



Blind Brook-Rye UFSD Interscholastic Athletics Restart Plan

GOALS

UPDATED 9/24/2020

The health and safety of our whole school community is our number one priority during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Interscholastic Athletic program will use sports team affiliation to support the wellness and well-being of our students. The program will focus on developing social, emotional, and mental wellness, as well as maintaining a sense of belonging for our student-athletes. Every consideration has been carefully and thoughtfully been discussed amongst multiple Blind Brook stakeholder groups including Board of Education members, Medical Advisory Committee members, administrators, teachers, school counselors, coaches, and parents.

We will proactively monitor the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff members. It is imperative for all individuals to stay home when not feeling well and to immediately contact the school-specific attendance office and team coach.

REVIEW

This entire plan is subject to change, as more information about COVID-19 continues to develop. As of now, this plan is in effect for the Fall 2020 season. Throughout the course of the Fall 2020 season, this plan will be evaluated to determine whether it will be carried into the Winter 2020-2021 season or be changed.

The development of this plan must follow the guidance/recommendations from the following authoritative groups:

- NYS Governor's Office
- NYS DOH
- NYSPHSAA
- Section One Office of Interscholastic Athletics
- Blind Brook-Rye UFSD

FALL SPORTS RISK CLASSIFICATION

NYS DOH - Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation¹:

¹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>

Low Risk (NYSDOH) - Singles Girls Tennis and Cross Country

- Lower risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:
 - Greatest ability to maintain physical distance and/or be performed individually;
 - Greatest ability to (1) avoid touching of shared equipment, (2) clean and disinfect any equipment between uses by different individuals, or (3) not use shared equipment at all...

Moderate Risk (NYSDOH) - Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Doubles Tennis

- Moderate risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:
 - Limited ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually;
 - Limited ability to: (1) avoid touching of shared equipment, (2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or (3) not use shared equipment at all...

High Risk (NYSDOH) - Competitive Cheer, Football, and Volleyball

- Higher risk sports and recreation activities are characterized by:
 - Least ability to maintain physical distance and/or be done individually;
 - Least ability to: (1) avoid touching of shared equipment, (2) clean and disinfect equipment between uses by different individuals, or (3) not use shared equipment at all...

Low and Moderate Risk Sports will follow the Return to Play Plan indicated below.

High Risk Sports will be evaluated as more information becomes available from the NYSPHSAA.

RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

The successful completion of the athletic season is conditional on keeping everyone healthy and safe. We must work collectively to achieve a safe and fulfilling athletic season. To that end, we are utilizing the “Compact to Commit to your Quaranteam”² developed by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The sheet will be completed during the initial week of team practices.

General Considerations for Interscholastic Athletics:

Ongoing Plan Evaluation

- We will continue to monitor the COVID transmission rates in the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD, our Section One competitor schools, and the Mid-Hudson Region as identified by the NYS DOH to determine if a pause is necessary.
- * Subject to change pending new information *

Spectators

² <https://media.chop.edu/data/files/pdfs/return-to-youth-sports-compact-to-commit-to-your-quaranteam.pdf>

- Spectators will be limited to no more than two per player.
 - *Only Blind Brook family members will be considered approved spectators on the Blind Brook campus. At this time, additional spectators are not permitted on the Blind Brook campus.*
 - Section One may develop additional guidelines for spectators.
 - *Only home fans will be permitted at athletic contests.*
 - In respect to the health and safety of the school community masks are expected to be worn in all common areas and when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- * Subject to change pending new information *
- * Additional information will be given as we approach scheduled contests.*

Team or Athletic Program Pause

- If Blind Brook HS moves to a remote-only instructional plan, the interscholastic athletic program will be on pause as well.
 - COVID conditions - BB Illness Decision Tree³:
 1. If any student on the team tests positive for COVID, regardless of symptoms; or if any student on the team becomes ill or has any symptoms highly suspected for COVID, such as fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, or stomach illness, the rest of the team will cease *in-person schooling/practices/competition* and remain on quarantine for 14 days.
 - If additional cases are confirmed, team continuation will be evaluated.
 2. If an opposing school team (within 14 days of competition) identifies a confirmed positive case, the competing team members will cease *in-person schooling/practice/competition* that day to assist with contact tracing efforts. A timeline for team continuation will depend on the date of the competition and the scale of the potential quarantine.
 - *Upon notification from the opposing school, student-athletes and families will be contacted immediately. Our District will work with the County DOH to assist with contact tracing efforts to help determine the quarantine scale and duration.*
 3. If an athlete's classroom/cohort contracts COVID, the players from that classroom/cohort cannot return to *in-person schooling/practice/competition* until the 14 day quarantine period is satisfied.
 4. If an athlete's sibling or household contact contracts COVID, that player cannot return to *in-person schooling/practice/competition* until the 14 day quarantine period is satisfied.
- * Subject to change pending new information *

³ <https://www.blindbrook.org/cms/lib/NY01913277/Centricity/Domain/304/BBR%20Illness%20Decision%20Tree.pdf>

Health Screening

- All Blind Brook students attending practices or competitions must successfully complete the online health screening attestation application (ezSCRN) before arriving at the school facility.
 - Please pay special attention to students attending practices/contests on days when they are on a remote learning cohort day or weekend.
 - *The athletic department will call/email home the day of practice/contest if it has not been completed.*
- All Blind Brook coaches will be required to successfully complete the health screening process before arriving at the school facility.
- Any spectators must complete the health screening process before arriving at the school facility.
- All visiting officials will be required to successfully complete the SWBOCES health screening process or the Blind Brook Schools screening process prior to arriving at the game site.
- All visiting team participants and visiting essential staff must successfully complete their home School District's health screening process.

* Subject to change pending new information *

Anticipated Schedule with Cohorting Phase-In Model

- September 29 - October 4:
 - One week period of maintaining educational cohorts that will be evaluated at the end of one week.
 - Monday/Tuesday Cohorts
 - Practices held: 9/29, 9/30, and 10/3 am
 - Thursday/Friday Cohorts
 - Practices held: 10/1, 10/2, and 10/3 pm
- October 5 - October 10:
 - One week period of mixing educational cohorts that will be evaluated at the end of the week. While educational cohorts will be mixed, sport specific practice plans will limit cohort mixing.
- October 14:
 - Earliest day athletic teams become eligible for interscholastic athletic competitions (10 practice minimum).
- Practices will not be moved indoors in cases of inclement weather.

* Subject to change pending new information *

Mask Wearing

- Mask wearing is required for all team participants at all times during practices when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- If a student cannot tolerate wearing a mask during practice, that student should remove himself/herself from the immediate activity.
- The student will be able to return to the activity when able to tolerate wearing a mask again.
- Section One may develop additional guidelines for mask wearing.

- Section One Conference III schools have agreed to mandate mask wearing during interscholastic competitions. Mask breaks will be built into game play. Any student unable to tolerate wearing a mask will need to remove himself/herself from the immediate activity.

* There are certain inherent risks when choosing to participate in a sport *

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Social Distancing

- A distance of at least six feet will be maintained among individuals at all times, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance.
- Layouts will be modified so that individuals are at least six feet apart in all directions, to the greatest extent possible, particularly during field exercises, drills, and other practice activities.

* There are certain inherent risks when choosing to participate in a sport. When contests begin there will be situations in which social distancing cannot be maintained.*

* Subject to change pending new information *

Team Selection

- As a general guideline, the number of participants on a Varsity team is twice the number of starters in a sport where a selection process is made. However, the number of participants that are ultimately selected for a team is at the sole discretion of the coach.
- Junior Varsity team participation will allow for a greater number of participants than in years past. Depending on the number of participants, rotating schedules or taxi squads may be utilized by the team coach.

Equipment/Locker Rooms

- Equipment will not be shared or will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- All students must bring their own clearly marked water bottle (~60 ozs.).
- All students requiring additional water will communicate with the team coach, athletic trainer, or other professional staff member to supervise appropriate safety measures.

- Any sport specific equipment should be clearly labeled and carried on your person, stored near the auditorium, or brought directly to the practice site at the end of the school day.
- Locker rooms will not be in use during the school day. Students should change clothing at home prior to attending team practices, whenever possible. Students should go immediately home following practices/contests and should not return to the school building.
- If a location is needed for changing clothing at the end of the school day, it should be communicated to your team coach or athletic department staff and arrangements will be made to provide a safe location to maintain social distancing.

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Transportation

- *All students are expected to arrive at the team practice site on their own.*
- *All students must travel to and from away contests by means of District provided transportation. Transportation waivers will not be in effect, due to the decision to not allow visiting spectators at contest sites.*
- *Travel rosters will be limited to 20 students. Team coaches will communicate travel rosters as early as feasible.*
 - *Changes to travel roster may occur the day of a competition depending on unforeseen circumstances.*

* Subject to change pending new information *

Sport Specific Considerations:

Cross Country:

- Travel roster for contests limited to 12 boys and 12 girls as per NFHS rules⁴.
 - *No more than 20 total students will be able to travel to away contests on District provided transportation.*
 - *Meets will use staggered, wave, or interval starts.*

* Subject to change pending new information *

Off-Season Conditioning:

- At this time there are no expectations for coaches to conduct off-season conditioning programs. All high risk sports are on pause, as the Section One Executive Committee has not authorized the start of open workouts/pre-season conditioning at this time.

* Subject to change pending new information *

⁴ <http://nysphsaa.org/Portals/0/COVID%2019/Return%20To%20Interscholastic%20Athletics%20REVISED%20FINAL%20091120.pdf>

INTRAMURAL PROGRAM

Modified (Middle School) Sports will not be conducted this season. Instead, an intramural program has been established in conjunction with the MS Administration, MS PE staff, and other MS teachers.

Students will be eligible to participate in their educationally identified cohorts (Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday). This opportunity will allow all the mental and physiological benefits of athletic participation and will align with the District initiative of establishing educational cohorts to manage and mitigate the potential transmission of infection. This program will allow for additional student participation than previously was reasonable with Interscholastic Athletic competition.

The Athletic Placement Process will not take place this season to maintain building level educational cohorts.

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DISCLAIMER

Participation in the Interscholastic Athletic Program is entirely voluntary. We will do our best to manage and mitigate the potential transmission of infection, however it is still possible for the virus to be transmitted. Our team of professional staff members will actively supervise and monitor all aspects of practices and contests to adhere to the health and safety expectations as developed by the NYS DOH, NYSPHSAA, and the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD.