

# **NORTH BORDER SCHOOL DISTRICT**



# **RETURN TO SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES PLAN**

North Border School Board Approved  
August 11, 2020

**Purpose:** The COVID-19 pandemic presents school districts with a myriad of challenges. The North Border School District has crafted this plan based on the recommendations and requirements on the NDHSAA and North Dakota’s K-12 Smart Restart Plan in preparation for the fall seasons, and beyond.

**Benefit of Sports/Activities:** The physical and psychosocial benefits of education-based activity participation are numerous. Students who participate in school activities learn life lessons in an environment that cannot be duplicated. The academic achievements, social and leadership skills, as well as overall mental health are known to be greatly enhanced in students who participate in a school activity compared to those who do not. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in thousands of North Dakota students missing out on these life-shaping educational experiences over the past several months.

**Acknowledgement of Infection Risks:** The risk of COVID-19 transmission will still be present as school activities begin in August and likely through the 2020-2021 school year. All stakeholders must recognize these risks and ensure the steps in this document are followed to reasonably mitigate these risks. Participation in school activities is voluntary and every individual will need to evaluate the risk versus the benefits of activity participation. This plan was developed and considerations were specifically made for the North Border School District.

**The guidance and requirements represented in this RETURN TO SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES PLAN may be rescinded, modified, or made mandatory at any time, based on current conditions.**

**Students/coaches/directors that test positive for COVID-19 or are considered a close contact will be reported to the member school’s COVID-19 designee. Isolation of the infected individual should begin immediately. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) process for “isolation” and “quarantine” will be followed.**

Respectfully,

**Brian Wolf**  
North Border Superintendent

**Jeff Watts**  
School Board President

# Sports and Activities Operation Guidelines

North Dakota school districts are required to utilize the phases outlined by North Dakota Department of Health, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and the Governor’s Office. The North Border School District has created guidelines that correspond with each phase. To accommodate specific needs within the school district and building levels, the district may opt to, as appropriate, implement health and safety measures in a higher tier. This may include, up to, school closures. This will only be done after consultation with the Pembina County Public Health and the impacted building(s) COVID-19 Coordinator. Any change to phases would be immediately communicated to allow for appropriate implementation for families and at the building/district level.

## COMMON RULES FOR ALL HOME SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Green	Yellow	Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities will be in session and local rules prepared with guidance from the NDHSAA and North Dakota’s K-12 Smart Restart Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To ensure safety for all, contests may be cancelled or altered at any time by the administration</li> <li>● Face coverings OPTIONAL for Coaches and Participants on all bus rides, practices, and games.</li> <li>● Parents may sign a waiver allowing Participants to opt out of district transportation to practices and games.</li> <li>● Coaches will follow all NDHSAA requirements such as logging attendance for Participants in practices and games</li> <li>● Participants will be responsible for providing their own hydration during practices and games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities will be in session and local rules prepared with guidance from the NDHSAA and North Dakota’s K-12 Smart Restart Plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Face coverings will be RECOMMENDED for all bus rides, practices, and games</li> <li>● Any Mitigation Step in the Green Phase that has not been altered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities suspended until further notice</li> </ul>

## RULES FOR ALL AWAY CONTESTS

Green	Yellow	Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Border School District Athletics and Activities will adhere to the rules and requirements of the school district or NDHSAA for any contest that is held outside of the North Border School District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Border School District Athletics and Activities will adhere to the rules and requirements of the school district or NDHSAA for any contest that is held outside of the North Border School District</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities suspended until further notice</li> </ul>

## RULES FOR HOME VOLLEYBALL CONTESTS

Green	Yellow	Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All home contests in grades 7-12 will be played in Walhalla</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>500 spectators will be granted admittance on a first come, first serve basis</li> <li>All Spectators and the North Border Band will sit in marked home and away sections during the contest</li> <li>Concessions of Pop, Candy and Popcorn will be served to those in attendance</li> <li>North Border participants will utilize the girls locker room before and after each contest</li> <li>Visiting team Participants will utilize the boys locker room before and after each contest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All home contests in grades 7-12 will be played in Walhalla</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>250 Spectators will be granted admittance based on the following tiered system:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Participants, Officials, Essential Staff, and Approved Volunteers</li> <li>(2) Approved Media Partners and Media Professionals</li> <li>(3) Approved Parents</li> <li>(4) Approved Spectators</li> </ol> </li> <li>Any mitigation Step from the Green Phase that has not been altered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities suspended until further notice</li> </ul>

# RULES FOR HOME FOOTBALL CONTESTS

Green	Yellow	Red
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All home contests in grades 7-12 will be played in Pembina</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 500 Spectators (or more if allowed by Pembina County Public Health) will be granted admittance on a first come, first serve basis</li> <li>● All Spectators and the North Border Band will sit in marked home and away sections during the contest</li> <li>● Concessions of Pop, Candy and Popcorn will be served to those in attendance</li> <li>● North Border participants will utilize the shop room before and after each contest</li> <li>● Visiting team Participants will utilize the boys and girls locker room for before and after each contest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All home contests in grades 7-12 will be played in Pembina</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 250 Spectators will be granted admittance based on the following tiered system:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Participants, Officials, Essential Staff, and Approved Volunteers</li> <li>(2) Approved Media Partners and Media Professionals</li> <li>(3) Approved Parents</li> <li>(4) Approved Spectators</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Any Mitigation Step in the Green Phase that has not been altered</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activities suspended until further notice</li> </ul>