

**North East School District
Athletic Department
Participation Waiver for Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19 Recommendations
for Athletic Participation**

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across the world with a myriad of challenges. The COVID-19 virus is a highly contagious illness that primarily attacks the upper respiratory system. The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. Research from the Centers for Disease Control, among others, has found that while children do get infected by COVID-19, relatively few children with COVID-19 are hospitalized. However, some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child 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, the current science suggests there are many steps schools can take to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families.

The NESD will take the necessary precautions and recommendations from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA. The NESD realizes the knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing as new information and treatments become available. These recommendations will be adjusted as needed as new information becomes available in order to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators.

These recommendations include but may not be limited to:

1. Athletes, Coaches, and Staff will undergo a COVID- 19 health screening prior to any practice, event, or team meeting. The type of screening will be dependent upon the available resources and the Phase level. The purpose is to check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. It will include a questionnaire and temperature check as needed.
2. Promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, cough in your elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, face and mouth, no spitting, no gum chewing, No Handshakes/Celebrations (high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps, hugging)
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities
4. Encourage social distancing through increased spacing, small groups, and limited mixing between groups, if feasible
5. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols
6. Anyone who is sick must stay home
7. Plan in place if a student or employee gets sick
8. Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures
9. Athletes and Coaches **MUST** provide their own water bottle for hydration. Water bottles must not be shared. **Refill Stations and Water Fountains will NOT BE Initially AVAILABLE!**
10. PPE (gloves, masks, eye protection) will be used as needed and situations warrant, or determined by local/state governments. Face Coverings will not be used for athletes while practicing or competing.

WAIVER AND RELEASE

In consideration for my student athlete being permitted to participate in NESD athletics during the 2020-2021 academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby, acknowledges and agrees to the following on behalf of themselves and on behalf of their minor children:

I understand and I acknowledge that my minor student athlete’s participation in athletic events during the COVID-19 pandemic may be inherently dangerous. I further acknowledge that even when conducted in an appropriate and proper manner, exposure to COVID-19 during an athletic event could cause injury to my person and/or property as well as the person or property of my minor student athlete. I hereby expressly assume the risk associated with all activities regarding my student athlete’s participation in interscholastic athletics, for myself and for my minor child.

I hereby for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns specifically acknowledge and agree that the following persons and entities, including but not limited to, the School District, its official, agents, representatives, officers, directors, employees, members or affiliates of any person or entity named above (the “Releasees”) are not responsible for my safety nor the safety of my minor child and that I am fully responsible for my own safety and for the safety of my minor child during athletic participation, BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS, CONDITIONS, AND HAZARDS of my minor child’s participation in athletic activities and events, I specifically WAIVE, RELEASE, and DISCHARGE, in advance, for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns, the Releasees above from any and all liability, whether known, or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, including, but not limited to, damages for death, personal injury, or property damage, from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, damages, demands, injuries, medical expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever, including reasonable attorney’s fees and interest, which may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of the parties or entities mentioned above, or which may arise from the conditions, whether structural, man-made, natural or otherwise, of participation in athletic activities. I agree to accept all responsibilities for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur, whether they are known or unknown, whether they are apparent or not, whether they are foreseen or unforeseen on behalf of myself, my minor child, and my heirs.

BY SIGNING BELOW I ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MY MINOR CHILD’S PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY AND I SPECIFICALLY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND WAIVE ALL ABOVE-MENTIONED RELEASEES OF ANY LIABILITY DESCRIBED ABOVE. I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND IT SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Sport: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete: _____

Date: _____

*Parents/Guardians may request a full copy of the NESD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations from the NESD Superintendent and/or Athletic Directors.