

NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT WINTER 2020-21 ATHLETICS RE-OPENING PLAN

The following plan is based on the guidance from the following documents: “Return to Interscholastic Athletics” (NYSPHSAA, Sept 4th, 2020), “Interim Guidance to Sport and Recreation” (NYSDOH, Aug 15, 2020) & NYSDOH Interim Guidance for In-person at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (NYSDOH, July 13, 2020) & the OPCSD Reopening School Plan. This plan is subject to change as further guidance from NYSPHSAA, NYSDOH, ECDOH, and our district physician is developed and implemented.

General Considerations:

- The NYSPHSAA (New York State Public High School Athletic Association), under the direction of the NYSDOH (New York State Department of Health), has determined that low to moderate risk sports may begin practices and games for the following low-risk sports on January 4, 2020. Section VI has determined that low/ moderate risk sports will begin on January 18th.
 - Boys Swimming
 - Coed Bowling
- The NYSPHSAA and Section 6 have allowed the following high risk sports to begin February 1st.
 - Boys and Girls Basketball
 - Hockey
- Section 6 has postponed the following high risk sports to begin March 22nd.
 - Competitive Cheer
- The NYSPHSAA has delayed the following sports until further notice:
 - Wrestling
- Section VI has determined that the indoor track season will be canceled.

Return to Athletics Protocols

1. Screening

- All student-athletes in attendance will need to be screened prior to practice, games or getting on a bus to away contests.

NYSDOH guidance (Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools), states the following pertaining to screening:

Screening: Responsible Parties must implement mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks of students, faculty, staff, and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify any individuals who may have COVID-19 or who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Prior to attending an athletic practice or contest, please assess yourself for the following symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Finally, self-assess your health by asking yourself the following questions:

1. Have you knowingly been in close proximate contact in the past 10 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID 19?
2. Have you tested positive for COVID 19 in the last 10 days?
3. Have you experienced any symptoms of COVID 19 in the past 10 days?
4. In the last 10 days, have you traveled from another state or country for which New York requires a mandatory self-quarantine period?

If you answered yes to question #4, have you completed the 10-day self-quarantine as currently required by New York State?

- All coaches need to complete a self- assessment following the above procedures. If they are feeling sick, stay home and call the Athletic Office to make them aware.

2. Face Coverings/ Masks

- Per NYSDOH Sports and Recreation Guidance and the RTIA, student-athletes are required to wear a face-covering unless they feel they are “unable to tolerate a face-covering.” According to state

officials, “unable to tolerate does not require any note or medical issue.” If a student-athlete feels their breathing is restricted while participating in activity, they simply tell the coach they cannot tolerate it:

(NYSDOH Interim Guide to Sports and Recreation) - “Ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, whether indoor or outdoor unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing); provided, however, that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face-covering”.

** For the sports of bowling athletes MUST wear masks at all times. In swimming masks MUST be worn by athletes unless in the water. **

- Student-Athletes will be required to wear masks when not actively participating (e.g. on the bench, during halftimes, etc.)
- Coaches, trainers, spectators and event supervision will be required to wear masks at all times.
- Additional masks will be available with the athletic trainer.

3. Personal hygiene

- Hand Sanitizer will be provided in every medical kit for each team.
- Bathrooms will be open and available for handwashing.

4. Social Distancing

- Student-athletes, coaches, trainers, and officials will be required to establish routines that encourage social distancing of 6 feet or more at all applicable times. Warm ups, practice/instructional times should be able to attain social distancing.
- Signage will be placed in key areas to demarcate proper social distancing.
- During games, additional benches and chairs will be provided to socially distance players on the sideline.

5. After-school locker room use & bathrooms

- After school considerations - report to the assigned area right away and wait for your coach.
- Students will not be allowed to congregate in the gym area after school.
- Locker rooms are available at this time under social distancing guidelines. Coaches will develop plan for limited number of athletes in the areas.
- The bathrooms inside of the locker room are open at all times for use during practices and games.

6. Equipment cleaning/sharing

- Teams will limit shared equipment
- Shared equipment will be stored in the outdoor storage and will be disinfected on a nightly basis.
- Responsible Parties must provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies for shared and frequently touched surfaces and encourage employees to use these supplies, following manufacturers' instructions, before and after use of these surfaces, followed by hand hygiene.
- Responsible Parties must maintain cleaning logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection. In many cases, student-athletes can bring their own equipment for use.

i. Tennis - racquets, tennis ball

ii. Golf - clubs, golf balls

iii. Soccer - soccer balls

- Team Equipment used on the field (goals, cones) should only be touched by coaches.
- Personal items (water bottles, towels, etc.) shall not be shared. Each team member is encouraged to bring their own water bottle.

7. Transportation

- Student-athletes and their families will be responsible for providing transportation to the practice locations. They will not be penalized if they are not able to secure transportation on given days provided that they communicate this with their coach.
- Masks must be worn on buses.
- Team departure times will vary based on bus availability.
- Large buses are permitted to carry up to 22 passengers, small buses 8 passengers.

8. Officials

- Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sideline related to physical distancing, face coverings & illness.
- Locker rooms and changing rooms will be available for use under social distancing guidelines.
- Officials must wear face coverings at all times.

9. Spectators / Supervision

- At this time no spectators will be allowed during athletic contest.

****NO SPECTATORS MAY ATTEND PRACTICES OR ENTER THE BUILDING WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE COACH AND/OR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR****