



Dear Parents,

After reviewing guidelines from the State of Maine, John Bapst is ready to proceed with fall sports! As you are probably aware, other area schools are each making their own decisions in this regard. A schedule for competitions will follow after all schools have had a chance to participate in building a schedule. There are three forms that parents and students must sign in order to participate.

A parent form for informed consent is attached here. [Athletic Dept Informed Consent Summer Workouts.pdf](#)

The contract to follow rules and abide by athletic department policies is attached here. [Page_8_Athletic-Forms-and-Policies.pdf](#)

The contract to take financial responsibility for equipment is attached here. [Page_9_Athletic-Forms-and-Policies.pdf](#)

These signed forms should be returned to Mr. O'Connell at the school. If you have questions about the document or about specific sports, please contact the athletic office.

Fall Interscholastic Athletic Guidelines

State Framework for Return to Competitive High School Sports

John Bapst Memorial High School has opened in hybrid mode according to state guidance. That guidance now extends to athletics as well. Healthy, complete personal growth and development for students includes academics, the arts, athletics, clubs and activities, and community service.

Note that because of the extraordinary situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, this document makes a number of changes to sections found in the John Bapst *Student-Parent Handbook* and *Athletic Department Policies*. In cases where a new policy or guideline found here appears to contradict an earlier published policy, this document takes precedence. Following the Covid-specific guidelines is the *only* way John Bapst Memorial High School can return to competitive interscholastic sports this year.

The Maine Principals' Association (MPA) has worked in concert with the Office of the Governor, the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services (including the Maine CDC), the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association, the Maine School Management Association and others to create guidelines for interscholastic sports this fall. Click [here](#) for a copy of the final document. Like the guidelines that have allowed schools to open for in-person teaching and learning, the guidelines for competitive athletics are designed to allow for athletic activities to occur in a safe and healthy environment, allowing for student participation. With Covid-19 present to greater or less degree in almost every part of the world, we understand that there are no guarantees. A successful return to sports depends on everyone's following these guidelines.

Sanctioned Sports and Conference Realignments

The sports the MPA will sponsor this fall are cross-country running, field hockey, flag football (7 on 7), golf, and soccer. Conventional tackle football will not be played this fall. Game schedules will be developed on a regional basis, and seasons will be at least 25% shorter than normal. There will be playoffs and possibly state championships in golf and cross-country. Field hockey, soccer, and flag football will not have a state tournament or crown a state champion. Each sport has developed "Sport-Specific Guidelines" (found in the appendix at the end of this document) that align with the recently approved "School Sports Guidance: Return to Competition for Competitive Activities in Maine." You may wish to familiarize yourself with some of these changes since particular aspects of play are affected on a sport-by-sport basis.

In order to reduce travel time, John Bapst will be playing a more local and regional schedule than in a conventional year. Area athletic administrators have been hard at work redrawing potential game, match, and meet schedules. Note that if the county in

which an opponent school is located is designated yellow under the state's Covid-19 warning system, John Bapst will not play any schools in that county.

Safety Protocols

In order to participate in athletic competition, new safety precautions will be taken with regard to **Covid-19 contact, crowd size, masking, social distancing, cheering, and hygiene**. There will be many new rules to follow. Each athlete, coach, official, game worker, administrator, and spectator **must** adhere to MPA guidelines for athletic events. These include:

- No participation (practice or game) by a student exhibiting symptoms associated with Covid-19 until their status as Covid-negative has been confirmed (specific guidelines are administered by school nurses)
- No spectating by anyone who has been in close contact with a person exhibiting symptoms associated with Covid-19 or Covid-positive
- Masks or other approved face coverings for all coaches, officials, players not in a game or match, and spectators
- 100-person maximum number of people at an outdoor event; this includes players and coaches from both teams and officials. Note that some schools may prohibit attendance from visiting fans. John Bapst spectators will be limited to family members. Once the 100-person limit is reached, no further spectators will be admitted to a match.
- While not in the game, 6-foot social distance between athletes and between athletes and coaches
- 6-foot social distance between spectators (spectators from the same family may stand or sit closer than six feet)
- Each student athlete will be responsible for their own hydration; under no circumstances may student-athletes share drinking vessels of any kind.
- Hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes will be on hand for player use and a hand washing station will be provided for players and spectators.
- Players must wash uniforms after each use and before the next scheduled game.
- All necessary equipment will be sanitized before being used again for another contest.

- All practices will be held outside. Should we face inclement weather, there will be no rescheduling of activity inside any facility.

Physical Exams

In a normal year, each student would be responsible for providing proof of a pre-participation physical exam. Due to the potential delay in getting to a physician's office for an exam, and the desire to keep students away from those same offices during the current pandemic, we will not require those exams prior to playing this fall. We will rely on the health history form all students fill out in order to attend school. Families should keep those documents current through our nurses office, and keep us updated if anything changes with regard to your child's health.

Daily Screening/Consent Before Practice and Competition

To participate in a practice or game, John Bapst requires a parent-signed **Athletic Screening/Consent Form** separate from and in addition to the Daily Screening Form used for admittance to John Bapst for classes. The school is following MPA guidance in this regard.

Transportation to and from Practices and Games

John Bapst Athletics will continue to work with Cyr Bus Co. for transportation needs to and from practices and games. Due to the limited number of students allowed on a bus, families and athletes themselves should provide their own transportation where possible. Athletes riding on a bus must wear a face covering and follow any distancing procedures required. Student athletes should continue to communicate with their coaches and, when necessary, the athletic director about their transportation plans.

Spectators

John Bapst, like all groups sponsoring events in Maine, must follow the governor's executive order limiting attendance at outdoor gatherings to 100 people in total. All athletes, coaches, officials, and other game personnel *from both teams* are included in the total. Further MPA and conference guidance may follow.

At its home events John Bapst is responsible for keeping the total under 100. This will mean a game by game update on the number of spectators allowed. Anyone allowed at the game must wear a face covering, and families must maintain six feet of physical distance from others. No cheering will be allowed at games, and there will be no food, drink, school paraphernalia, or other concessions allowed.

John Bapst will attempt to live-stream each home game and will work with opponents to inform people of ways road competitions can be viewed as well.

What Your Support and Compliance Mean

As we teach and model the responsibilities of citizenship during a pandemic, the resumption of high school sports in Maine depends on the active understanding of and compliance with all MPA and school guidelines. John Bapst will have a designated Administrator on Duty at all games and matches. Through our regular communication and through signage on site, we will continue to remind our students, coaches, families, and visitors of the importance of compliance. **Noncompliance will carry consequences.** For students, noncompliance could result in anything from loss of playing time to removal from a team. For spectators, noncompliance may result in anything from being asked to leave a venue to the stoppage and forfeiture of a game or match.

Thank you in advance for your support of the students of John Bapst. We are looking forward to a safe, successful fall season.

GO CRUSADERS!

Mel MacKay

*Head of School
School*

Dan O'Connell

Athletic Director

Dave Armistead

Associate Head of