



August 21, 2020

Media contact:

Nicki Hensley, Government & Community Relations

hensley.jennifer@brevardschools.org

Brevard Public Schools to Resume High School Varsity and JV Athletics this Fall

VIERA, FL – Brevard Public Schools (BPS) today announced its plans to return to athletics this month with the health and safety of its student athletes and staff top of mind. BPS' Fall Sports Plan outlines the steps the District is taking to move from Stage 1 to Stage 2 voluntary athletic conditioning, beginning the week of August 24th, with Stage 3/Full FHSAA Practice to start end of month or early September for varsity football, volleyball and other fall sports and first games/matches beginning mid-September. The plan also details universal COVID-19 precautions and expectations for school athletic directors, coaches and sponsors, and is based on the recommendations provided by the [Florida High School Athletic Association \(FHSAA\)](#) and its [Sports Medicine Advisory Committee \(SMAC\)](#).

Highlights of BPS' Fall Sports Plan include:

- For Varsity and Junior Varsity (JV) Football, the district will be divided in two divisions which will include crosstown rivals. Each school will play each team in their division following a seven game schedule to be provided by the District. Only in-county games will be scheduled with no more than 50 students on each team, per FHSAA recommendations.
- Varsity and JV Volleyball will follow the same guidelines as football, with a 12-game schedule to be provided by Athletic Directors, per FHSAA games per week limit.
- Varsity golf, swimming and diving, cross-county and bowling will be divided into two division based on geographic location. Players will follow a 4-5 match in-county schedule, along with the Cape Coast Conference Championship matches.
- Travel has been minimized for all sports.
- All fall sports are able to complete a season and qualify for FHSAA State Series.

"We are excited for our kids to regain some form of normalcy with a return to athletics this fall," said District 4 school board member Matt Susin. "The mental health benefits of getting back to play are immensely important during these challenging times. For many of our students, sports are the one thing that gives them that sense of pride and self-worth, along with the many life lessons learned through social interaction and working as a team."

BPS's Fall Sports Plan takes prudent steps in protecting staff and students through screening procedures, the use of face coverings when social distancing cannot be achieved, expectations when on the sidelines and benches, as well as locker room etiquette. These guidelines align fully with the health and safety measures detailed in the [District's Reopening Plan](#).

As next steps, BPS Athletic Directors will meet on August 26th to discuss and determine sport specific guidelines will be based on FHSAA recommendations, and will present those guidelines to schools prior to Stage 3/full FHSAA practice scheduled to begin August 31-September 12.

The FHSAA's Board of Directors voted last Friday to allow member schools to begin fall sports as of August 24th and to require all coaches view a "[COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators](#)" course produced by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

