

Ector County Independent School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guidelines for high school football games this fall

As you are well aware, this is going to be a high school football season like no other before it. Ector County ISD officials are closely following the recommendations from the University Interscholastic League (UIL), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state and local health departments as it is preparing protocols for football games and other athletic contests. Here is a summary of the guidelines in place at this time, with the understanding adjustments may be made as necessary or as allowed.

Ticket Sales

In July, the ECISD Athletics Department made the decision to not sell season tickets nor reserved seat tickets this year. General Admission game tickets will be available for purchase the week of each game at the ECISD downtown ticket office, 802 N. Sam Houston.

Current season ticket holders and parents of game participants (i.e., varsity football, band, spirit groups) may purchase tickets on Tuesday of game week. A maximum of four tickets may be purchased at \$8 per ticket during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Remaining tickets will go on sale Wednesday of game week between 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the ECISD downtown ticket office with the same maximum of four tickets at \$8 per ticket.

Any remaining tickets will be available at the Ratliff Stadium ticket office on the evening of the game.

Stadium capacity, restrictions

The UIL has directed: it is critical that schools are diligent in following the risk-mitigation guidelines. Schools are still required to follow Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA-29 related to face coverings. Schools may allow spectators to attend contests up to a maximum of 50% of a venue's capacity, provided appropriate spacing as prescribed in the guidelines is maintained. **All stadium spectators 10 years and older will be required to wear a face covering, that covers the nose and mouth, in the stadium unless they have a medical exemption.**

For Ratliff Stadium, the 50% capacity limit combined with the required socially-distanced seating, reduces available seating to about 30% (or approximately 3,000 seats) on the home side of the stadium. Seating on the

visitors' side of the stadium may be available depending on the crowd that comes from out of town. Stadium seating will be marked for social distancing, and groups will be placed 6-feet apart from each other.

All ticket purchasers will be required to pre-screen for COVID-19 before they enter the stadium.

Clear bags

In an effort to enhance security and more efficiently process spectator entry at the Ratliff Athletic Complex, ECISD Athletics has implemented a Clear Bag Policy. This policy regulates the size and type of bags that may be carried into the Ratliff Athletic Complex. This is in line with other large high school, college and professional venues across the state and nation. These requirements include Ratliff Stadium, Ratliff South Fields, Ratliff Softball Complex and the Ratliff Tennis Complex. Bags that are permitted include:

- Bags that are clear plastic and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12"
- One-gallon clear plastic freezer bags storage bags
- Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and have no more than one logo imprint not exceeding 4.5" tall x 3.4" wide
- Small clutch bags or purses do not have to be clear but cannot exceed 5" x 8"

Bags **not permitted** include:

- Backpacks, printed pattern plastic bags, fanny packs, purses, reusable grocery totes, mesh or straw bags, duffle bags, large totes, camera / *video bags* or binocular cases
- Diaper bags and medical bags, although not clear, may be allowed entry after inspection by an event administrator

Blankets will be allowed to be carried over the arm in cold weather. Propane Heaters are not allowed in the stadium.

Broadcasts and streaming of games

Due to limitations on the number of spectators able to attend games in person, the UIL has relaxed restrictions on live broadcasts and live streaming of football games for the 2020 season. Broncho and MOJO fans will have a number of ways to catch the games this year.

Live feeds of the game will be available through each school's athletics app:

permiansportsnetwork.com - Permian Panther Athletic app
bronchosportsnetwork.com - Odessa Broncho Athletic app

As is done each year, the games will be carried live by our radio partners, West Texas Radio group. The games will be broadcast on 97Gold FM (KMCM 96.9 FM) and KICKS99.1 (KHKX 99.1 FM) as well as streamed through the stations' websites.

New this year, this is the schedule of live television broadcasts. Games on Friday, September 25, may not be carried live on TV due to UIL restrictions for that night.

Thursday, Sep 24	7pm	Permian vs Abilene Cooper	CW
Friday, Sep 25	7pm	Odessa vs Lubbock Monterey (online only)	web
Friday, Oct 2	7pm	Permian vs TBD	CW
Friday, Oct 16	7pm	Permian vs Midland Lee (Homecoming)	CW

Friday, Oct 23	7pm	Odessa vs Midland High	CW
Friday, Oct 30	7pm	Permian vs Frenship	MyTV16
Friday, Nov 6	7pm	Permian vs Odessa	CW
Friday, Nov 13	7pm	Permian vs Midland High	MyTV16
Friday, Nov 20	7pm	Odessa vs Abilene High	CW

Concession stands will be open and continue to be operated by the Downtown Lions Club in accordance with guidelines approved by the Ector County Health Department.

Custodial teams will clean restrooms and other high-touch surfaces throughout the games.

Players, band members, cheer squads and spirit teams will not be required to wear masks while actively playing or performing, however, they will be expected to wear masks when not playing/performing and they will be expected to maintain appropriate distancing whenever possible.

Press box and sideline passes

ECISD will continue to offer access to all local media outlets, and visiting team media. Players' boxes on each sideline will be extended to the 10-yard line to allow for more distance between players, and that means space will be limited to just one representative from each media outlet allowed on the field during the game. The same one person per outlet limit will apply to the press box during the game. The one person per media outlet will be relaxed for pre-game or post-game live shots provided all face covering and distancing guidelines are maintained. Media members from outside our local market will not be accommodated at this time.

For more information about this press release contact ECISD Communications Department at 432-456-9019.