



## **JCPS PROPOSAL FOR FALL SPORTS**

**August 24, 2020**

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### **Introduction**

JCPS recognizes the importance of athletics in the lives of students. JCPS typically has 10,000 middle and high school students playing a sport. We have also added opportunities at the elementary school level to support our younger student athletes. Our teams and clubs have experienced great success, but our ultimate goal is to help our students grow as people and be ready for whatever their next step is in life. During this unprecedented time, we are watching updates closely and staying involved with appropriate regulatory and advisory partners for guidance.

This week, the Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA) confirmed the decision made earlier in the summer to begin athletic programs August 24. The JCPS Athletics Department has considered the KHSAA's opportunity to have the local board look at the recommendation and make adjustments that are right for individual communities. The proposal outlined below takes into consideration both the KHSAA decision and focuses on one of the JCPS Guiding Principles during COVID-19: Health and Safety.

### **Proposal**

This proposal has specifications for different sports and for different grade levels. It is important to note that this is a rapidly changing situation and the JCPS Athletics Department will be monitoring to see if any modifications are needed based on changing data.

At this time, middle and elementary fall sports are postponed until in-person instruction is allowed to begin.

One of the goals of the district is to begin the high school fall athletics program with low contact sports and to phase in the higher contact sports. JCPS reserves the right, based on current data, to suspend practices, games, schools, or entire sports from participation based on the spread of the virus.

Additionally, the District will monitor progress over the coming weeks and, if this proposal is approved, provide regular updates to the Board.

With the Board's approval of this proposal, all high schools will adhere to the following plan.

**Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf (low contact)**

	Cross Country	Field Hockey	Golf
First Practice	August 25	August 25	July 15
First Contest	September 8	September 8	July 31
# of Contests	9	16	20
# of Contests Weekly	2	4	3
# of Scrimmages	0	0	0
Notes	No more than 8 teams in meets.		

**Cheer/Dance and Band (low contact)**

	Cheer/Dance	Band
First Practice	August 25	August 25
First Contest	December 1	n/a
# of Contests	6	n/a
# of Contests Weekly	n/a	n/a
# of Scrimmages	n/a	n/a
Notes	No mounts. Perform at all varsity football games. KHSAA competitions will be held in January 2021.	Bands may practice using social distancing and attend varsity football games. Members that can remain masked safely should do so. Band directors must be masked at all times.

**Soccer and Volleyball (high contact)**

	Soccer	Volleyball
First Practice	September 7	September 7
First Contest	September 14	September 14
# of Contests	12	22
# of Contests Weekly	3	4
# of Scrimmages	0	0
Notes		Matches are limited to best 2 of 3 until the district tournament

**Football (high contact)**

<b>Football</b>	<b>Fall 2020</b>
Helmet only conditioning--no contact	August 25 - 28
Conditioning: Helmet and shoulder pad only --no contact	August 31 - September 3
Full gear practice	September 7 - 17
2-team scrimmage between 2 JCPS teams	September 12
First Contest	September 18
# of contests	8
# of contests weekly	1 per level
# of scrimmages	1
KHSAA state playoffs	Begin November 13

**Additional Safety Measures**

- JCPS schools will follow CDC guidelines and KHSAA Healthy at Sports document at all times.
- Parents/Guardians will be required to complete an additional JCPS Parent Permission form related to participating in athletics during Covid-19.
- Athletic trainers will help with disinfecting, sanitizing, and other COVID-19 precautions.
- JCPS coaches will take the free NFHS Covid-19 for Coaches and Administrators course.
- Practices and contests must be held outside the NTI schedule (e.g., school day) for students.
- Limit sports to 2 levels (Varsity and Freshman/Sophomore) instead of current 3 levels.
- Masks will be worn by spectators and non-players at events. Players should wear masks when safe to do so.
- A hand sanitizer station will be available at all entries.
- A COVID-19 symptom screening process will be in place for all participants including spectators and officials at both practices and contests.
- Spectators will be limited based on the KHSAA Healthy at Sports document which is scheduled to be released the week of August 24.
- No visiting team members may enter until a coach is present and verifies that each team member has been screened.
- Athletes should bring their own water bottles.
- Follow health department requirements for concession stands.
- KDE Guidelines for buses will be followed including the requirement of one coach on the activity bus for all runs for practices and games.
- Suspend handshakes before and after contests.

- Balls and equipment should be sanitized as much as possible. Sanitize game balls often.
- No locker room access for visiting teams other than restrooms. Teams come ready to play.
- Limit locker room access for home teams, when possible.
- Include school plan for inclement weather.
- No changing of benches between matches.
- Limit pre-game conferences to one coach and one player.
- No borrowing of equipment among players.
- Admissions gates will have markers six feet apart to ensure social distancing.

Once the KHSAA Healthy at Sports document is presented, additional guidance will be available that addresses competition restrictions.

The health and safety of our student athletes and coaches remains at the center of any decisions. We know that every option must be reviewed and discussed from all perspectives to do what is right for those involved. Athletics instill determination, dedication and highlights the importance of hard work for many of our students. These are skills that transfer into academics and into life. We are listening to our community and examining all options to see what is possible moving forward. The well-being of our students is central to what we do, and we understand the role athletics play in the lives of our young people.