

August 17,2020

As health officials continue to take steps to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19, schools can play an essential role in this effort. Bismarck Public Schools believe that athletics and co-curricular activities are essential for the physical, mental, and social well-being of our students.

While a difficult decision, Bismarck Public Schools, together with public health officials, have made the difficult decision to only allow **essential staff and limited attendance at all conference events through the fall season.**

Ticketed Events:

All attendees must have a voucher to be able to purchase a ticket at a contest. The capacity restrictions of the facility as determined by the ND SMART Restart guidelines will determine the number of vouchers issued for a contest. Vouchers will be disseminated through rostered players on each team for each activity. Season passes will not be available at this time and employee badges will not grant access to a contest unless they have a voucher. Spectators will not be allowed access to the venue nor allowed to purchase a game ticket unless they have a voucher good for that contest.

Non-ticketed Events: (Cross Country, Tennis, Golf, all middle school activities, etc.)

For all non-ticketed events, BPS is asking that spectators be limited to no more than two individuals per athlete. Spectators are asked to socially distance to the maximum extent possible and to leave immediately following the conclusion of their athlete's event.

Non-spectator Events:

Due to venue size and ND SMART Restart guidelines, there may be some contests where spectators are not allowed due to limited seating/access at the venue. (Swimming, smaller gymnasiums, etc.)

Masks:

Bismarck Public Schools requires the use of masks for all individuals on BPS property or at BPS events when social distancing cannot be maintained. While this is the expectation BPS has, other schools may have different requirements. Please respect each school's request.

Live Streaming:

When possible, games will be livestreamed throughout the WDA conference. Please check the live streaming page on the WDA Sports webpage (www.wdasports.org) or local school district websites for more information including links to available live streams. Bismarck Public Schools is in the process of installing live stream cameras in the main gyms at Bismarck, Century and Legacy High Schools as well as at the MDU Resources Community Bowl and the Dakota Community Bank and Trust Field at the Sanford Sports Complex. Once installed, sponsorship from the Bismarck Public Schools Foundation, Cedric Theel Toyota and DK Orthodontics will make these streams available for free to the public.

We understand how disappointing this is for our families and fans; however, our decision is based on the safety of our students. This decision is in the best interest of public health, including that of coaches, administrators, fans, and, most importantly, our student-athletes.

We will continue to monitor the directives and guidelines of the NDDoH, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health, and the WDA, and will provide more information as it becomes available.

Dave Zittleman

Director of Student Activities

Bismarck Public Schools