

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges concerning this highly contagious illness. Any individual with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable. While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, we wish to assure you that the School District of Springfield Township (“SDST”) will take necessary precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), Pennsylvania Department of Health (“PA DoH”), as well as the National Federation of State High School Association (“NFHS”) and Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (“PIAA”), to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, SDST may adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

We wish to make you aware that our SDST Summer Athletics Health and Safety Plan includes the following but may not be limited to these procedures:

1. Conducting health screenings prior to any practice, event, or team meeting with participation in the activities being limited and/or prohibited where an individual displays positive responses or symptoms;
2. Encouraging social distancing and promoting healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, etc.;
3. Intensifying cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities;
4. Educating athletes, coaches, staff, and students on health and safety protocols;
5. Requiring athletes and coaches to provide their own water bottle for hydration.

***We wish to ensure that parents and guardians are aware that student participation in athletics carries with it risk, regardless of the procedures that we as a district can and will implement.***

By allowing your child to voluntarily participate in any athletic practice or event, you should be aware that such participation may include a possible exposure to a communicable disease such as COVID-19. You should also be aware of the risks associated with COVID-19 and that certain vulnerable individuals may have greater health risks associated with exposure to COVID-19, including individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and those whose immune systems that are compromised by chemotherapy for cancer, and other conditions requiring such therapy. While particular recommendations and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with participating in athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic, the risk of serious illness, medical complications and possible death does exist. Again, we as a School District are committed to ensuring that safe and hygienic practices and procedures are in place in order to mitigate these risks, but prior to your student being permitted to participate, we would like for you to be aware that elimination of any risk is not possible.

We know and appreciate the value of our students being involved in athletic activity. It is our goal to allow students continued access to our array of extracurricular athletic offerings, as we appreciate the benefits from such involvement. Nonetheless, we also feel we have an obligation to ensure that our families and students are aware of the inherent risks, particularly in those sports where there might be increased contact between players.

1. I am familiar with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) Guidelines regarding the Novel Coronavirus Disease (“COVID-19”). I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances and symptoms regarding COVID-19 are changing from day to day and that, accordingly, the CDC Guidelines are regularly modified and updated, and I agree to accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent CDC modifications and updates.
2. I affirm that neither I, nor any person residing in my household, have been diagnosed with, demonstrated any symptoms of, or have in any way knowingly been exposed to COVID-19, within the past fourteen (14) calendar days. I further affirm that I have not been notified within the past fourteen (14) calendar days that I, nor any person residing in my household, has been exposed to COVID-19.
3. I agree that if I, or any person residing in my household, begin to experience symptoms similar to COVID-19, or if I, or any person residing in my household, or are notified that I/they have been exposed to or infected with COVID-19 then I will immediately cease participating in the activity. Furthermore, if I, or any person residing in my household, or are notified that I/they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and I have participated in the activity within the last fourteen (14) calendar days from the date of diagnosis then I will immediately notify SDST of the diagnosis.
4. I acknowledge that I am aware that by participating in the activity that there is a risk of being exposed to COVID-19, and/or any mutation or variation thereof. I am also aware that such an exposure can occur either directly or indirectly whether or not a mask and/or gloves are worn and that SDST cannot guarantee that by participating in the activity that there will be no exposure to COVID-19. I further acknowledge that while certain individuals are more susceptible to becoming seriously ill if they contract COVID-19 (such as people over 65, people with serious underlying health conditions, and those with compromised immune systems), anyone, including a healthy person, is susceptible to contracting COVID-19. I have independently evaluated and reviewed the risks of being exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and have determined to participate in the activity with full knowledge and acceptance of the risks.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the above document.

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_