

Extracurricular Activities Plan

Mitchell School District 17-2

Winter, 2020-21

Introduction: The research on and student experience of extracurricular activities—sports, fine arts, forensics, academic competitions, etc.—demonstrate the critical value of such programming to the educational program and students of every school. As such, the Mitchell School District, just as it is committed to providing its educational program in the best manner possible, with students physically in school buildings, is also dedicated to offering its regular extracurricular programming for the benefits of the young people it serves.

South Dakota High School Activities Association Board Document on Winter Sports/Activities: The SDHSAA Board of Directors passed a set of recommendations for sport and activity seasons for the winter season of 2020-21, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mitchell School District plan is not intended to revisit this previously traveled ground but to lay out general guidelines for how these will be implemented in this district in a clear, concise manner.

Practices prior to the First Competitions/Performances of the Season: Though it is possible conditions could exist in any community which might preclude practices, in general practices prior to the first performances/competitions of the season will be held as in past years. This is important for a number of reasons but ultimately because the training provided during these practices prevent student injuries in later competitions.

Screening protocols will be implemented before practices and competitions. These will be conducted on-site by district personnel and students manifesting symptoms will not be permitted to participate. Protocols to be followed are listed on the COVID-19 Participant/Coach Monitoring Form provided by the SDHSAA.

Extracurricular Events, Performances, and Competitions:

1. Screening Protocols:
 - A. For events/practices held before, during, or after the school day, screening protocols, as enumerated in Appendix B of the SDHSAA Sports/Activities Task Force Recommendations, shall be implemented by school personnel before the start of such events.
 - B. Participants identified through screening protocols as not eligible to participate in events/practices before the school day shall also be excluded from attending school that same day.
2. Spectators
 - A. All spectators shall be required to wear masks at Mitchell home events. At away events, the regulations of the away district shall apply.

- B. To the extent spectators are permitted, regulation of such will be identical for home and visiting fans.
- C. The tier system described in the SDHSAA Document shall be implemented but adjusted somewhat for Mitchell home events:
 - In Tier 1, open attendance.
 - In Tier 2, the MHS student body will be permitted to attend. Additionally, each participant will be issued 4 vouchers to be used for fans of their choosing. Staff members of the relevant school shall also be permitted to attend.

Additionally, in Tier 2:

- Gymnastics events held at the MEGA facility will allow for only 2 vouchers per participant due to facility limitations.
 - The Jerry Opbroek wrestling tournament will allow for only 2 vouchers per participant due to the number of participants and facility limitations.
 - All middle school basketball games will allow for only 2 vouchers per participant due to facility limitations.
- In Tier 3, the MHS students will be permitted to attend. Beyond this, only parents/step-parents/guardians of participants and staff members of the relevant school will be permitted to attend.
 - In Tier 4, no fans.

Tier decisions will be made by the Activities Director, in conversation with the superintendent of schools, three days before each event in order to allow for logistics. However, changes may be made to the tier system up to the point of spectators entering the facility for the event. It is worth noting that, during the fall season of 2020, the District remained in Tier 2 throughout.

3. After-Contest Protocol: Once a contest or event is concluded, event officials shall take steps to quickly remove participants from the venue and expedite, within reason, the departure of all fans from the area. After-contest ‘mingling’ shall be actively discouraged.
4. Transportation: Under normal circumstances, participants are required to ride on school-provided transportation to events, with occasional exceptions made for exigent circumstances. During the pandemic, however the length of which is eventually defined, all requests from parents to ride with parents to events shall be approved. Requests to ride with people other than parents, unless exigent circumstances occur, shall not be approved.

Scheduling/Rescheduling Events: Guidelines set down in the SDHSAA recommendations shall be observed. Mitchell School District officials shall not seek ‘forfeits’ from other schools when events are cancelled by those other schools for reasons related to COVID-19.

Individual Sports/Activities: All mandatory modifications, as set forth in the SDHSAA document shall be observed. Activities Director Cory Aadland, in consultation with Central Office and school building administrators as well as coaches/sponsors, shall implement such optional modification as he deems appropriate. Such modifications shall include:

- Basketball: No significant changes to overall format.
- Wrestling: Tournaments will be held with fewer teams participating. Maximum number of teams is 8 in the state document. Mitchell will allow no more than 6 due to facility limitations.
- Gymnastics: Meets will be held in 4-team pods, similar to the arrangements for Cheer/Dance during the fall of 2020.
- Show Choir: To the extent competitions are held in Mitchell (many school districts with show choirs have disallowed competitions), groups will arrive, compete, and leave. 'Finals' will not be part of the competitions.

COVID-19 Guidance from the South Dakota Department of Health for food concession stands for schools and temporary events shall be observed whenever possible.

This plan shall be modified as circumstances require.