgomery County health guidelines. The key updates include:

1. At the unanimous recommendation of the COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics, MCPS will continue in Phase 1 of the *Return to R.A.I.S.E.* plan, which provides guidance for the virtual engagement of out-of-season activities and prohibits in-person activities, through August 11, 2020. Therefore all in-person summer conditioning and activities are cancelled through this time.
2. An update regarding the status of fall sports and program operations on August 12, 2020, and beyond will be provided by the end of July 2020. Decisions will be made in alignment with state and county health guidelines.
3. The latest information and updates regarding the operations of the MCPS interscholastic athletics program are available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) section of the MCPS Athletics webpage.
4. A [summary of frequently asked questions \(FAQs\)](#) is available on the COVID-19 Athletics Information webpage.
5. The COVID-19 Task Force for MCPS Athletics and the 25 high school athletics specialists (ADs) unanimously recommend that all stipend coaches and athletic department personnel complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) free online course [COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators](#). Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to take the course.

The following resources are available for review and also available on the [COVID-19 Athletics Information](#) webpage:

1. COVID-19 Return to R.A.I.S.E. Strategic Plan Detailed Update – July 17, 2020
2. COVID-19 MCPS Athletics Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
3. Phase 1 of the *Return to R.A.I.S.E.* Strategic Plan

I know these times are unsettling and challenging on multiple levels, with interscholastic athletics being only one aspect of life. However, interscholastic athletics and our program as a whole play an integral role in providing key learning and engagement opportunities for our student-athletes and provide opportunities to showcase our school communities and spirit. Please know we are working around the clock to plan and implement a gradual, safe return to in-person activities, when conditions allow. We are committed to promoting the health and safety of stakeholders across our program, while championing our R.A.I.S.E. core values of equity, access, and safe competition. I appreciate the continued efforts of all members of our community and the resiliency of our student-athletes, coaches, athletics specialists/coordinators, and other stakeholders across MCPS Athletics. Together, *We RAISE MCPS Athletics!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeffrey K. Sullivan, Ed.D.
Director, Systemwide Athletics