

Ridgway Area School District
Health and Safety Plan
for Board Approved PIAA Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities
2020-2021 School Year

Initial Board Approval September 8, 2020 –
Revised 10-13-2020
Revised 11-10-2020

BACKGROUND

The RASD Health and Safety Plan for PIAA Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities is developed for the “low to moderate level of community spread” and for when the District is able to engage in in-person instruction. **If RASD has to close one or more schools based on the state guidelines and orders, RASD athletic practices, competitions, and extra-curricular activities, etc. may be suspended until such time that the administration deem the conditions are safe to resume activity. The community, school, and opponent COVID 19 data will drive the decision making process.**

This plan is based on the information currently available to school districts from the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH), Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Federal/State/Local Government and REL Mid Atlantic (Considerations for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools). RASD’s Plan reflects the administrations’ synthesis of information, compilation of “best practices” and application of best professional judgement. The RASD administration believes the plan will meet the expectations and needs of our most important stakeholders – staff, students, families, and community. This Plan is subject to revision based on changing conditions and/or changing guidelines from the authorities listed above. All up to date Athletic Health and Safety Guidance from the Department of Health and PDE can be found at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>

The administration will regularly review all local and state public health information, state and federal orders, PDE mandates and recommendations, CDC/WHO guidance, and state health department guidance and provide the staff with the necessary recommendations and directives to ensure health, safety and welfare of participants. The Plan is fluid and may change depending upon the status of Elk County in terms of COVID 19 case counts: low level of community spread; moderate level of community spread; and substantial level of community spread. **If Elk County is categorized to be in a “substantial level” of community spread, there may be no extracurricular activity engagement for students in the Ridgway Area School District, including PIAA athletics, clubs, band, choir, etc. The community, school, and opponent COVID 19 data will drive the decision making process.**

INTRODUCTION

The global COVID 19 pandemic resulted in the Governor's order to close schools on March 13, 2020. These conditions presented Pennsylvania public schools with significant instructional and extracurricular challenges related to the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff, and communities. At this time, the RASD Administration and Board believe it is critical to balance the risk of infection against the adverse impact of school closure on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of the staff, students, families and the community. Based on current evidence and experience and the conditions of Elk county, the Board and Administration believe children and staff returned to school in a manner that maximized social, emotional, and academic achievement/growth, while minimizing the risks associated with COVID 19. RASD has engaged in in-person instruction since September 8, 2020.

While it is not possible to remove all risks associated with COVID 19 infection; mitigation of risk, as restrictions are eased, can help to balance between risk of infection and adverse impact of school closure. The Plan outlines RASD's mitigation of risks for PIAA sports and extra-curricular activities. While we are going to do everything we can to mitigate those risks, it should be acknowledged by all coaches, student athletes, advisors, directors, and parents/guardians that participation is at their own risk in terms of exposure to COVID 19. Additionally, both children and adults should consult their health care providers to assess their individual risks prior to participating in PIAA practices, competitions and extra-curricular activities.

PURPOSE

Consistent with the RASD Board goal of "continuing to build a culture of safety and support for all students and staff" RASD will seek to develop the Plan to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of students, staff and our community.

By monitoring state, county and local data and having a plan that is based on data, science and research, RASD can mitigate the risk of infection for staff and students participating in PIAA athletic conditioning, skill building, and competitions and extra-curricular activities.

SCOPE

The following requirements are applicable to all District sponsored PIAA athletic programs from grades 7-12 during the 2020-2021 school year, provided Elk County is designated in the "low to moderate level of community spread". **There may be no extra-curricular activities (PIAA, board approved, school sponsored) in the event that Elk County is moved to the "substantial level of community spread" or in the case that RASD must close one or more school buildings due to a COVID 19 exposure.** The community, school, and opponent COVID 19 data will drive the decision making process. There will be no travel during the preseason/off season conditioning and skill drills and scrimmages will be determined on a case by case basis. The first official fall competitions for all sports programs began the week of September 14, 2020 and conclude in early November, 2020. It is anticipated that the winter

season will begin with the first official day of Winter practice (November 16, 2020) and will conclude regular season play approximately the week of February 8, 2021.

RASD committed to play only “IU 9 Bubble Schools” for all Fall athletic contests in all sports. RASD is working collaboratively with the PIAA, District 9, and IU 9 to proceed with a “winter bubble”. Only students enrolled in RASD, enrolled in a cyber/homeschool programs and live within the District, or who are enrolled in JASD and participating in a co-op, will participate in the RASD athletic practices and contests for the Ridgway Area School District.

By adjoining with IU9 school districts, RASD agrees to:

- As of 10-11-2020 the IU9 superintendents are working to develop a “winter bubble”. There are league challenges unique to basketball and wrestling that the IU 9 is currently working to resolve. There are limitations to schedules for sports such as swimming, gymnastics, wrestling and competition cheer, which are only hosted by a few schools within the IU. Superintendents are currently looking to work with the PIAA and D9 for virtual solutions for swimming, gymnastics and competition cheer
- In the “bubble”, IU9 School District athletic teams and participants will only play IU 9 athletic teams during regular season play. If an athletic program is competing in a schedule outside the “bubble”, participants may not compete on teams that are competing in the bubble. This may result in limiting dual sport athletes.
- If a District team/participants compete in a competition or on a team outside the bubble, the District will be taken out of the IU 9 bubble for all sports. Playoffs will occur after the last regular season competition in the bubble. The bubble schedules will be complete and therefore a team choosing to enter PIAA district play-offs will not jeopardize scheduled games with IU 9 schools.
- Dual meets/matches/games etc. will be planned. In limited circumstances, contests with three or more teams may be planned and will be based on gathering guidance.
- The focus for competitions is providing a safe opportunity for our student athletes, there is no guarantee of a set number of competitions, there should be no expectation of a full season of games to be scheduled.
- Cancellations, rescheduling, and decisions to engage/disengage from competitions will be extremely fluid and will be handled between superintendents in consultation with administration and athletic directors.
- Prior to the first week of competitions, the IU 9 schools will determine an overall structure for contest personnel with the anticipation of consistency between schools. The host/home team will assure compliance with all state directives at the venue site.
- All visiting schools will conduct wellness screenings on athletes and coaches immediately before leaving their school district. The home team will conduct wellness screenings on athletes, coaches, and all game help prior to the competition beginning.
- Marching bands and cheerleaders will not travel to away contests.

RASD elementary and community programs that offer winter athletic programs to youth shall be required to comply with the RASD Board approved health and safety plan for athletics and extra-curriculars, if they wish to use RASD school facilities.

High Risk Sports: Sports involving close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and a high probability that respiratory droplets will be transmitted. Examples: football, wrestling, cheerleading, dance

Moderate Risk Sports: Sports involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants or intermittent close contact OR group sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Examples: basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, ice hockey, tennis, pole vault, high jump, long jump, 7 on 7 football, and lacrosse.

Low Risk Sports: Sports can be done with social distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between uses by competitors. Examples: running events, cross country, throwing events swimming, golf, weightlifting, and sideline cheer.

BEFORE ARRIVING TO PRACTICE, COMPETITIONS, OR AFTER SCHOOL EXTR-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

1. All individuals participating have a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in their home and community. Staff and student athletes who do not feel well **MUST** stay home.
2. Every individual must:
 - a. Wear a face covering at all times on school campus except when physically engaged on courts, fields, and/or courses. Athletes **MUST** wear face coverings on the sidelines.
 - b. **All adults must wear a face covering at all times.**
 - c. Practice good hygiene (hand washing) with soap and water for at least 20 second
 - d. Maintain a social distance of at least 6ft when not physically engaged on stages, practice rooms, courts, fields, and/or courses. All sideline bench seating **MUST** be at a social distance of 6ft.
3. Individuals **MUST** conduct a wellness screening on themselves prior to arriving on site. If individuals have one or more symptoms before arriving, **STAY HOME**, **CONTACT YOUR HEAD COACH**, follow the CDC guidelines, and parents/guardians are advised to contact a health care provider.
4. Individuals must be symptom free without pain relieving fever/pain reducing fever/pain reducing medications for at least 24 hours. If pain relieving fever/pain reducing fever/pain reducing medications is being used and symptoms persist beyond 24 hours, a section 8 will be required or a negative COVID 19 test result.
5. Symptoms include:

<p>Symptomatic: Symptoms are consistent with COVID 19 (Presents in school OR student was absent and parent communication with school staff.)</p>	<p>ONE or MORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever 100.4* ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell <p>TWO or MORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sore throat ● Runny nose/congestion ● Chills ● Muscle pain ● Nausea or vomiting ● Headache ● Diarrhea ● fatigue <p>*Historically, RASD has excluded students with fevers. Although this symptom appears in CDC and PA DOH guidelines in the “two or more” column, RASD has included it in the “one or more” column because of past practice.</p>
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6. The following notifications **MUST** be made if a student athlete, student participant, advisor, director, or coach exhibits symptoms:
 - a. **ATHLETE/STUDENT PARTICIPANT/PARENT/COACH/ADVISOR/DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIES HEAD COACH OR ADVISOR/DIRECTOR.**
 - b. **HEAD COACH/ADVISOR/DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIES THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE RESPECTIVE BUILDING.**
 - c. **The ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIES THE SCHOOL NURSE OF THE RESPECTIVE BUILDING.**
 - d. The administration will confer with the school nurse to determine the extent of the risk and if there is further need for investigation, notification and mitigation.
 - e. The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian and proceed with an investigation.

7. Any individual notified by the PA Department of Health through contact tracing and advised to quarantine must notify the head coach and must comply immediately. The head coach/advisor/director will notify the administration; the administration will notify the school nurse. An individual's failure to report PA DOH request to isolate or quarantine will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.
8. The school nurse is the point of contact for COVID 19 questions/concerns. She will liaison directly with the individual with symptoms. She can be contacted at muthtabitha@rasd.us. For elementary events and activities, she can be contacted at dybowskiluann@rasd.com
9. If an athlete/student participant or coach/advisor/director is diagnosed positive for COVID 19, CONTACT TRACING will be implemented by the school, local health professionals, State Health Department, PA DOH, and CDC. Exclusion and return will be documented by the individual health care providers or PA department of health. The group/team and coaches/advisors/directors will be required to follow the directions from the school, PA Department of Health/Health Care Providers. All members MUST follow the CDC and PA DOH guidelines including but not limited to quarantine through isolation.
10. Any student athlete/student participant or coach/advisor/director who fails to comply with the DOH directives during contact tracing or who fails to notify the head coach of symptoms or a positive COVID 19 test result will be disqualified from the group/team for the remainder of the season. Individuals participating in athletics and extra-curricular have a personal responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of students, staff and the community.

ARRIVAL ON SITE

1. All student athlete/student participants in attendance at practice and competitions/concerts is VOLUNTARY. All session attendance will be flexible.
2. All practice routines MUST be established in small groups – no more than 250 total participants (for example, junior high will not condition with JV/Varsity) outdoors and 25 total participants indoors. Depending upon the size of the group/team, JV and Varsity may need to hold two separate conditioning/practice sessions to reduce risk/minimize exposure.
3. Arrival and departure times of sessions shall be staggered between practices by at least 15 minutes. Before practice, participants should not congregate in the hallways outside the gym while waiting to enter the gym. Waiting participants MUST be wearing face

coverings, be a social distance of at least 6ft and avoid gathering in groups greater than 25.

4. Due to the nature of extra-curricular activities and athletics and the high contact/risk of exposure, ALL individuals (coach's/student athletes/advisors/directors/student participants) MUST engage in a site-based wellness check to identify potential symptoms of COVID 19 and to establish contact tracing documentation. Individual responses are recorded on the sign in sheet. The head coach or COVID 19 designee will conduct a wellness check confidentially asking every participants every question AND taking a temperature.
5. Individuals who answer "yes" to wellness check questions MUST leave the site IMMEDIATELY. The head coach will notify the parent/guardian and advise parent/guardian to contact their health care provider. The head coach will notify the school administration. The school administration will notify the school nurse.
6. Each contact tracing log shall include the date/time and location of the session. Each participant shall list their name and phone number. The point of contact must have the contact tracing logs confidentially secured but readily accessible to the Athletic Director/Assistant Principal or Elementary Principal (if an FSG extra-curricular program).
7. Prior to engaging in practice/physical contact related to practice/competition individuals MUST engage in hand washing/hand sanitizing.

(Note: The head coach/advisor/director MUST develop team rules which include, but are not limited to steps for mitigation of COVID 19 similar to what is contained herein. All group/team rules must be reviewed and approved by the administration and AD prior to the 1st official day of practice. Signed copies of team rules for each program will be on file in the Athletic Director's office/Respective Building Administrator's office prior to the first official day of practice.)

DURING CONDITIONING, PRACTICE, COMPETITIONS and EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. All participants MUST refrain from sharing personal items/personal protective equipment/water bottles/towels/athletic equipment (gloves), etc.
2. Individuals MUST maintain a social distance of 6 feet while on the sideline, bench, auditorium, hallway, etc. and facial coverings MUST be worn.

3. Hand sanitizers should be used periodically when hand washing with soap and water is not available.
4. Athletic equipment that may be used by multiple individuals during the course of practice/game however, it MUST be cleaned intermittently during practice and events as deemed necessary by athletes and coaching staff.
5. **After every practice**: individuals using the facility MUST wipe down all communal space with cleaning supplies provided: restrooms, bleachers, equipment between each conditioning session. The school will provide the supplies. If supplies are needed for cleaning, it is the responsibility of the head coach to contact the Athletic Director/Respective Building Administrator. It is expected that this task will become as routine as putting away athletic equipment.
6. The District custodial staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect the playing/practice area and communal space each evening (during the school year) or each morning (during the summer months) based on CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting.
7. If coaches/advisors/directors are utilizing a station-based approach to the conditioning session, small groups MUST remain the same from session to session, so as not to increase the risk of exposure.
8. Individuals MUST not shake hands, high five, fist bump, hug, before, during and/or after sessions – this includes with officials or members of the opposing team after the game.
9. There MUST be no spitting, chewing gum, licking fingers, eating sunflower seeds, coughs/sneezes must be covered.
10. If an individual is susceptible to seasonal allergies, he/she should have a note from their physician documenting the allergy. That note MUST be on file with the coach, Athletic Director, and School Nurse before the symptoms appear. Otherwise, such symptoms consistent with both allergy and COVID 19 shall be considered COVID 19 symptoms and the individual MUST be sent home IMMEDIATELY. The administration MUST be notified IMMEDIATELY.
11. When athletes/student participants are not engaged in physical contact, they MUST be on the sidelines/bench at a social distance of 6ft and wearing a face covering/shield.

12. Players/participants at high risk for contracting COVID 19 or any other virus/illness, shall have documented clearance through their PIAA physical and shall participate at their own risk. It is expected that compromised individuals will be personally responsible for maintaining their own health and safety precautions. If safety equipment is required, the athletes must notify the coach so that the equipment can be ordered
13. The Ridgway Area School District will comply with all PIAA, PDE and PA DOH/Governor's orders for all school sponsored activities and events during the school day and after school hours. In addition, elementary and community programs utilizing the District facilities will be required to comply with all PIAA, PDE and PA DOH/Governor's orders for all school sponsored activities and events during the school day and after school hours, as well as comply with the board approved health and safety plan.
14. No serving of food/concessions during practice/competitions.
15. Any student athlete/student participant intentionally causing fear or panic with gestures/attempts/threats to "spread COVID 19" shall face the following disciplinary consequences:
 1. **1st Offense** - student will be immediately removed from the session by the head coach/advisor/director; the building administration will be informed immediately; student shall receive **a 3-day suspension from practice by the administration.**
 2. **2nd Offense** – student will be immediately removed from the session by the head coach/advisor/director; the building administration will be informed immediately by the head coach/advisor/director; the student will be **removed from the program for the remainder of the season/program by the administration.**
16. Symptom monitoring must occur before, during and after practice/competition by all Supervising adults. Any athlete/individual who becomes ill with COVID 19 symptoms while attending conditioning/practice/competition MUST:
 - a. Immediately put on a face covering/shield if not already wearing one.
 - b. report to the supervising adult IMMEDIATELY
 - c. be isolated away from all other participants
 - d. parents/guardian MUST be contacted IMMEDIATELY by phone by the Head Coach/Advisor/Director
 - e. the individual MUST go home IMMEDIATELY
 - f. The Head Coach/Advisor/Director must contact the Administration IMMEDIATELY
 - g. The Administration MUST contact the school nurse immediately.

17. The individual must be symptom free for 24 hours without pain relieving fever/pain reducing fever/pain reducing medications prior to returning OR, if the symptoms persist beyond 24 hours and require the use of pain-relieving fever/pain reducing fever/pain reducing medications beyond 24 hours, the individual will require clearance from a medical provider prior to returning to practice or play (SECTION 8 required) or have a negative COVID 19 test result:

<p>Symptomatic: Symptoms are consistent with COVID 19 (Presents in school OR student was absent and parent communication with school staff.)</p>	<p>ONE or MORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever 100.4* ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Difficulty breathing ● New loss of taste or smell <p>TWO or MORE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sore throat ● Runny nose/congestion ● Chills ● Muscle pain ● Nausea or vomiting ● Headache ● Diarrhea ● fatigue <p>*Historically, RASD has excluded students with fevers. Although this symptom appears in CDC and PA DOH guidelines in the “two or more” column, RASD has included it in the “one or more” column because of past practice.</p>
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ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

SUSPECTED EXPOSURE:

All individuals participating in PIAA/Board approved athletics and extra-curricular activities have a personal responsibility to prevent the spread of COVID 19 in their home and community. When in doubt STAY HOME.

The district will engage in deep cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing of the area of a suspected exposure IMMEDIATELY and in accordance with the CDC guidelines.

CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASE OF COVID 19:

1. Follow CDC Guidelines for exposure. The administration MUST be notified immediately. The administration will contact the school nurse. The school nurse will notify the Department of Health.
2. The district will engage in contact tracing, participant/parent notification, deep cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of the infected area IMMEDIATELY.
3. CONTACT TRACING will be implemented by the school, State Health Department, PA DOH, and CDC. All exposed participants will be required to follow the directives of the PA DOH or individual health care providers.
4. The Superintendent will notify as needed, superintendents of any schools that a team is scheduled to compete against.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. The District will engage in a phased reintegration of PIAA athletics and extra-curricular activities based upon local conditions.
2. Athletes and participants MUST come dressed and prepared for conditioning/practice/competitions. On site restrooms will be available for participant use; locker rooms will be available and assigned so that less than 25 individuals are present in an indoor space.
3. No use of fountains; participants MUST come prepared with personal water bottles that are filled. Water fountains will not be operational; bottle filling stations will be available.
4. No sharing of supplies/props/safety equipment/PPE/athletic equipment.
5. Participants are required to disinfect their own supplies, props, safety equipment and PPE at home, and immediately following the practice.
6. All school activities must adhere to the gathering limitations set forth by the Governor's amended order "Directing Mitigation Measures dated July 15, 2020. (Include as Appendix C – RASD Invited Guest Attendance Guidelines. All individuals present at the facility at which such activities are held count towards gathering limitations and must comply with face covering order and social distancing guidelines.
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/sports-guidance/>

7. During regular season, there maybe no travel to school districts who are designated in the “substantial level of community spread” or playing a team if they have had a positive COVID 19 exposure.
8. Transportation modifications may be required to ensure the health, safety and welfare of participants. Using hand sanitizer when boarding the bus, bus ventilations when appropriate (putting windows down). Passengers **MUST** be seated from the back to the front as they board. All passengers face forward. No spitting from bus windows. Social distancing will be maintained on the bus when feasible and when it is not feasible, passengers **MUST** wear facial coverings.
9. All Coaching staff, advisors, directors, students/parents, officials, and game help **MUST** sign a waiver acknowledging the health risk involved and their individual responsibility to keep themselves safe before engaging in any type of practice. Coaches will also acknowledge receipt of the RASD Sports Health and Safety plan, and that they have read and understand their vital role in helping ensure the health and safety of themselves, their fellow coaches and the student athletes on their team.

Appendix A – Coach/Athlete

Ridgway Area School District Athletic Department Participation Waiver for Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across Pennsylvania with challenges concerning health, safety and welfare. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the RASD will take necessary precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA, to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, RASD reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators. Some precautionary methods in the RASD Health and Safety Plan for Student Athletes include but may not be limited to:

1. Health screenings prior to any practice, event, or team meeting with participation in the activities being limited and/or prohibited where an individual displays positive responses or symptoms.
2. Require social distancing and promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, etc.
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols.
5. Require Athletes and Coaches to provide their own water bottle for hydration.

By signing this form, the undersigned voluntarily agree to the following Waiver and release of liability:

WAIVER AND RELEASE

In consideration for my student athlete being permitted to participate in RASD athletics during the 2020-2021 academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby, acknowledges and agrees to the following on behalf of themselves and on behalf of their minor children:

I understand and I acknowledge that my minor student athlete's participation in athletic events during the COVID-19 pandemic may be inherently dangerous. I further acknowledge that even when conducted in an appropriate and proper manner, exposure to COVID-19 during an athletic event could cause injury to my person and/or property as well as the person or property of my minor student athlete. I hereby expressly assume the risk associated with all activities regarding my student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics, for myself and for my minor child.

I hereby for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns specifically acknowledge and agree that the following persons and entities, including but not limited to, the Ridgway Area School District, its official, agents, representatives, officers, directors, employees, members or affiliates of any person or entity named above (the "Releasees") are not responsible for my safety nor the safety of my minor child and that I am fully responsible for my own safety and for the safety of my minor child during athletic participation, BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS, CONDITIONS, AND

HAZARDS of my minor child's participation in athletic activities and events, I specifically WAIVE, RELEASE, and DISCHARGE, in advance, for myself, my minor child, my heirs, administrators, and assigns, the Releasees above from any and all liability, whether known, or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, including, but not limited to, damages for death, personal injury, or property damage, from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, damages, demands, injuries, medical expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees and interest, which may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of the parties or entities mentioned above, or which may arise from the conditions, whether structural, man-made, natural or otherwise, of participation in athletic activities. I agree to accept all responsibilities for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur, whether they are known or unknown, whether they are apparent or not, whether they are foreseen or unforeseen on behalf of myself, my minor child, and my heirs.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MY MINOR CHILD'S PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO COVID-19, AND I SPECIFICALLY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND WAIVE ALL ABOVE-MENTIONED RELEASEES OF ANY LIABILITY DESCRIBED ABOVE. I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND IT SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Sport: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Student Athlete: _____ Date: _____

*Parents/Guardians may request a full copy of the RASD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations. Contact Thomas Podpora, RMS/RHS Principal at podporathomas@rasd.us or Shawn Hofmann, RMS/RHS Assistant Principal at hofmannshawn@rasd.us

APPENDIX B – GAME HELP/OFFICIALS

Ridgway Area School District Athletic Department Participation Waiver for Communicable Diseases Including COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented athletics across Pennsylvania with challenges concerning health, safety and welfare. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the RASD will take necessary precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, CDC, PA DOH, as well as the NFHS and PIAA, to reduce the risks to students, coaches, and their families. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, RASD reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure for our staff, students, and spectators. Some precautionary methods in the RASD Health and Safety Plan for Student Athletes include but may not be limited to:

1. Health screenings prior to any practice, event, or team meeting with participation in the activities being limited and/or prohibited where an individual displays positive responses or symptoms.
2. Require social distancing and promote healthy hygiene practices such as hand washing, using hand sanitizer, etc.
3. Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation in all facilities.
4. Educate Athletes, Coaches, and Staff on health and safety protocols.
5. Require Athletes and Coaches to provide their own water bottle for hydration.

By signing this form, the undersigned voluntarily agree to the following Waiver and release of liability:

WAIVER AND RELEASE

In consideration for my being permitted to participate in RASD athletics as game help or official during the 2020-2021 academic year during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the undersigned, intending to be legally bound hereby, acknowledges and agrees to the following on behalf of myself.

I understand and I acknowledge that my participation in athletic events during the COVID-19 pandemic may be inherently dangerous. I further acknowledge that even when conducted in an appropriate and proper manner, exposure to COVID-19 during an athletic event could cause injury to my person and/or property as well as the person or property of my minor student athlete. I hereby expressly assume the risk associated with all activities regarding my student athlete's participation in interscholastic athletics, for myself.

I hereby for myself, my heirs, administrators, and assigns specifically acknowledge and agree that the following persons and entities, including but not limited to, the Ridgway Area School District, its official, agents, representatives, officers, directors, employees, members or affiliates of any person or entity named above (the "Releasees") are not responsible for my safety and that I am fully responsible for my own safety during athletic participation, BEING FULLY AWARE OF THE RISKS, CONDITIONS, AND HAZARDS of myself regarding participation in athletic activities and events, I specifically WAIVE, RELEASE, and DISCHARGE, in advance, for myself, my heirs, administrators, and assigns,

the Releasees above from any and all liability, whether known, or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, including, but not limited to, damages for death, personal injury, or property damage, from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, damages, demands, injuries, medical expenses, and liability of any nature whatsoever, including reasonable attorney's fees and interest, which may arise out of the negligence or carelessness on the part of the parties or entities mentioned above, or which may arise from the conditions, whether structural, man-made, natural or otherwise, of participation in athletic activities. I agree to accept all responsibilities for the risks, conditions, and hazards which may occur, whether they are known or unknown, whether they are apparent or not, whether they are foreseen or unforeseen on behalf of myself and my heirs.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTAND THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE EXPOSURE TO COVID-19, AND I SPECIFICALLY RELEASE, DISCHARGE, AND WAIVE ALL ABOVE-MENTIONED RELEASEES OF ANY LIABILITY DESCRIBED ABOVE. I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND IT SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Sport: _____

Signature of Game Help/Official: _____ Date: _____

*Individuals may request a full copy of the RASD Resocialization of Sports Recommendations. Contact Thomas Podpora, RMS/RHS Principal at podporathomas@rasd.us or Shawn Hofmann, RMS/RHS Assistant Principal at hofmannshawn@rasd.us

For RASD Staff:

- **This waiver was reviewed with the official on _____ (date of event). The official refused to sign the waiver. The game manager/ad conducted the wellness check and reviewed the risks with the official.**

Signature of Game Manager/AD

Date

APPENDIX C

RASD 2020-2021 Invited Guest Attendance Guidelines

Ridgway Area School District Fall Athletics

09-24-2020 ; revised 10-13-2020; revised on 11-10-2020

Revised on 10-08-2020 to reflect Governor Wolf's amended order "Directing Mitigation Measures" dated July 15, 2020, see attached order).

INTRODUCTION: Utilizing the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines and the Carnegie Mellon University Covid 19 Risk Assessment Tools (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200917-CMU-Risk-Based-Decision-Support-Tool.pdf>), the Ridgway Area School District has developed guest attendance guidelines that are based on the level of community transmission of COVID 19 in the Ridgway community. Please see the footnote that articulates the justification and support for the measures contained within the plan.*

LOW LEVEL of community transmission, the District will provide 4 guest tickets to all officially rostered District athletes for outdoor events and 2 guest tickets to all officially rostered District athletes for indoor events.

MODERATE LEVEL of community transmission, the RASD Board grants the superintendent authority to analyze the local data and make adjustments to guest attendance, in an effort to protect the health, safety, and welfare of student athletes, staff and community members.

SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL of community transmission, the District WILL NOT engage in PIAA athletic or extra-curricular activities or if one or more of the District's schools are required to close due to a COVID 19 exposure in the school setting, the District will not engage in PIAA athletic or extra-curricular activities.

RASD defines "community" as the geographical area that the District students reside in.

GUEST ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES (LOW LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION): RASD athletes will have the opportunity to "invite guests" to their home athletic events for which they are officially rostered to participate. Each RASD athlete will get 2 guest tickets per indoor home event. It is highly recommended that athletes give their guest tickets to family members who reside within the same household as the athlete.

There will not be general admission for members of the public or for visiting team spectators. Per the CDC Guidelines, "smaller outdoor and in-person gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do

not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g. community, town, city, or county)” present less risk “than gatherings in which attendees from outside the community” /familial unit are in attendance. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/consideration-for-events-gatherings.html>)

The District will continue to livestream events for our community and for opposing teams’ fans in an effort to provide a safer alternative to in-person attendance.

There will be no guests admitted from visiting teams. At this time, it is reasonable to assume that the IU 9 School Districts (who formed the bubble to protect student athletes’ health, safety and welfare) will not be admitting visiting team’s guests in an effort to reduce community transmission of COVID 19.

The Ridgway Area School District reserves the right to cancel events with other school districts who are not taking measured safety precautions by reducing and managing gathering capacity at their home events and who are not adhering to/enforcing the safety precautions that are recommended by PDE and the CDC.

RASD HOME EVENT GUEST ATTENDANCE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

1. Student athletes/staff and invited guests will be separated into cohort groups to reduce risk of exposure between students/staff and guests.
2. RASD will have separate entrances, seating areas, and arrival times for athletes/staff and guests. Guests will not be charged admission. It is strongly recommended that guests avoid cheering/yelling at events as this increases the risk of spread and exposure of COVID 19.
3. All guests must:
 - a. participate in a wellness check at the point of entry
 - b. register for contact tracing at the point of entry
 - c. wear a face covering - that covers the nose and mouth at all times while on school property
 - d. maintain a social distance of 6ft from non household members.

District staff will be on site to ensure safety precautions are being followed by guests. Failure to participate in the wellness check or refusal to participate in safety precautions will result in the individual being declined admission or being asked to leave school property. Failure to leave school property when asked by a school official will be considered trespassing.

4. For the indoor events:
 - a. All Invited Guests must remain seated in the bleachers on the opposite side of the players. Invited Guests shall not congregate in halls or outside of the venue. Between the jv and varsity games and the 7th and 8th grade basketball games, the gym will be cleared using one directional traffic patterns, in order to create space for the next team's Invited Guests. The previous Invited Guests will exit at the west end (trophy cases) of the gym. Once the gym is cleared the next group of Invited Guests will enter through the east end of the gym (restroom/officials room).
 - b. Invited guests must remain in their vehicles until guests are cleared from the gym from the previous game/match. Waiting guests can monitor the game through the RASD Facebook Page livestream. Guests will be ushered into the gym prior to the start of the next game/match.
5. All guests will return to their vehicle immediately following the contest through the designated exits to wait for their child. Guests will not congregate.
6. There will be no concessions at indoor or outdoor events.
7. **Spectator Decorum and Behavior** – We have a personal responsibility to show our children how to handle situations that may not be to our liking and that is with grace and dignity. For the safety of our athletes, visiting athletes, and our staff, the District administration cannot permit disruptive or disorderly behavior that creates a safety risk on our campuses, at home athletic or extra-curricular events. If disorderly/disruptive behavior threatens the safety of the environment, the individual (s) will be asked to leave the premises. If the disruptive individual refuses to leave, the game will be temporarily stopped, the field/court will be cleared and law enforcement will be called. The District will file charges of trespassing or disorderly conduct. Once the situation is under control the game will resume. Individuals charged with trespassing or disorderly conduct risk being banned from school campus for an extended period of time. If the situation does not come under control, the game will be forfeited by the home team and the premises will be vacated.
8. **If an injury occurs-** The District recognizes that visiting team's parents will not be able to be present and there are concerns with injuries. If an athlete is injured, the AD will contact you as soon as possible. We have been able to give our students the opportunity to play in the sports and extra-curriculars that they love and are passionate about. This was our goal. We have made it to

competitions! We have now safely developed a plan for invited guests of athletes to attend.

Low Rate of Community Transmission – Guest Procedures:

Sports # of athletes	Venue	Home Invited Guests	Visiting Invited Guests	Total
Varsity Football FB (57) CH (29) Band (20)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
JV Football (30)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
JH Football (15)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
JV/Varsity Volleyball (32)	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; gym cleared between jv and varsity games	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.
Varsity Girls Soccer (16)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events

				applied when no fire code capacity is established.
JH Co-ed Soccer (21)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
XC (7)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
Varsity Boys Golf (17)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
Varsity Girls Golf (2)	Outdoor	4 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for outdoor events applied when no fire code capacity is established.
JH Girls Basketball – Gr 7/8th grade (13)	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; the gym will be cleared between 7 th and 8 th grade games	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.

Boy's JV/Varsity Basketball	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; the gym will be cleared between JV and V	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.
Boy's JH Basketball – Gr 7/8th	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; the gym will be cleared between 7 th and 8 th grade	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.
Girl's JV/V Basketball	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; the gym will be cleared between JV and V	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.
JH/JV/V Wrestling	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player; the gym will be cleared between JH, JV, and V	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.
V Gymnastics	Indoor	2 guest tickets per player	0 tickets available	Maximum occupancy calculator for indoor events based on National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Code.

*Footnote:

In a typical year, when the COVID 19 pandemic is not threatening the health, safety, or welfare of our students, staff, and community, the bleacher seating capacity at Memorial Field is 1560 and the bleacher seating capacity at the high school gymnasium is 515. The numbers represented in the table above reflect an adjusted seating capacity for guests in attendance at Memorial Field and other outdoor venues not to exceed 27% and at the high school gymnasium not to exceed 25%.

The guest attendance guidelines ensure that the staff can manage the face covering requirements, social distancing requirements and wellness/contact tracing procedures for those in attendance. Per the CDC, PDE, DOH and CMU, it is these precautions and procedures that provide for the greatest mitigation of COVID 19 exposure for our student athletes, staff and community.

The Ridgway Area School District is using guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Attending Sporting Events (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/attending-sports.html>) and Carnegie Mellon University's (CMU) Risk Based Decision Support Tools (<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/20200917-CMU-Risk-BasedDecision-Support-Tool.pdf>) because these provide the District with sound technical and research based guidance to support the position of parental attendance at sporting events. RASD believes it is in the best interest of the student athletes to have parents in attendance at games and performances and believe this can be done safely because parents/household members are in close contact with their children on a daily basis. With these guidelines and the implementation of mitigation strategies, any increased risk to the community should be minimal.

The guiding principles from the CDC that lower the risk and reduce the spread, while attending outdoor sporting events include the following:

- All attendees wear masks
- Attendees are discouraged from yelling, chanting, or singing
- All attendees stay at least six feet away from people they do not live with
- Attendees at a community sporting event are from the local area and limited to family and friends of athletes
- Attendees do not share food or drinks or personal items (e.g., noisemakers) with people they don't live with
- The sports program has several mitigation strategies (e.g., blocked off seats or rows, visual cues such as floor markings for social distancing, cleaning and disinfection) and messaging in place to prevent or reduce the spread of COVID-19
- Additionally, well ventilated space at indoor events reduce risk and spread.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has partnered with CMU to create a data-driven decision support tool that will be reliant on quantifiable criteria to drive a targeted evidence- based, regional approach to reopening in Pennsylvania. Although this tool is intended for the business sector the public health risks and mitigation measures could be reasonably applied to schools. By monitoring the risk indices of COVID Case Risk, Population Density Risk, and Population Age

Risk, RASD believes we can develop guest attendance guidelines based on Covid case risk, since population density risk and population age risk will remain the same. **Resources:**

Gill, B., Goyal, R., Hartog, J., Hotchkiss, J. & Delisle, D. Consideration for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools. REL Mid-Atlantic (2020).

<https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midatlantic/pdf/ReopeningPASchools.pdf>

Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH)

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/K12/Pages/HealthSafetyConsiderations.aspx>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>