

COVID-19 Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk

The unique characteristics of COVID-19, including its potential for transmission by infected individuals who are asymptomatic, require a community-wide commitment to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

The District has put in place a school reopening plan and health and safety procedures and protocols consistent with the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”), along with other federal, state, and/or local authorities.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right. The cooperation of each student-athlete and their parent(s)/guardian(s) (hereinafter “you”, “your”, “we”) to follow COVID-19 guidance and safety protocols both when at school, participating in athletics, and outside of school is critical to the District’s efforts to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19. Your cooperation in responding **candidly and accurately** to daily screening questions and in complying with the COVID-19 protocols established by the District, and in regards to athletic participation, is essential. Failure to follow the District’s COVID-19 protocols may lead to your removal from athletic participation, consistent with the District’s Athletic Handbook and/or Code of Conduct.

Even with health and safety protocols in place, there still is a risk that you may contract COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19.

Accordingly, despite its compliance with CDC, federal, state, and/or local guidelines and recommendations, the District cannot limit all potential exposure to COVID-19 and COVID-19 variants.

By signing below, the student and their parent(s)/guardian(s) acknowledge the following:

- Health officials have warned of more highly transmissible variant forms of COVID-19. Although the more highly transmissible variant forms have not been previously identified in the local area, variant forms have been identified in New York State.
- Participation in interscholastic athletic activities is voluntary.
- Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus. Even if a student does not show symptoms of COVID-19, he/she may be a carrier and expose others to COVID-19. If a student-athlete is infected, there is a significant risk of transmission to others living in the student-athlete’s home. Older individuals and those with underlying health conditions are at higher risk of serious disease.
- It cannot be predicted who will become severely ill if infected. COVID-19 and its variants can lead to serious medical conditions and death for people of all ages. The long-term effects of COVID-19 are currently unknown. In addition to those with severe cases, individuals with mild cases may experience long-term complications.
- The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (“NYSPHSAA”) has categorized sports based upon their level of potential risk.
 - “High” Risk spring sports (i.e. boys lacrosse)
 - “Low and Moderate” Risk spring sports (i.e. include baseball, softball, golf, girls lacrosse tennis, outdoor track etc.)
- Participation in a “Low and Moderate” risk sport does not in and of itself mitigate or eliminate the risk of being exposed to or infected with COVID-19.
- Participation in “High” Risk sports has inherent characteristics that could increase the risk of exposure to or infection of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19.
- The COVID-19 virus can potentially negatively impact an individual’s body, including but not limited to the heart and lungs, thereby posing a potential risk to individuals who return to exercise post-infection.

- If my child has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or there is good reason to believe my child had COVID-19 but was not tested prior to the spring sports season or my child develops COVID-19 during the season, we will follow the District’s “Return to Play” guidelines and comply with supplying additional medical authorization that specifically authorizes my child to participate in athletics after his or her recovery from COVID-19. We understand that this may require additional cardiac or pulmonary screening.
- The final decision regarding whether an athlete is cleared to participate in athletic activities resides with the District’s medical director.
- Due to quarantine requirements and/or contact tracing the season may end early and/or be placed on pause.
- The start of the spring sport season does not guarantee that the school will participate in interscholastic competitions.
- Participation in interscholastic athletics on Wallkill Central School District teams may contribute to the risk of the student, and thus the student’s family, being exposed to COVID-19, and/or any variation thereof.

By signing below, the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) assume the risk of the student contracting or being exposed to COVID-19, while participating in athletic activities (team events, practices, training, contests, transportation, etc.). Participation in interscholastic athletic activities is not required. The student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) have independently evaluated and reviewed the risks of the student being exposed to or infected by COVID-19 and have decided to allow the student to participate in athletic activities with full knowledge and assumption of the risks.

By signing below, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student certify that each has read this “COVID-19 Acknowledgment and Assumption of Risk” in its entirety and fully understand its contents. In exchange for the opportunity for the student to participate in COVID-19 high risk athletic activities, the student and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student freely and voluntarily assume all risks related to COVID-19 and variants of COVID-19 by the student participating in the sport.

As a condition for the student to participate, the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) will fully cooperate with requests for COVID-19 testing, case/contact tracing investigations, and comply with isolation/quarantine requests from health officials.

During the 2021 spring sport season, the student is voluntarily participating in the sport of _____ and the student and the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) understand that it has been categorized as a _____ risk sport by the NYSPHSAA.
 (“low or moderate” or “high”)

 Student Name

 Student Signature

 Date

 Parent/Guardian

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date