



## Andover High School Athletic Department COVID-19 Safety Standards

Fall 2020 Season ONLY- To be amended and updated for future seasons.

**NOTE- These Safety Standards are in addition to the existing Andover Public Schools “Protocols for Responding to Covid-19 Scenarios” document**

**EEA Guidelines:** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-1/download>

**MIAA / DESE Joint Statement on Fall Sports:**

[http://miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic module/MIAADESE Joint Sports Guidance1.pdf](http://miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/MIAADESE_Joint_Sports_Guidance1.pdf)

### Fall Sport Offerings and Risk Categories

Massachusetts has specifically classified high school sports under three levels of risk:

- **Lower Risk**

- Sports or activities that can be done with social distancing and no physical contact
- Sports or activities that can be done individually
  - AHS traditionally offers the following Lower Risk sports during the fall season- Golf, Cross Country and ESports

- **Moderate Risk**

- Sports or activities that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants
  - AHS traditionally offers the following Moderate Risk sports in the fall season- Volleyball, Field Hockey, Soccer, Team Swimming

- **Higher Risk**

- Sports or activities for which there is a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between participants and a high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.
  - AHS traditionally offers the following Higher Risk sports in the fall- Football, Competitive Cheer and Unified Basketball

**In Phase III, Step 1 (our current status as of 8/17/2020),** our sports are subject to the limitations and guidelines set forth below:

**Type of Play:** The following types of play are defined by level from least to greatest risk.

- **Level 1:** Individual or socially distanced group activities (no-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, individual skill work, and drills)
- **Level 2:** Competitive Practices (Intra-team/group games, contact drills and scrimmages)
- **Level 3:** Competitions (Inter-team games, meets, matches, races, etc.)
- **Level 4:** Tournaments (Outdoor only)
- Sports in **Lower Risk** category (XC, Golf and ESports) can participate in **Level 1,2,3 and 4** type play as defined above.
- Sports in **Moderate Risk** category (Soccer, Volleyball, Swimming and Field Hockey) can participate in **Level 1** as traditionally played. Sports at AHS in Moderate Risk, may only participate in **Level 2 and 3** play IF we agree to play them by the modified rules set forth by the MIAA.
- Sports in the **Higher Risk** category can participate in Level 1 as traditionally played. The MIAA has not come out with any modifications for Competitive Cheer, Football & Basketball and therefore they must only participate in Level 1 play. Competitive Cheer, Football & Unified Basketball will be moved to a season later in the school year. Other Higher Risk sports must be amended in the future by the MIAA in order to move out of Level 1 play.

Given these criteria, Andover High School will offer the following sports this fall season:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- ESports
- Golf
- Field Hockey
- Boys & Girls Soccer
- Girls Swimming
- Girls Volleyball

Given the guidelines and other considerations, Andover High School will move the following traditional fall sports the MIAA's Fall 2-Floating Season from late February through mid-April:

- Football
- Cheer
- Unified Basketball

## **Protective Equipment and Facial Coverings for All Sports**

**Baseline Expectation Regarding Face Coverings-** All participants will be required to wear appropriate face coverings at any time that they are not able to socially distance- as defined as remaining 6 feet or more from other participants.

## **Further Detail Regarding Face Coverings-**

**Student Athletes** must wear face coverings at all times during practice and competition when unable to maintain social distancing. Student athletes **MUST** clearly be able to identify their own face covering through markings, etc. It is highly recommended that AHS student athletes have multiple, labeled face coverings available to them at every practice or contest. Additional masks should be stored in their personal gym bag. Athletes are allowed a brief mask break if they are greater than 10 feet away from all other individuals.

The following additional guidelines exist for face coverings in the following sports:

**Cross Country** - Face Coverings must be worn at the starting line and for the first minute or so of the race.

**Golf**- Face Coverings must be worn on each tee box until the player is alone on the tee.

**Soccer**- Neck gaiters that cannot “break away” are not legal.

**Swimming**- Face Coverings must be worn unless the athlete is in the water practicing / competing or on the diving board.

**Coaches and other athletic personnel** must wear face coverings at all times during practices and competitions even while social distancing. Coaches may take a “mask break” when they can clearly separate themselves from others for a short period of time.

**Spectators**- Please see section on Spectator policies

**EXCEPTIONS**- The only exceptions to the face coverings guidelines are laid out in individual sport rules or the individual has a medical condition or disability which prevents them from wearing a face covering.

## **Social Distancing-**

**It is important to note that ALL AHS Fall 2020 Athletics will follow EEA, DESE and MIAA Guidelines.**

- If a full-size outdoor field is being used, it may be divided into two practice areas where no more than 25 persons may be on either side (total of 50) but there must be at least 14 feet of space between the two areas AND coaches/players may not float back and forth from either group. **This applies to TRYOUTS** as well.
- At no point may more than 25 persons be on a single playing surface. This applies to practice sessions and contests. This would apply to a Field Hockey and Soccer practice session - no more than 25 student athletes and coaches total working on the field.
- Sidelines may be used but at least 6 feet of distancing must be kept between all in that area AND they must be wearing masks while there.

- Sportsmanship should continue in a touchless manner- no handshakes, slaps, high five, fist bumps.
- Individuals at practice sessions and contest may not congregate in common areas.
- There must be at least 20 minutes of time between users built into a field schedule.

## Hygiene Protocols

- There will be NO shared uniforms or other athletic clothing, pads or other athletic gear.
- Student athletes may NOT, at any time, swap things such as sticks, helmets, pads, practice vests (pinnies), etc.
- Sport balls- such as field hockey balls, volleyballs and soccer balls may be used by teams to train and play their games. However, they must be sanitized before and after each practice/contest. Golf balls are not to be shared.
- Participants and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all activities, either through hand washing with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- AHS student athletes must arrive for all practices and contests already changed into their practice gear/uniform and ready to play.
- AHS will provide all sanitizing cleaners, sprays, wipes, hand sanitizers for all student athletes, coaches and athletic personnel.
- Signage must be posted at AHS Lobby restrooms and Stadium restrooms indicating the following information:
  - No more than 2 persons allowed in restroom at same time.
  - No changing in the restroom
  - Face coverings must be worn at all times in this restroom

## Staffing and Operations

- To participate or attend an AHS athletic practice, contest or other event, all participants must show no signs or symptoms of Covid-19 for 14 days.
- Student athlete attendance must be kept by the person in charge of a practice so as to assist in contact tracing if needed.
- If any individual (student athlete, coach, other athletic personnel, etc.) develops symptoms of Covid-19 during the activity, they should inform the coach or other person responsible for the activity. The individual must be removed from the activity and sent home, if the individual is an athlete then their parents will be notified. The individual's name will be sent to the athletic trainer, athletic director and AHS nurses at the end of the practice or game.
- If, at the time of the arrival check-in screening, or at any time during the program, a student athlete shows symptoms or acknowledge they have been exposed to Covid-19, that person will be immediately removed from all other people (other than a minor and their parent). Parent will be immediately contacted and student athlete will be sent home. The individual's name will be sent to the athletic trainer, athletic director and AHS nurses immediately.

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

- All high touch surface areas will be cleaned at the end of each session.
- **Bathrooms in Field House Lobby and Lovely Stadium-** These restrooms will be cleaned before, during and after each day of use. They will be cleaned following all Best Practices laid out by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- **Equipment-** Although there will be limited equipment involved in this program, any equipment that is used will be sanitized after each use.
- **Inventory of cleaning products** will include but not be limited to: Disinfecting spray, Disinfecting wipes, bleach-based bathroom cleaning product, paper towels, trash bags.

## Hydration and Ice Protocols

- Each student athlete must bring their own filled water bottle- properly labeled with their name.
- The AHS ice machines will not be accessible to any AHS students or coaches. Only the AHS Athletic Trainer and Athletic Director may access the ice machine.

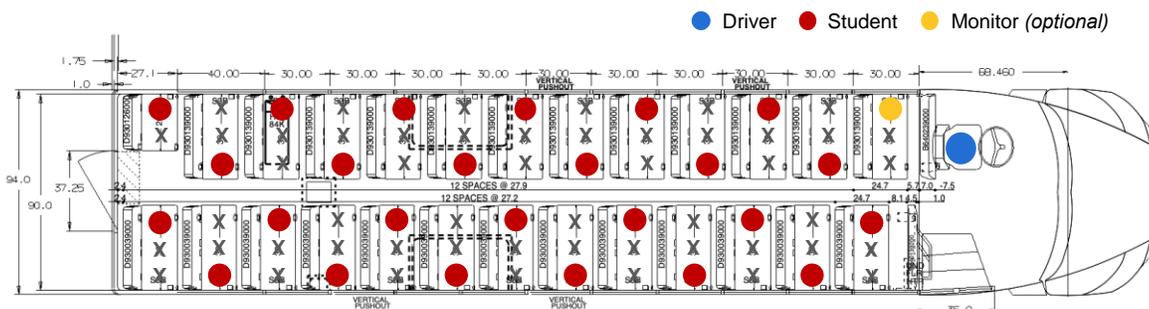
## Transportation

District-arranged school buses will be used for the transportation of student-athletes for weekday games. For weekend competitions, the transportation will be:

- 1) a student with a current, valid driver's license may transport himself/herself and not any other students to or from a weekend competition; and
- 2) a student may be transported from a competition by his or her own parent(s)/legal guardian(s).

Protocols for on-bus activities:

1. Students and coaches/staff will be seated as shown in diagram below.



2. Students and coaches/staff will wear masks at all times on the bus.
3. Windows must be kept open at all times.

4. Coaches/staff may not address the team with “coaching” items while on the bus.
5. Students and coaches/staff may not move from their assigned seats unless there is an emergency.

## **Spectators**

Merrimack Valley Conference member schools are expected to follow the guidance of school, local, state and federal recommendations as it pertains to spectator events and facility restrictions if and which such information becomes available.

- At this particular point in time spectators will not be allowed to attend indoor athletic events. There will be NO SPECTATORS allowed for Swimming or Volleyball this fall.
- Prior to all outdoor league events spectators will be required to sign in, show a photo ID, and sign an attestation form that they are free of any COVID-19 symptoms. Failure to do so will result in denied access to league events.
- Each member school will provide a list of up to 25 names that will allow said guest to sign into league events.
- In the event that names on the list change, an attempt to contact the host school to inform them of the change should take place. However, if time does not allow, member schools should use discretion.
- Spectators will be required to wear a mask at all times while in attendance.
- Spectators will be restricted from direct competition areas and from visiting with student athletes and personnel before, during and after games.
- Spectators should not congregate in walkways, restrooms, and other common areas.
- Spectators should respect and observe all social distancing rules to ensure their safety.
- There will be NO SPECTATORS allowed for Golf, Swimming or Volleyball this year.

## **Sports Specific guidelines**

For any sport where rules modifications were approved by the MIAA for fall 2020, AHS will follow all rules as laid out and approved per EEA. Furthermore, all rules modifications for in game play will be translated and followed during practices/training sessions.

### **Cross Country:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/CrossCountryModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/CrossCountryModificationsFall2020.pdf)

**Field Hockey:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/FieldHockeyModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/FieldHockeyModificationsFall2020.pdf)

**Golf:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/GolfModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/GolfModificationsFall2020.pdf)

**Soccer:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/SoccerModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/SoccerModificationsFall2020.pdf)

**Swim & Dive:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/SwimDiveModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/SwimDiveModificationsFall2020.pdf)

**Volleyball:**

[http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa\\_generated\\_bin/documents/basic\\_module/VolleyballModificationsFall2020.pdf](http://www.miaa.net/gen/miaa_generated_bin/documents/basic_module/VolleyballModificationsFall2020.pdf)