

## **Pemberton Township High School Fall Sports Updated Information**

Pemberton Student-Athletes & Parents:

Like just about everything else in today's world, New Jersey high school athletics has been impacted by the emergence of the Coronavirus. I would like to thank The Pemberton Township School District Board of Education, Superintendent Paul Spaventa, and PTHS Principal Eder Joseph for their support of our Athletic Department and their confidence that our coaches and student-athletes will be able to successfully and safely engage in interscholastic athletics this fall.

This document is being shared in hopes of answering any questions you may have and hopefully easing any concerns there may be in regards to fall sports participation. To begin this process, below is a list of significant operational changes from seasons past:

- The State Athletic Association's (NJSIAA) calendar was altered to allow for, among other things, a delayed start to fall sports. In-person practices are permitted to begin on Monday September 14th. Game/Match play is permitted to begin on:
  - Girls Tennis - Sept 28
  - Boys/Girls soccer and Field Hockey - October 1
  - Football - October 2
  - Cross Country will have their first meet on October 10
- School districts are still working on individual plans in regards to spectator attendance at sporting events. Our district currently is planning on allowing spectators at home games. All spectators are required to follow any and all current mitigation measures and mandates as dictated by State and local health officials (ex. Wearing of masks, appropriate social distancing, etc...) Specific spectator protocols may change throughout the season based upon any changes provided to us by health officials and such changes will be communicated out as quickly as possible.
- Below are football specific guidelines that the Pemberton Township School intends to implement and follow for home varsity football games this season:
  - The district intends to follow all outdoor spectator capacity limits for all home varsity football games. Currently, the limit for spectators at outdoor events in the State is 500.
  - Spectators are once again reminded to follow all current health-related expectations.

- It is anticipated that all spectators will be screened for a fever prior to entering the stadium. Anyone registering a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be denied admission to the game. Additionally, spectators will be required to be wearing a mask upon entering the stadium.
  - There will be no re-admission of spectators once they leave the stadium.
  - Per West Jersey Football League 2020 regulations, Band and cheer will only perform at home events.
  - Tickets will be shared between home and away schools in a 60/40 split. Parents/Guardians of Pemberton football players, coaches, cheerleaders, and band members will receive priority status to receive tickets.
  - No one will be admitted to a varsity game without a game ticket
- The district transportation department is developing a plan to transport student-athletes to/from the high school on all school days for practices and games. Specific transportation plans will be posted once finalized. Transportation will begin on Monday September 14th
  - Please be sure to check our athletic schedule website for game times. For a variety of reasons, many games will be scheduled to start later than their typical 3:45 start times. Additionally, please check the notes section on our scheduling for away game site information, including spectator specific information.
  - The athletic and maintenance department have worked together through the summer to design adequate sanitation practices. Coaches and/or maintenance staff members will constantly review our practices and make any revisions we deem necessary throughout the entire fall season.
  - On our high schools main web page, there are Google classroom codes specific to athletic programs. If a student-athlete is interested in participating in a sport and has not signed up yet, they are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. Also, please check the team specific Google classrooms for any information, including details regarding daily transportation and/or the cancelation of any practices.
  - For more Coronavirus specific information, please view the document entitled “**Return to Sports Protocols & Procedures**”. Please keep in mind that the protocols and procedures highlighted in this document are subject to change at any time based upon and health department guidance that is shared with the district.
  - A bill was signed into law this summer allowing an extension of the timeframe in which high school athletes are medically eligible to participate in Fall athletics. Further information specific to this will be shared in the near future. However, you can visit the following link to read more details regarding this bill - <https://legiscan.com/NJ/bill/S2518/2020>

Once again, I want to thank everyone involved with the Pemberton High School athletic community for their support as we prepare to begin a Fall sports season unlike any other than we have ever experienced. We must be wise in our off the field decisions and flexible to adjust to any necessary changes put in place to best ensure the safety and welfare of our coaches and student-athletes. Our continued adherence to all recommended health and safety measures will give us the best chance at having a successful season.

Joe McColgan  
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Pemberton High School