

THE (Tuscaloosa Warriors) Athletics COVID-19 Protocols

General

Tuscaloosa Home Educators (“THE”) Warriors Athletics program will encourage all athletes, staff and families to educate themselves about the symptoms of COVID-19, and when to stay home, from publicly available information from health authorities. This includes, but is not limited to, proper hand washing and sanitizing.

THE expects all persons attending a THE organized activity to comply with any applicable governmental law or ordinance, including but not limited to, Alabama’s “Safer at Home Order” as may be amended from time to time. A copy of the current State Order, along with other pertinent information related to COVID-19 in Alabama can be found here <https://covid19.alabama.gov/>

THE will encourage all coaches and athletes to maintain appropriate social distancing at all times possible, including on the court, in the field of play, locker rooms, sidelines, dugouts, benches, and workout areas. During down time, athletes and coaches should not congregate.

Parents should screen and monitor athletes for symptoms prior to and during games and practices. If individuals participating in sporting activities show symptoms, have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, or are sick, they must be kept home.

All athletes, coaches, and officials must bring their own water and drinks to team activities. Team water coolers for sharing through disposable cups are not allowed. Fixed water fountains should not be used.

Activities that increase the risk of exposure to saliva must not be allowed including chewing gum, spitting, licking fingers, and eating sunflower seeds.

Avoid shaking hands, fist bumps, or high fives before, during or after games and practices. Limit unnecessary physical contact with teammates, other athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators.

Whenever possible, equipment and other personal items should be separated and not shared. If equipment must be shared, all equipment should be properly disinfected between users if possible.

Guidance for Caregivers and Spectators

Seating areas, including bleachers, if logistically possible, should adhere to social distancing requirements of at least 6 feet of spacing for anyone not in the same household. Face coverings (masks or face shields) **are required to** be worn by non-players and coaches within THE athletic facilities at all times. Any applicable law or ordinance will be enforced.

Caregivers or spectators should not enter the field of play or bench areas.

Nonessential visitors, spectators, and volunteers should be limited when possible, including activities with external groups or organizations. Parents should refrain from attending practices, or volunteering to assist with coaching, except when permitted by the coach.

Families should assess levels of risk based on individual athletes on the team and their family members who may be at a higher risk for severe illness.

Parents should monitor their children for symptoms prior to any sporting event. Children and athletes who are sick or showing symptoms must stay home.

Positive or Suspected Positive Cases

1. If you or any member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider immediately and follow their instructions.
2. If your healthcare provider recommends testing, please do not come to the church facility (for practice or otherwise) until a negative test result is obtained. If no test is recommended by your healthcare provider and the person with symptoms is a player, please do not allow the player to attend team activities until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours. If no test is recommended by your healthcare provider and the person with symptoms is a household member of a player, the player may attend team activities as long as they are symptom-free but please do not allow the household member to enter the church facility until they have been symptom-free for 48 hours.
3. If your healthcare provider recommends testing, please keep all household members (including players and coaches) away from team activities until a negative test is returned for the affected household member.
4. If your healthcare provider recommends testing and a positive test is returned for any household member, the following will be required:
 - a. For the positive individual, 10 days must have passed from the positive test result or they must have a negative test result before returning to the team facility;
 - b. For any household member (including players, coaches, parents, siblings, etc.) of a positive individual, they must avoid team facilities for at least 14 days following a positive test result from the positive individual.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS POLICY WILL BE UNDER REGULAR REVIEW AND SUBJECT TO REVISION AT ANY TIME. PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMENTS, QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS TO A MEMBER OF THE ATHLETICS COMMITTEE