

Avonworth Athletic Facility/Event Covid-19 Management Plan

September 9, 2020



Avonworth School District supports the PIAA's decision to provide education-based athletics to our student-athletes during the 2020 Fall season. Participation in extracurricular activities, including athletics, provides substantial physical, emotional, cognitive, and social benefits to so many of our students. Athletics provides ample opportunities for continual learning, skill acquisition, and adoption of healthy behaviors. Our programs are an integral part of the overall school experience, and we believe it is our responsibility to provide athletics programs while taking measures to mitigate the risks of contracting and spreading COVID-19. The Pennsylvania Department of Health, along with the PIAA and WPIAL, have provided guidelines for conducting school-based sports safely. It is imperative to note that participation in athletics remains the voluntary decision of student-athletes and their families. Although these guidelines exist to help reduce risk and keep our students, coaches, and community safe, there are inherent challenges that we must adequately address in order to keep athletics participation a viable option for our students.

Extra-curricular activities are just that – extra. We acknowledge that athletics participation is a privilege, and thus must prioritize our students' educational endeavors first. This means that strict adherence to all of the required protocols for athletics participation is required by all persons involved. We must also be flexible and adapt our protocols when directed by our governing bodies. This set of protocol for athletic event operations is based on the State Department's guidelines to implementing school-based sports, the PIAA's guidelines for Fall sports, and the WPIAL's guidelines for Fall sports.

The PIAA has stated that each district shall make the determination of whether to host Fall sports. In order to host Fall sports, schools must strictly follow and maintain their Athletics Health and Safety plans. Therefore, the host school will serve as the "sponsor" for the event, taking responsibility to ensure compliance of all PA Department of Health recommendations. These recommendations include all non-participating persons to wear a mask and practice physical distancing (six feet apart while not participating). Avonworth School District will be responsible for communicating the conditions of this plan and will receive notice from the visiting school district that they will comply with our protocols. The major goal of this plan is to mitigate and manage the risks associated with athletics participation, while acknowledging that there will likely be cases of COVID-19 that occur during the Fall season.

General Guidelines for Contests/Games/Athletic Events:

1. All individuals connected to the event must understand that attendance and/or participation in the event poses a risk related to the Covid-19 virus. Those working and/or participating understand said risk and choose to be involved under their own free will.
2. All individuals connected to, or in attendance of, the event agree to submit to a screening process including questions related to their current state of physical health and will be honest and forthcoming in their response. Entry will be restricted to those who are currently symptom free and do not pose a risk to other participants/patrons.
3. Signage related to the Covid-19 virus will be posted in all facilities whenever possible.
4. Hand sanitizing stations will be made available in all facilities.
5. All participants/spectators/game personnel will always wear a mask/face covering during the duration of the contest and maintain appropriate physical/social distancing of 6 feet. Players participating in the contest will not be required to mask at times when they are actively involved in competition or immediately recovering. All other times will require a face covering.
6. When a public address is available, announcements will be made throughout the contest reminding staff and personnel of Covid-19 procedures.
7. Visiting teams will need to submit a complete list of participants and game personnel that will be in attendance prior to arriving on site (lists should be submitted prior to the event). This list should be accurate and will serve as verification that all participants and staff traveling to the event have been screened for Covid-19 symptoms and are displaying none. This list will assist in contact tracing should that become necessary.
8. All teams/players coaches are expected to follow Avonworth School District's guidelines for masking and social distancing when applicable throughout the duration of the contest.

Transportation/Overnight Trips:

1. The PIAA and WPIAL have altered schedules to eliminate the need for overnight stays. At this point there will be no events that require teams to stay overnight. This is subject to change depending on post season schedules. The policy will be reviewed once a post season plan is released.
2. When traveling on a bus, Avonworth School District athletic programs will strictly adhere to the following procedures:
 - a. Limit of 25 total occupants of bus- includes driver and coaches.
 - b. Coaches will develop a seating chart that remains as consistent as possible throughout the year.
 - c. Occupants will load the bus from back to front and exit the bus from front to back.
 - d. All occupants will "gel in" with hand sanitizer prior to getting on the bus each time.
 - e. All occupants will mask for the duration of the time on the bus.
 - f. Coaches will have a plan for meals that can be consumed outside/prior to getting on the bus.
 - g. Bus will be sanitized upon exit and before departure.
 - h. Student-athletes must travel on school provided transportation to and from away games. Parents must communicate with coaches if they wish to make arrangements to pick up their children after contests. Any student-athlete who is granted permission to travel on non-school transport must have appropriate documentation provided to the coach.

Spectators/Passes:

Varsity Football

1. Spectators are limited to parents of senior student-athletes and a limited number of senior students only at home events. Senior parents and seniors will get priority passes to be distributed to parents/family members that can be used to gain admittance to the contest.
2. Passes will be valid for the entire season except for playoff contests.

3. Covid-19 protocols and expectations will be printed on the back of the pass along with an acknowledgement of the inherent risk associated with attendance of the event. Participants wearing the pass thus acknowledge that they have done a COVID-19 self-screening prior to attending.
4. Seating will be limited to specific sections of the stadium only and no concessions will be available.

JV Football

1. Spectators can attend all home events.
2. By entering the stadium, spectators are acknowledging that they have completed all necessary COVID-19 pre-screening requirements, including a temperature check (<100.4), are symptom-free for the past 48 hours, have not been exposed to someone with the virus, or are currently waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.
3. Covid-19 protocols and expectations will be enforced and expected at all venues. Signage will be posted around the stadium.
4. Visiting fans will be admitted to events, but seating arrangement will be separated. This policy will be reviewed periodically throughout the season to determine whether it is reasonable to allow a limited number of visiting spectators.
5. Seating will be limited to specific sections of the stadium only and no concessions will be available.

Varsity and JV Soccer:

1. Spectators can attend all home events.
2. By entering the stadium, spectators are acknowledging that they have completed all necessary COVID-19 pre-screening requirements, including a temperature check (<100.4), are symptom-free for the past 48 hours, have not been exposed to someone with the virus, or are currently waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.
3. Covid-19 protocols and expectations will be enforced and expected at all venues. Signage will be posted around the stadium.
4. Visiting fans will be admitted to events, but seating arrangement will be separated. This policy will be reviewed periodically throughout the season to determine whether it is reasonable to allow a limited number of visiting spectators.
5. Seating will be limited to specific sections of the stadium only and no concessions will be available.

Varsity and JV Volleyball

1. No spectators will be allowed to attend Varsity or JV volleyball until further notice.
2. Games will be live streamed on the NFHS website (a link will be available shortly).

Middle School Sports (Soccer and Football)

1. Spectators can attend all home events.
2. By entering the stadium, spectators are acknowledging that they have completed all necessary COVID-19 pre-screening requirements, including a temperature check (<100.4), are symptom-free for the past 48 hours, have not been exposed to someone with the virus, or are currently waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test.
3. Covid-19 protocols and expectations will be enforced and expected at all venues. Signage will be posted around the stadium.
4. Visiting fans will be admitted to events, but seating arrangement will be separated. This policy will be reviewed periodically throughout the season to determine whether it is reasonable to allow a limited number of visiting spectators.
5. Seating will be limited to specific sections of the stadium only and no concessions will be available.

Essential Staff

1. Coaches must provide a weekly list of all required staff and essential game personnel at least 48 hours prior to the event. All names of staff and essential game personnel will be sent to the Athletic Director and placed on a list.
2. All staff and essential game personnel must check in with the Game Manager. NO ONE WILL BE ADMITTED IF THEY ARE NOT ON THE LIST.
3. Covid-19 protocols and expectations will be printed and include an acknowledgement of the inherit risk associated with attendance of the event.
4. Visiting teams will not be permitted to bring additional personnel outside of their essential staff members. The visiting Athletic Director will send a list of their essential staff members to Avonworth's Athletic Director 48 hours prior to the event. This policy will be reviewed periodically throughout the season and updated as needed to reflect current guidelines.

Concessions/Water:

1. Concessions will not be offered at any district facility until further notice. This policy will be reviewed periodically throughout the season.
2. All visiting teams must bring their own sources of water and must ensure that all student-athletes, coaches, and staff do not use single sources.

Restrooms:

1. Restrooms will be available for opposing and home teams located next to the concession stand.
2. Officials will have access to a porta john located next to the pavilion for use during half time and after the game.
3. Essential Game Staff will have access to a separate restroom (i.e. portajohn) directly below the press box.
4. Maximum occupancy for public restrooms should not exceed 5 persons at one time.
5. Hand sanitizing stations will be available.

Event Workers:

1. All event workers will always be masked. Officials will need to wear masks entering and exiting the facility but can use discretion for wearing a mask during official activities.
2. All event workers (including officials) must report their temperatures and COVID-19 symptom checklist responses at least 30 minutes prior to arriving on site but no earlier than 4:00p.m. They will be sent a google form that will be filled out or can opt to fill out the documents on site with the Athletic Director.
3. Only workers deemed essential for the management of the event/contest will be utilized.
4. Event workers will always maintain a social distance of 6 feet (when feasible).
5. Hand sanitizer will be provided for event workers.

Locker rooms:

1. Participants should come partially dressed to events. Visitors will be provided an outdoor area (football, soccer) and area in the gym (volleyball) large enough to accommodate the number of athletes in uniform. Locker rooms will be limited and available upon special request (special accommodations) at least 48 hours in advance of the contest. In the event of weather, indoor accommodations will be made, including visiting teams having access to their buses near the field or gym. The fieldhouse will ONLY be available for restroom use for the opposing and home team. No teams will be allowed to congregate and use the fieldhouse during the game.
2. Prior to another group using the restrooms in the fieldhouse, the area will be sanitized.
3. Students will be advised to adhere to social distancing recommendations while in the locker room/changing facility. Home teams and officials will not be able to shower at the conclusion of the contest.

Specific Facility Management Plans:

Lenzner Stadium

1. All participants will adhere to PIAA, WPIAL, and Avonworth School District guidelines related to Covid-19 changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. Participants and officials shall arrive no earlier than 90 minutes prior to start time – recommended time for arrival is 60 minutes prior to event.
4. Sidelines will be restricted to 50 persons “pods” per sideline and shall not exceed 50 total individuals per sideline including essential game personnel - medical staff, ball boys, chain crew etc.
5. All individuals involved in the game will maintain appropriate social distancing from the extended coaching box (10 yd. line to 10 yd. line) and will remain masked unless involvement in the contest is immediate.
6. No common hydration stations will be available.
7. Use of concession stands will be prohibited.
8. Cheer/spirit will be limited to 30 individuals plus coach(es) appropriately distanced on the North end of the Lenzner Stadium track. Cheer will be included in the third “pod” of players and officials on the field, and must be located in that area.
9. Home band pep members, not to exceed 30 members will utilize the grandstands and maintain appropriate social distancing while masking when necessary.
10. All staff/ essential workers will be required to sign in upon entry. This will be used to contact trace if necessary.
11. All games played at Lenzner Stadium will be live streamed via the NFHS network. If NFHS is not available, other modes of livestreaming will be utilized, including Facebook Live.

Avonworth High School Gymnasium (Volleyball)

1. All participants will adhere to PIAA, WPIAL, and Avonworth School District guidelines related to Covid-19 changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. One court will be available in the HS gym and bleachers will be available in the Middle School Gym to accommodate student-athletes and coaches who are not participating (i.e. JV during Varsity and Varsity during JV).
4. Additional seats will be provided in the hallway for substitute players – substitutes will have visual lines into the gym.
5. Bleachers will remain in allowing for spacing of player area and score table
6. Officials and essential game personnel will enter through the middle school entrance. All other entrances will be locked.
7. All officials and essential game personnel will be required to sign in upon entry. This will be used to contact trace if necessary.
8. Cheer/spirit and band will not be permitted.
9. All games played in the high school gym will be live streamed via the NFHS network. When possible, games played in the middle school gym will be live streamed as well using Facebook Live or using an alternative mode.

Ohio Township Park

1. All participants will adhere to PIAA, WPIAL, Avonworth School District, and Ohio Township guidelines related to Covid-19 changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. Runners will utilize spaces to ensure proper social distancing can be maintained prior to start.
4. Student-athletes, spectators, and essential game personnel will be allowed to attend.
5. An effort will be made to live stream start and finishes via Facebook Live or using an alternative mode if requested.

Shannopin Golf Club

1. All participants will adhere to PIAA, WPIAL, and Avonworth School District guidelines related to Covid-19 changes in game procedure.
2. All participants, event workers and essential game personnel will be required to follow the general event guidelines outlined above.
3. Because Shannopin golf course is not an Avonworth facility, all participants, event workers, and essential game personnel will be subject to the course's policies as well.

The event plan/procedures listed above are the collaborative effort of Avonworth School District Administration, the Athletic Department, Ohio Township Parks and Recreation, and the Allegheny Health Department. Our organizations are aware of the complexity of preventing disease outbreaks and are committed to updating our operating procedures as we are provided new information from local, state, and national health and education entities. We will do our best to develop an effective communication strategy that includes updating our district and athletic websites as well as sharing changes via social media and by email as need.

