

INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPERATION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Mitigation Strategies: In the March Guidance, Department of Public Health (DPH) advises that any athletic activities occurring indoors, as well as those occurring outdoors that involve frequent close contact between participants, require the use of a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth, and that is worn directly on the face, at all times, including during active play. This requirement applies to all participants, coaches, officials, spectators, and any other individuals associated with athletic events. DPH feels that the use of masks during athletic and other activities for “source control” is necessary to protect participants, their families, and their school communities against the increasing risk of COVID-19 infection. Of note, the latest guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that youth athletes wear cloth face coverings when they are on the sidelines, in the locker room, and traveling as well as during group training and active competition (except in pools or while using certain gymnastics apparatus). The DPH guidance also advises that individuals required to quarantine due to close contact with a known COVID-19 case must not gather with other athletes for engagement in team sports prior to completion of a full 14-day quarantine requirement, notwithstanding any guidance to the contrary regarding the shortening of required quarantine periods.

Return-to-Play after COVID-19 Infection: In the March Guidance, DPH notes that there is the potential, and documented cases, of severe disease complications in people of all ages. DPH notes further that long-term health effects and impacts on organ systems function resulting from even mild or asymptomatic COVID-19 disease is still unknown, although there have been some studies implicating blood clotting and cardiac effects as potentially under-recognized longer-term sequelae. As such, DPH recommends that health screening and clearance requirements for allowing athletes to begin a phased return to activities after COVID-19 infection should incorporate the AAP’s guidance for return-to-play and include specific cardiac evaluations. In addition, DPH recommends that parents and athletes be informed of the cardiovascular risks associated with COVID-19 infection and provide informed consent based on knowledge of such risks. **In accordance with DPH recommendations and the district's Contracted APRN, Baldwin Middle School requires a letter of clearance from the athlete's pediatrician to be on file before participation.** For additional information about the cardiovascular and other risks associated with COVID-19 infection, and current guidance from the AAP regarding returning to sports, please carefully review the AAP’s “COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports,” available at <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-interim-guidance-return-to-sports/>.

For DPH’s guidance regarding, among other relevant matters, (1) risks associated with various sports and sports activities (including risk categorizations with associated sports; recommendations for the operation of various amateur sports activities; and risk categorizations for various athletic activities); (2) recommended COVID-19 mitigation strategies; and (3) return-to-play after COVID-19 infection, please carefully review the March Updated Guidance, available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Communications/Covid19/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19_UPDATED_Mar_2021_v52.pdf

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/med>

INFORMED CONSENT AND WAIVER

We, _____ (PARENT(s) AND STUDENT NAMES), understand that the Student has the opportunity to participate in Baldwin Middle School Spring Sports. We understand that Spring Sports *will take place on District grounds and/or Manship Park for home practices and games* and will be provided consistent with current applicable health and safety guidance from federal, state, and local authorities. We understand that the choice to have the Student participate in Spring Sports is voluntary. Before the Student will be permitted to participate, the District requires that we read the information in this Notice (including the information contained in the websites cited herein) and sign below to ensure that we are informed of and understand the risks related to COVID-19 associated with participating in BMS School Spring Sports.

In signing below, the Parents attest that we are the parent/guardian of the above-named Student, and the Parents and Student attest that we have read the Notice and the websites cited herein and understand the risks related to COVID-19 associated with participating in Spring Sports. We further understand that there are cardiovascular and other health and safety risks associated with returning to athletic activities after COVID-19 infection. We also acknowledge that the health and safety risks posed by COVID-19 cannot be completely eliminated, despite the implementation of reasonable and age-appropriate precautions and protocols. We further understand that because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the risk of transmission inherent in _____ (name of sport), DPH and NFHS have categorized this sport as a “low” risk category sport. We further understand that there may be risks to the Student associated with adhering to certain mitigation strategies recommended and/or required by DPH and required by the District, such as wearing a face covering mask that completely covers the nose and mouth, including during active play. Finally, given the unknown nature of COVID-19, we understand that it is not possible to list each and every specific risk associated with COVID-19 and that neither the District nor public health officials can guarantee that any student participating in BMS Spring Sports or other in-person activities will not come into contact with someone infected by COVID-19 and/or contract such illness.

By opting to allow the Student to participate in BMS Spring Sports, we agree that the Parents and the Student will abide by any such health and safety protocols that the District may require, such as requiring students to wear face covering masks that completely cover the nose and mouth (including during active play) and adhering to any quarantine periods required by the District. We understand that promoting public health is a shared responsibility and that every member of the District community must do his/her part to minimize risks.

In consideration for being allowed to participate in Spring Sports, we fully **ASSUME ALL RISKS**, inherent and otherwise, whether or not described above, in connection with the Student’s participation in BMS Spring Sports. These agreements of assumption of risks will be construed in accordance with Connecticut law.

WE HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE NOTICE (INCLUDING THE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 AND THE OPERATION OF SPORTS ACTIVITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC) AND CONSENT TO THE STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS DURING THE 2021 SPRING SEASON.

Parent/Legal Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Legal Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Student signature _____ Date _____