

Dear ASD Families and Staff,

This is a Notice to ASD Families Regarding Sports and COVID-19

ASD is dedicated to the continuation of our various athletic programs for the physical and mental well-being of our students. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are mindful of the risks associated with allowing these events to take place and want to take necessary steps to create as safe an environment as possible for student athletes, coaches, officials, organizers, and spectators. For this reason, we are implementing some additional requirements when summer sports and activities resume on June 8.

We are working closely with local and state agencies as well as reviewing the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), to create standards and expectations to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure. We will implement safety measures during summer practices, camps, and conditioning that will make these sporting events safer for everyone.

These measures include requiring participants to sign in as they arrive at each session, to submit to a temperature check, and to respond to a set of COVID-19 related screening questions. Additionally, ASD asks that students arrive dressed appropriately for the activity, bring their own individual water bottle, and come with a cloth face covering that can be worn when students are not engaged in vigorous activity.

Each family must consider the risks of participation that now exist and make a decision that is best for their family. It is important to independently review the resources available on the prevention and risks associated with COVID-19, including the website for the CDC. Students and parents alike should be aware that there are certain people who are more vulnerable to becoming very sick if they contract COVID-19, including people over the age of 65, people with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised. If you or your student athlete fall within this group of “vulnerable individuals,” attention should be given to whether participation in certain sports and related activities makes sense.

ASD encourages any concerned family member to seek additional guidance from a health care provider. In the event a vulnerable individual requests a reasonable accommodation in order to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19, such requests shall be considered in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Alaska law.

Due to the risks associated with playing sports during the COVID-19 pandemic, ASD will require each family of a student athlete, as well as anyone participating in the sporting event, to sign an acknowledgement of the risks and a waiver of liability. This form is designed to assess certain risk factors, highlight the dangers of participating in sports, and ask that each participant not hold ASD liable for any harm that may result if a student athlete or participant contracts COVID-19. It is important to carefully [review this form](#) before you sign, as you will be giving up important legal rights.

We strive to continue our sports programs to the fullest extent practical and intend to take responsible measures to promote the safety of all participants, coaches, staff, and supporting families. As this situation continues to evolve, and may be subject to changing mandates and guidance, ASD will try to provide updates to programs as they become available on their [Sports and Activities](#) webpage.

Thank you,

Anchorage School District