

Proposal to Return to In-Person Activity

Submitted by:	Rodney Thomas	Date:	10/09/2020
Title:	Athletics and Activities Director	School:	DHS
Brief title this proposal can be referred to as (try to keep to 5 words or less):			
DHS JV Football Return to Play			
Brief description of what is being proposed (try to keep to under 5 sentences):			
I am proposing that the DHS JV football team resume practice the week of October 12th			
When do you propose beginning this activity in person, why do you propose that date, and what will the impact be if in-person activity is delayed until after that date?			
<p>I would like the DHS JV football team to resume practice the week of October 12th. The JV team will join with the Varsity practices. This opportunity will allow younger players to develop, as well as add depth to our Varsity team. The JV schedule has been reduced from the normal 7 game season down to 3 or 4 games. For the safety and well being of the players, GHSA requires an acclimation period so that football players can get accustomed to wearing pads and a helmet. This acclimation period is five days. However, before the players can start wearing pads and helmets, they must regain their conditioning and “football fitness”. Reconditioning may take 5-10 days and the coaches will need almost two weeks to implement plays. Starting the week of the 12th will give these players enough time to safely prepare for participation.</p>			
Describe the population of people who will be returning to in-person activities (students, staff, age levels, grades, programs, teams, etc.):		Approximately how many people in each of those groups will be impacted by this proposal (students, staff, volunteers, etc.):	
Students grades 9-11. Ages 14-17 JV Football. Football Coaching Staff		20-25 players Will work with same coaching staff for Varsity team. (3 certified staff coaches, 1 certified lay coach, 3 lay coaches)	
Describe the <u>benefits</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>risks</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:		Describe the <u>risks</u> of returning to in-person for this activity and the <u>benefits</u> of <u>NOT</u> returning to in-person:	

Resuming Fall extracurricular activities will help the social and emotional well being of our student-athletes. So much has been taken from these students. The resumption of these activities will give them a healthier attitude about school, connect students with additional supporting adult role models, and improve academic performance. The risks of not returning include a negative mindset towards school, possibly leaving DHS to attend a school where extracurriculars are being held, and the students feeling not valued or appreciated since they will be watching others proceed in their activities while they sit in the wings. The GHSA Football games were held on September 2nd and games took place through Saturday. Several high school games were televised. Our students are watching others participate in the season while they stand in the wings. This is a huge burden for our kids to bear.

The risk of returning is the possible spread of the virus among the football team. The benefit of not returning is that our football team would not have contracted the virus while playing football for DHS. However, there is no guarantee our football players, the coaching staff or our football families will not contract the virus outside of the football program. All we can do is try to mitigate this virus to the best of our abilities.

Describe in detail the protocols, equipment, and other actions that will be implemented to protect the health and safety of the persons involved in this activity:

DHS Football Conditioning/Practice Protocol **Fall 2020**

Decatur High School Football will follow the safety guidelines provided by Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and CSD policy. The guidelines are as follows:

- Coaches and athletes will have their temperature taken prior to each workout, and will sanitize from the elbow down before entering the field. Anyone with a temperature above 99.0 fahrenheit will not be permitted to enter or use facilities. Coaches will administer all temperature checks.
- Athletes will have to complete a short questionnaire related to their health each day (screening). Coaches will keep the forms on file.
- Athletes must bring their own water bottles. Water bottles may be refilled during training sessions. Students should not share water bottles or use water fountains.
- Hand Sanitizer will be plentiful and readily available.

- GHSA Covid regulations allow groups of up to 30 in Phase 1 and groups of 60 in Phase 2. Our practices will consist of 40 students broken up in groups of 10-12.
- Students will report to the facility dressed to condition. Locker rooms will be used to store and retrieve equipment only. A Custodian or the AAD or Asst AD will spray the locker rooms with a fogger at the end of each day.
- Coaches will use a sprayer filled with disinfectant to clean all equipment before, during and after each workout.
- Social distancing will be adhered to when and where appropriate. Athletes will have individually designated areas for breaks and water.
- Masks or face covering will be provided by the Athletic Department. Students will wear masks when not participating in anaerobic activity. Coaches and trainers must wear masks.
- Everyone is required to wear a mask when inside the building. Coaches will limit the number of players to 5 at a time while inside the locker room.
- Parents and visitors will NOT be allowed at the training sessions.
- Families should communicate with coaches if a student-athlete is not feeling well.

Coaches and Students will enter the field via the side gate on Don Griffin Drive. Athletes will line up 6ft apart to have their temperature checked and to complete necessary forms.

All athletes must have an updated profile on DragonFly with a current physical form and medical information in order to participate.

Describe in detail how the above protocols, equipment, and other actions will be monitored to ensure compliance and fidelity of implementation, including who will be responsible for each aspect of monitoring:

The football coaches will conduct daily temperature checks as well as monitor the completion of the paperwork. The coaches will also handle the daily spraying of the equipment before, during and after practices. The coaches will also monitor the locker room to ensure that no more than 5 students at a time are in the locker room in order to retrieve their equipment. During practice the coaches will make sure social distancing is being observed. The team will also practice in small groups whenever possible. However, with football being a team sport, the players must come together at times to work on plays and concepts. The Athletic and Activities Director or the Assistant Athletic Director will check in on each practice to make sure all protocols are being properly implemented and to help out with anything if necessary. At

the conclusion of each day a custodian or the Athletics and Activities Director or his Assistant will use a fogger to disinfect the locker room. It will be equally important for the coaches to constantly remind the football players about the responsibility they have when they leave the practice field. They must practice COVID safety at all times or risk bringing the virus to their team, their coaches or to their families.

Will this activity be voluntary, compulsory, or socially compulsory? If the answers vary by participant (such as students vs. staff), answer separately for each category of people.

What will happen for those normally involved in this activity if they choose not to participate when it returns to in-person? (Answer separately for each category of people if applicable.)

Voluntary

Any player who does not feel comfortable returning to in person football activities may return to the team whenever, he or she feels comfortable without any repercussions

Describe in detail any interactions this activity will have with others (such as other teams/clubs within the district, other teams/clubs outside the district, etc.), the risks such interactions would introduce, and how those risks will be mitigated.

The football team will be competing against other school districts. If a game situation is deemed unsafe by the Athletic and Activities Director, his Assistant or the Head Football Coach, the team will be pulled and they will return to the school. The Athletic and Activities Director or his Assistant will attend all games to make sure the environment is safe for our students. The Athletic and Activities Director is in constant communication with Athletic Directors from other districts to ensure they are imposing and enforcing proper COVID protocols.

What other information, not already provided above, needs to be shared with the team evaluating this proposal?

The Athletic and Activities Department has worked with transportation to work out travel. No more than 10 people will be allowed on a single bus. Masks will be required on buses. Parents are free to transport their own child to and from games if so desired. Neither the Band or Cheerleaders will travel to away games.

Listed below is the Daily Questionnaire recommended by Dr. Huddleston and Shonda Moore that we were using over the Summer. The coaches will use the infrared thermometers to acquire the player's temperature. The player will record his/her daily temp on the questionnaire. Coaches will monitor the completion of the questionnaire. In addition, the Athletic and Activities Department has presented a COVID-19 Waiver to our attorney for

review. This waiver could be required of all persons willing to participate in Extracurricular activities.

We have an on site trainer who attends every practice and is present at every game. Our trainer also helps mitigate the virus by constantly reminding the players and the coaches of the protocols.

Finally, every Athletic and Activities Department staff member as well as every head coach has been required to take the NFHS course "COVID-19 For Coaches and Administration". This is a free online course from the National Federation of High Schools.

Daily Workout Questionnaire

Print Name: _____

Please answer yes or no

Now, or within the past 72 hours...

Do you have a fever of 100F? What is your Temperature today?

Have a cough?

Have a sore throat?

Have any muscle aches?

Have any difficulty breathing?

In the last 14 days, have you or anyone in your household:

Had a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19?

Been tested positive, been advised to be tested or is awaiting test results for COVID-19?

Self-isolated or been directed to quarantine due to COVID-19?

Traveled to a restricted area?

Each individual will be asked the above questions. Any person who answers “yes” to any question will not be permitted to enter or condition.

Proposal Review

Reviewed by CSD COVID Response Team:

K. Beam, C. Burnett, D. Dude, M. Fehrman, L. Huddleston, E. Melton, S. Moore, S. Perez, R. Thomas

Status:

Approved
 Denied

Date:

2020-10-16