



Frequently Asked Questions High School Athletics

The following document is provided to address questions that parents, teachers, and students may have regarding EMS ISD High School Athletics for the 2020-2021 school year. Please review the Frequently Asked Questions and responses below for details.

What are the health safety protocols for student athletes?

We will comply with the UIL requirements including social distancing, sanitizing and disinfecting equipment, practicing good personal hygiene such as frequent hand washing, and wearing face coverings. Students will not be required to wear face coverings when they are actively working out or playing their sport, but will wear face coverings when not active or during transitions to/from the activity. All students must bring a mask or cloth face covering (no shields); if a student arrives without a mask, one will be provided. Depending on their sport, students may make physical contact with one another during active activity. We will make every reasonable effort to maintain social distance and minimize contact.

How will students be screened for illness or COVID-19?

*Parents **MUST** ensure they do not send their child to school on campus for any activity if the child has COVID-19 symptoms, is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, or has been identified as a close contact to a lab-confirmed individual. For the safety of all participants and the ability of the athletic activity to continue without interruption, it is important that parents partner with us to ensure that their child is well and demonstrates NO symptoms. Students who exhibit symptoms on campus will be isolated from others and a parent will be notified to pick up the child immediately. Please keep your child at home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:*

- *Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit*
- *Loss of taste or smell*
- *Cough*
- *Difficulty breathing*
- *Shortness of breath*
- *Fatigue*
- *Headache*
- *Chills*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Shaking or exaggerated shivering*
- *Significant muscle pain or ache*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Nausea or vomiting*

Are the coaches being screened for COVID-19?

EMS ISD requires all teachers and staff to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each day. The self-screening includes teachers/staff taking their own temperatures. Employees must report to their principal or supervisor if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19, or if they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. If any of the above exits, they must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for returning in person.

What happens if someone tests positive?

If an individual in our program tests positive for COVID-19, they MUST inform their teacher/coach, who will notify the principal and school nurse. The individual will be instructed to begin a 10-day quarantine and will not be allowed to participate in any activity on campus. The District will work with the Tarrant County Public Health Department to identify and notify all close contacts, as well as students, parents, and staff at the school. Areas where the lab-confirmed individual have been will be sanitized with CDC- and EPA-approved disinfectants as well as any equipment that has been used by that individual.

It is important to understand that lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 could impact practices and even schools, on direction from Tarrant County Public Health. If a school is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, all on-campus athletic activities will be delayed as well.

How will you disinfect athletic areas and equipment?

The District has implemented robust cleaning and disinfecting protocols to minimize spread of illness. These include use of electrostatic sprayers to disinfect air and surfaces, as well as disinfectant that meets or exceeds CDC guidelines and is approved by the EPA for use in treating for COVID-19. Our coaches and custodial team will disinfect athletic areas regularly throughout the day and all areas on campus will be disinfected nightly. Students also may be asked to assist with wiping down equipment/cleaning areas after use.

How long does my student have to sit out if they test positive for COVID-19?

If an individual in our program tests positive for COVID-19, they MUST inform their teacher/coach, school principal, and school nurse. They will be instructed to begin the 10-day quarantine and will not be allowed to participate in any activity on campus. All participants in University Interscholastic League activities who test positive for COVID-19 must be cleared by a physician before being allowed to return.

How long does my student have to sit out if they are exposed to a student who tests positive for COVID-19?

Any student-athlete who has been exposed to a student who tests positive for COVID should stay home through the 10-day incubation period of being exposed.

Is my student-athlete required to have a physical and all Rank One forms completed in order to participate in practices?

Yes, all athletes must be fully compliant with electronic forms and a completed physical. More information can be found at our website, <https://www.emsisd.com/Page/20542>

If my student-athlete misses practice due to COVID-19, will there be repercussions?
There will be no repercussions for missing athletic practice due to COVID-19.

What is the timeline for games to be played for Fall sports?

Individual sports will follow the UIL Modified Activities Calendar and COVID Guidelines listed below:

Conferences 5A-6A				
	First Day for Practice	First Day for Games/Matches/Meets	District Certification Deadline	State Championship
Team Tennis	---	September 7, 2020	October 24, 2020	November 11-12, 2020
Cross Country	---	September 7, 2020	November 14, 2020	December 5, 2020
Volleyball	September 7, 2020	September 14, 2020	November 17, 2020	December 11-12, 2020
Football	September 7, 2020	September 24, 2020	December 5, 2020	January 2021, TBD

What is the timeline for games to be played for ALL sports?

Individual sports will follow the UIL TENTATIVE Sport Season Dates and Game/Tournaments Limit listed below:

Sport	Number of Scrimmages	Number of Contests Allowed	Conference	First Day of Practice	District Certification Deadline	Date(s) of State Championship
Baseball	2 in calendar week, 1 during school week. No limit in # of weeks	0 tournaments and 26 games or 1 tournament and 23 games or 2 tournaments and 20 games or 3 tournaments and 17 games	All conferences	1/29/21	5/4/20	6/9-12/21
Basketball (Girls)	2 total scrimmages; 1 during school week, 1 after	0 tournaments and 27 games; 3 games in a calendar week	All conferences	10/21/20	2/9/21	3/4-6/21
Basketball (Boys)	2 total scrimmages; 1 during school week, 1 after	0 tournaments and 27 games; 3 games in a calendar week	All conferences	10/28/20	2/16/21	3/11-13/21
Cross Country (Girls & Boys)		8 meets (3 or less teams do not count as a meet as long as no school time was lost)	All conferences	Year Round	11/14/20**	12/5/20
Football	2 scrimmages if no spring ball; 1 if school had spring ball	10 games	1A-4A 5A/6A	8/3/20 9/7/20	11/7/20 12/5/20	12/16-19/20 1/11/21
Golf (Girls & Boys)		8 tournaments (3 or less teams do not count as a tournament as long as no school time was lost)	All conferences	Year Round	4/10/21	G: 5/10-11/21 B: 5/17-18/21
Soccer (Girls & Boys)		0 tournaments and 21 games or 1 tournament and 19 games or 2 tournaments and 17 games or 3 tournaments and 15 games	4A, 5A, 6A	11/30/20	3/23/21	4/14-17/21
Softball	2 in calendar week, 1 during school week. No limit in # of weeks	0 tournaments and 26 games or 1 tournament and 23 games or 2 tournaments and 20 games or 3 tournaments and 17 games	All conferences	1/22/21	4/27/21	6/2-5/21

Swimming & Diving (Girls & Boys)		8 meets (3 or less teams do not count as a meet as long as no school time was lost)	All conferences	Year round	1/30/21	2/19-20/21
Team Tennis (Girls & Boys)		8 tournaments total - 3 or less teams do not count as a tournament as long as no school time was lost (Team & Individual combined)	All conferences	Year round	10/24/20	11/11-11/12/20
Tennis- Individual (Girls & Boys)			All conferences	Year round	4/17/21	5/13-14/21
Track & Field (Girls & Boys)		8 meets (3 or less teams do not count as a meet as long as no school time was lost)	All conferences	Year round	4/10/21	5/7-8/21
Volleyball	Unlimited prior to school year starting; after, 1 during school week.	0 tournaments and 29 matches ; 3 games in a calendar week	1A-4A 5A/6A	8/3/20 9/7/20	10/27/20 11/17/20	11/19-21/20 12/11-12/12
Wrestling (Girls & Boys)		8 meets/tournaments (4 or less teams do not count as a tournament as long as no school time was lost)	All conferences	Year round	2/6/21	2/19-20/21

Will students have access to water during practices and events?

Yes. Water filling stations will be available and will be managed by an adult to prevent contact with water bottles and maximize personal distancing during water breaks. Students also should bring their own water bottle filled from home each day. Wide-mouth reusable bottles work the best for refilling stations.

Will students use lockers and restrooms together? What about showering?

Locker rooms, bathrooms, and showers will be open. Athletes should come dressed to work out in the clothing issued by the school as often as possible. Coaches will monitor these areas and students will be asked to be quick and efficient to minimize time spent in these areas. We will make every feasible effort to maximize space between students in the locker rooms for locker assignments.

Will athletes share lockers?

Most students will not share lockers. Due to construction and the temporary locker room at Boswell High School, some football players might have to share lockers until construction is complete.

How will bus transportation to/from games be modified in response to COVID-19?

The district will need to use buses to transport students to and from games. We will make every possible effort to socially distance students on buses. It is likely that, for some larger teams, there will be two students to a seat when needed. Face coverings will be mandatory for all while on the bus.

Do you offer additional insurance to protect my child?

Yes. Information about student accident insurance is available on our district's athletic website.

Is my child expected to attend athletic practices during remote learning beginning August 20 to September 7?

Yes, attendance is expected at all practices to participate in EMS ISD Athletics. In high schools, workouts and practices will take place before 9:00 AM or after 3:30 PM during remote instruction.

Can my child still participate in athletics in remote learning?

Yes. During remote learning from August 20-September 7, athletes will be allowed to participate in on-campus athletic training before/after their academic classes. Those students who continue in Choice Remote learning beyond September 8 are allowed to participate in person, on campus in athletics. This could be during the school day and/or before or after school. The student must work with his/her coach to determine when the remote learner attends in-person class, practices, games, or events.

We understand that each family has unique circumstances and we will make every effort to work with students on their participation. Students who choose to continue in remote learning beyond September 8 and want to participate in athletics must have daily, reliable on-time transportation for drop off and pick up. Students will not be allowed to remain on campus to wait for a ride home after their activity. Not having on-time, reliable transportation will force a change in how your child participates in athletic instruction.

Where will I drop off my remote learner for their in-person athletic period?

Each campus and sport will determine where remote learners will be dropped and picked up for their in-person athletic period. Campus athletic coordinators and coaches will provide this information to their remote learners.

Games and Spectators

Will parents/guardians and visitors be allowed to attend games?

In cooperation with venue occupancy recommendations and to maximize social distancing, the number of spectators to high school athletic events will have to be adjusted based on the size of the facility. Our hope is to be able to increase the number of spectators as the competition seasons progress.

Football stadiums are currently at a 50 percent capacity for game attendance. More information will be provided regarding ticketing and spectators at high school football games. Participating groups (athletics, band, dance, cheer) will have limited access to the field. There will be no access to the field for anyone once the game is completed.

High School gym facilities also have a limited capacity. More information will be provided regarding ticketing and spectators at our high school gym facilities.

Face masks will be required of spectators at all athletic events and social distancing will be practiced as feasible.

What will ticketing look like for all our high school football games?

There will be no football season tickets for the 2020 season. All e-ticketing will be purchased through the GoFan app. All parents of students who are participating (including athletes, band, cheer, dance) will have the opportunity to purchase a set number of tickets through the GoFan app. Ticketing will open Saturday prior to the event and close Tuesday. E-tickets will be purchased with the student ID number. On Wednesday, the remaining e-tickets will open to the general public and can be purchased with the GoFan app, which is available for download for both iOS and Android.

Will you be live streaming any games?

Games that are hosted at our high school stadiums and gymnasiums will be live-streamed through the NFHS Network. There is a nominal subscription charge to the user for the service that can be purchased monthly or yearly. More information can be found at <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/>. We also will be using the Scorebird app for providing live scores of middle and high school games. The Scorebird app is available for download for both iOS and Android.

Questions?

If you have questions related to your student's sport or schedule, please visit with your campus athletic coordinator. If you have questions about district athletic standards, please contact the EMS ISD Athletic Department, 817-232-0880.

*Boswell Boys Athletic Coordinator: John Abendschan, jabendschan@ems-isd.net, phone TBD
Boswell Girls Athletic Coordinator: John Reese, jreese@ems-isd.net, 817-237-3314 x8395*

*Chisholm Trail Boys Athletic Coordinator: Byron Bode, bbode@ems-isd.net, 817-232-7112 x7106
Chisholm Trail Girls Athletic Coordinator: Janine Smith, jsmith@ems-isd.net, 817-232-7112 x7253*

*Saginaw Boys Athletic Coordinator: Dane Johnson, djohnson01@ems-isd.net, 817-306-0914 x8702
Saginaw Girls Athletic Coordinator: Vance Hughes, vhughes@ems-isd.net, 817-306-0914 x8447*