



AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

PRESS RELEASE: HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS UPDATE  
SUBMITTED BY DR. AMY SLAVENSKY  
February 25, 2021

Social emotional wellness, academic achievement, and the health and safety of all students remain our top priorities. We know our student-athletes benefit greatly from participating in their chosen sports. We also know that athletic participation greatly supports our students' social-emotional wellness and often is the motivation for doing well in school. For these reasons, the District is very pleased to release the following information.

### **New State Guidance**

On February 19, 2021, Governor Newsom released new guidance for youth sports which provides more opportunities for outdoor sports to play. Sports in Season 1 include football and soccer and are now eligible to begin under this new guidance, which considers a county's current case rate. Although Amador County is still in the purple tier, our county currently meets the case rate threshold and teams may begin practicing this Friday, February 26. Unfortunately, this new guidance did not make any changes to indoor sports.

### **Schedule and Plan**

Amador and Argonaut High Schools are members of the Mother Lode League (MLL) which is part of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sac-Joaquin Section. Our high school administrators and athletic directors have met extensively with the other members of the MLL to develop a revised plan and schedule for high school athletics, following the new guidance. The plan is designed to provide clear guidance as we move forward and reach certain colored tiers set forth by the California State Department of Public Health (CDPH). The MLL schedule and aligned health and safety plans specific to League play, have been approved by the Amador, Calaveras, and Tuolumne County Health Officers, and are awaiting final approval by CDPH.

### **New Requirements**

There are new requirements from CDPH such as all players must have a current physical in order to play, an informed consent form must be signed by each parent/guardian for football and soccer, and all football athletes and coaches must be COVID tested weekly, starting the week of March 12. The testing protocol is currently under development, and testing will be free and available for all student-athletes and coaches.

### **Spectators for Athletic Events**

According to the CDPH guidance, general admission spectators are not permitted at any contest. The guidance states: "limit observation of youth sports (age 18 years and under) to immediate household members, and for the strict purpose of age appropriate observation." Based on this strict guidance, MLL developed and will enforce a Family Pass system. Only immediate household members of an athlete on an approved sports roster will be permitted entry to a game with a Family Pass. The pass will include the approved sport along with all immediate household members' names, as verified by school administration. There will be no general admission at any gate for any sport, home and away. Family Passes may be purchased for \$50 from the school office and adults must have a photo ID for entry with their Family Pass.

### **Health and Safety Expectations of all Spectators**

All spectators will be required to follow guidance set forth by the CDPH, which includes the following:

- **Social Distancing:** Maintain 6' social distancing from other families, remain in the bleacher area or parking lot, and children must remain with their parent/guardian at all times.
- **Face Coverings:** Required by all spectators over the age of 3 and must be worn at all times. Failure to abide by this policy will result in removal from the game and/or revocation of the Family Pass.
- **Health Screening:** Required of all spectators, who are also asked to conduct a passive health screening (self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms and take their temperature) at home. Some sites may require an active health screening upon entry.

Our partner schools, our league, administration and staff want to give all of our student-athletes an opportunity to play this season. Thank you for your cooperation and support to comply with all guidance and requirements so we can support our students to the greatest extent possible and keep our whole community healthy and safe at the same time.