

## BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS – OFFICE OF ATHLETICS

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Baltimore County Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all staff, students and spectators participating in athletic events. Athletic programs positively impact the community, and it is our expectation that student athlete and spectator behaviors reflect our core values of teamwork and sportsmanship. Attendance at athletic events is a privilege.

To ensure our sporting events remain safe, family-oriented events, we are asking all members of the BCPS community to do their part by:

1. Reviewing expectations about appropriate conduct at sporting events
2. Ensuring that dangerous, prohibited, and inappropriate items are not brought to BCPS events
3. Immediately sharing with school officials any information that might compromise the safety of others
4. Arranging timely transportation to and from events for all unaccompanied high school students in attendance

The BCPS Office of Athletics ensures that every school has a site-based athletic plan for every game. The Office of Athletics has provided additional resources and guidance to all secondary school administrators and coaches to help strengthen practices and procedures. **Principals may include additional procedures for the safety of their school community.**

Effective Friday, September 23, 2022, the following changes will go into effect to enhance safety:

- Additional staff will be assigned to all secondary games, including safety assistants. In addition, staff from visiting schools will be available when necessary.
- **Elementary and middle school students attending athletic events must be accompanied by an adult (18 years and older) and remain with the adult for the entire event.**
- Only the following types of bags are allowed:
  - **Small clutch bags, no larger than 4.5" x 6.5" or approximately the size of a hand. These bags may be subject to search prior to entry.**
  - An exception will be made for medically necessary items and diaper bags. These bags may be subject to search prior to entry.
- Once spectators have entered a game, there will be no readmittance if they choose to leave before the game has ended.
- Loitering at athletic events or on school grounds after the conclusion of the event will not be permitted.
- Anyone engaging in violent or criminal behavior at a sporting event will be removed from the premises immediately and not be permitted to return to any BCPS campus for athletics or extra-curricular activities for a period of no less than 90 days. Students will be subject to serious school and legal consequences.

Michael Sye  
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Baltimore County Public Schools