
West Genesee Central School District

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Michael A. Burns

Director of Physical Education & Athletics

Dear Wildcat athletic community,

I write to you once again to communicate our plans for this upcoming fall season. Since the announcement that sports would commence in Section III, things have been moving rapidly and changing every day. The SCAC (Salt City Athletic Conference) of which our school is a member has worked together to develop a “Fall Athletics Plan” for member schools to create some consistencies amongst the various communities that are participating in this fall season. This “living plan” provides a roadmap for our various fall sports to follow in order to make this season a safe one. It will be the responsibility of each SCAC member school to abide by and enforce these recommendations and rules.

When the decision to move forward with athletics was announced by the Section III Executive Committee, it provided us and hopefully you with great excitement and positive vibes. We are still extremely excited to see our student-athletes out on our fields doing what they love. However, as I said to you in my update letter on Friday this will not come without some rules, restrictions, and inconveniences. I will be outlining some of those things for a little more clarity to you here:

Face Coverings:

In accordance with NYSDOH guidance (Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation) responsible parties must 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. Players who cannot tolerate a mask may be removed from a game for a break. Predetermined mask breaks will be built in and tailored to the specific sport.

Daily Health Screening:

NYSDOH guidance (Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools), states the following pertaining to 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. (Pg. 2) Student-athletes and coaches will be required to undergo daily health screening before practice and games. These screening will be conducted by coaches. If a student-athlete registers a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child.

Transportation and Practice Times:

Due to limited resources and personnel, as well as the logistical challenges presented by the 7th-12th grade hybrid/remote schedule, we are asking families to collaborate with us to provide a means of transportation for their children to attend practice and home games. There will be no interaction period or sports studyhall. Students will be dismissed at the end of their last period. We understand that this is an inconvenience but needs to occur to assist with all of the Covid related guidelines and procedures.

If you would like to contact a coach with sport specific questions, their e-mail addresses can be found here:

<https://www.westgenesee.org/athletics/coaches-contacts/>

Buses are still available for away games, but there may be travel roster limitations both because of the busing capacity restrictions and venue capacity restrictions.

Facilities/Hydration:

Water will not be available on site. Student-athletes are expected to bring two (2) filled water bottles with them to practice and games. Locker rooms will also not be available; student athletes are required to arrive at practice/games dressed and ready. Bathrooms will be available during games at the High School. The building itself will be closed to all. All sites will have porta-potties available for use. If we have inclement weather we will reschedule or cancel practice/games. Student-athletes may be assigned equipment that will be theirs for the entire season. Spots/zones that are physically distanced may also be assigned to student-athletes to place all belongings when arriving to practice, this will be their "spot" for the season. There will be no bleachers on the fields at practice/games except for the high school. We recommend bringing a plastic garbage bag for personal items/bags in case weather deteriorates during practices/games.

Spectators:

At this point, spectators are allowed into only varsity contests; however, they will be limited to two (2) spectators per player. There has been some issues with this guidance as it conflicts with other guidance regarding large gatherings and capacity limits. The NYSPHSAA is seeking clarity from the health department regarding the issue of spectators. As things change, our families will be updated. For now, each rostered varsity player will be provided with two passes that must be shown for entry to home and away contests. These are your passes for the season so keep them in a safe place. Some of the other SCAC member schools have also decided not to allow spectators at certain levels. We will respect those member school's decisions as well.

Schedules:

Varsity and junior varsity schedules will be populated on schedule galaxy over the next few days. 7/8/9 schedules will be released sometime next week. Weekends may be utilized for contests at all levels and all sports. Contests may not start until October 2nd at the earliest due to practice requirements. The only exception is for boys golf.

Family ID is still open for students to register for our typical fall sports. Registration will remain open until September 20th. Student-athletes that had physicals in the 2019-2020 school year are not required to have an updated physical for the upcoming fall season; however, it is encouraged to do so. All students are eligible to participate in athletics regardless of selected learning style (in-person, hybrid, remote only). In addition, because of the additional Fall II season, students may participate in four (4) seasons.

This information is meant to help guide your decisions regarding participation in interscholastic athletics this year. Unfortunately, things simply cannot be "normal" given the current environment. We are looking forward to providing the very best experience that we can following the requirements listed above.

As with the re-opening of school, things will look different and there will be hurdles and challenges along the way, but it is still extremely uplifting that we are able to offer these opportunities to our students to learn the valuable life lessons interscholastic athletics provides. Please feel free to contact our athletic department with questions at 315-487-4560.

Respectfully,

Michael Burns