



## Auburn's Return to Athletic Guidance



### Introduction:

*The New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department are two of the primary entities providing guidance to schools during the current pandemic. The Auburn School District's Re-opening Plan has been devised in accordance with these guidelines. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is required to follow the same NYS issued guidance. NYSPHSAA only has the authority to amend NYSPHSAA rules or regulations. Auburn Athletics will conduct their program, as outlined below, balancing legal advice and guidance from these three organizations. For further specific information regarding season start dates, when sports will be offered, physical dates and FamilyID registration, please refer to the Athletic page of the Auburn School District website.*

*All individuals (coaches, student-athletes, spectators, district personnel), whether they are inside or outside, must maintain a distance of 6 feet away from each other, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., practice, playing) requires a shorter distance. All individuals are required to wear masks at all times distancing cannot be maintained. Guidelines for Auburn Athletics return to competition are outlined below, and as always in recent times, are subject to change.*

### Spectators:

#### **Spectator Guidelines for Athletic Contests in Auburn will be as follows:**

- *At Auburn home games, family members may attend games. Player's siblings may attend and sit with parents.*
- *There is no student section in Athletics this year. No students may attend Auburn home athletic games as spectators unless they have an SCAC admission pass or are attending with their parents as a family member of a team player.*
- *SCAC league passes (two per team member, issued by the Athletic Department) must be presented upon request at all games.*

*In accordance with the NYS DOH Sports & Recreation Guidance document (p. 13) spectators will not be screened as they enter Auburn contests.*

*As per the NYS DOH Sports & Rec Guidance (p. 6), spectators must maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals and/or family/household units at all times AND all spectators must wear face coverings when they are in common areas and situations where six feet of distancing is not able to be maintained, so long as they are over the age of two and medically able to tolerate such covering.*

### **Student-Athletes:**

*As per the NYS DOH Sports & Rec Guidance (p. 5), a distance of at least six feet must be maintained among individuals at all times, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., practice, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity. Guidelines for Auburn student-athletes wearing masks:*

- *All players start the practice or game with a mask positioned properly;*
- *If a player is unable to tolerate the mask during physical activity, they may pull the mask down;*
- *Players are expected to pull the mask back into position after a break or as they enter a group;*
- *Players' masks may be moved in and out of position during a practice/game repeatedly;*
- *All student-athletes on the sideline should be wearing a mask.*

*In accordance with NYS DOH guidance and the Auburn Re-Opening Plan, coaches will perform health screenings and temperature checks whenever student-athletes arrive for practice/game or depart for a game in another District.*

*Locker Rooms will not be available for the storage of students' equipment. They will be available, for small groups of students to use at one time, for changing and bathroom use.*

### **Coaches:**

- *Coaches will utilize the screening questions to check themselves every day before a practice or game. They may continue to coach if the answers are "no" but call the Athletic Office if any of the answers are "yes".*
- *Coaches will wear a mask at all times. If coaches require a "mask break" they will make sure there are no others within 12' outside.*

- *Coaches will maintain a distance of at least six feet between themselves and others as much as possible.*

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

#### ***When will the Fall Season higher risk sports take place?***

*The higher risk sports (football, volleyball, fall competitive cheer) will move to the NYSPHSAA Fall 2 season. The Fall 2 season will start on March 1, 2021 and end May 1, 2021. NYSPHSAA has moved the start date of the Spring sport season to April 19, 2021 which will minimize season overlap for students. The SCAC Girls Swimming season has also been moved to the Fall 2 season due to the current lack of available facilities.*

***Will there be fall sectional championships in Section 3 sports? No***