



Frequently Asked Questions Middle School Athletics and PE Classes

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

Athletics – 7th and 8th grade

When does practice begin?

The following sports will begin practice on August 25, 2020: Volleyball, Cross Country, and Tennis. The first volleyball game is scheduled for September 17.

Football will start on August 26, 2020; 7th grade will practice in the morning before school starts and during the athletic period and 8th grade will practice during the athletic period and after school. The first middle school football game is set for September 15.

Will there be a parent meeting?

Yes. Each middle school will schedule a time to meet with parents to discuss athletic plans and participation. Please watch for information from your child's coach and/or school 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 distance and minimize contact.

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.

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 or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. 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 sent to the nurse to 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 or Headache*
- *Chills*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Shaking or exaggerated shivering*
- *Significant muscle pain or ache*
- *Diarrhea*
- *Nausea or vomiting*

What happens if someone tests positive?

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. 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.

Will students have access to water?

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?

No. Students will not share lockers.

Does my student still purchase workout clothes?

Yes, students will need their campus athletic workout uniforms for practice and class. Campuses will be accepting payment by cash or check; online ordering is not available this year. Payment is \$30 for one shirt and one pair of shorts and can be brought to their coach or athletic coordinator once they return to campus.

Will you wash athletes' clothing?

Yes. Student athletic uniforms left in designated bins on campus will be washed using large washing machines and dryers. Clothes are washed daily in hot/warm water using industrial-grade detergent. Students also may take their uniforms home to wash. Coaches will begin washing clothes once classes resume on campus.

Will there be C teams this year?

Middle school C teams are dependent on participation numbers. We will work to offer C team games at the 7th grade level. There will be no C teams at the 8th grade level. The C team will not play as many games as the A or B teams.

Do all kids make the team?

Cuts will be made in cross country, volleyball, tennis, basketball, track, soccer, golf, and gymnastics. This is because there are limited numbers of positions available on these teams. However, because of the number of positions and special teams opportunities available in football, everyone who tries out for football will make a team.

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.

Is there a plan for purchasing game meal lunches?

Each campus will determine the options and process for parents to purchase game meal lunches for their child. Information about refunds in the event of game cancellation is available in the athletic refund policy.

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.

In Choice Remote learning, could my child be enrolled in the athletic period but stay home and receive remote workouts in the 7th or 8th grade?

Students who are trying out, or are selected, for a team for cross country, volleyball, football, gymnastics, golf, and tennis are expected to attend daily practices as required by their coach. This could be during the school day and/or before or after school. If an athlete does not make a team, he/she will join the off-season program, which will receive remote workouts via Canvas.

What if my sport is not in season (i.e. basketball)?

Remote learning students who participate in athletics will only come to campus when their season is in progress or as directed by their coach. The student must work with his/her coach to determine when to attend in-person class, practices, games, or events.

If a student is enrolled in athletics, are they required to attend athletics in person?

No. Only students who try out and make a team are required to attend athletic class and daily practices at the coach's direction.

Do you offer additional insurance to protect my child?

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

Physical Education and Pre-Athletics

Will PE and Pre-Athletics be offered to remote learning students?

Yes. Students in PE classes and Pre-Athletics will participate remotely in the Lifetime Fitness PE program. Activities and lessons will be posted in the CANVAS learning platform and daily participation is required.

When in-person classes resume on campus, will remote students be able to participate in Pre-Athletics?

Pre-Athletics is a 6th-grade preparatory class for middle school athletics. It is necessary for students to participate in person as they must wear campus-issued workout uniforms and participate in individual and group drills/exercises under supervision of their coach. Students who choose to continue remote learning once classes resume on campus may participate in the Lifetime Fitness PE program. It is not a requirement to be in Pre-Athletics to try out for 7th grade sports.

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 middle school athletic events will have to be adjusted based on the size of the facility.

Middle School gym facilities have a limited capacity. To ensure all players have an opportunity to have guests, each player will be given two, non-replaceable, season-long game vouchers that will allow their guests to purchase a ticket for home and away games. No extra tickets will be sold at the doors. Our hope is to be able to increase the number of spectators as the competition seasons progress.

Football stadiums will seat a larger number of spectators. We encourage parents to bring lawn chairs to our auxiliary fields and social distance along the perimeter. More information will be provided regarding ticketing and spectators at middle school football games.

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

Questions?

If you have questions related to your child'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.