

COVID-19 Update: SJMSAA Sports Participation Guidelines

Given the most recent guidelines for school quarantine protocol released by the Florida Department of Health and clarified by St. Johns County School District on 9/23/2021, SJMSAA maintains the following position for determining athlete participation in sports per any COVID-19 restrictions:

SJMSAA will follow in accordance with the St. Johns County School District Policy:

On 9/22/2021, the Department of Health has updated their emergency rule (64DER21-15) to include student quarantines.

*Student quarantines: (3)(a) Parents or legal guardians of students who are known to have been in direct contact with an individual who received a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19 **may choose one of the following options:***

- A. Allow the student to attend school, school-sponsored activities, or be on school property, without restrictions or disparate treatment, so long as the student remains asymptomatic; Athlete may participate in SJMSAA events (practices, games, special events, etc.) if parent chooses option A
- B. Quarantine the student for a period of time not to exceed seven days from the date of last direct contact with an individual that is positive for COVID-19. Athlete will not participate in SJMSAA events (practices, games, special events, etc.) for the length of time they are choosing to quarantine and be absent from school.

Whichever option you choose for the school quarantine guidelines, is the option that will be applied for SJMSAA sports.

Important: If the student athlete has tested positive for COVID-19, the SJMSAA guidelines still follow the protocol put forth by the school, therefore if they cannot attend school for COVID-19 infection/positive status, they cannot attend SJMSAA sports. When they return to school, they can return to SJMSAA sports activities.

Please note, for medical privacy reasons, school administration members cannot disclose infection or quarantine status of a student to SJMSAA. We rely on parent and self-reporting. With that said, as with most youth activities, the team environment is generally aware of their peers' circumstances. Please understand that if a child is found to be participating in SJMSAA activities while having an active COVID-19 positive status and is out of school or choosing the contact-tracing quarantine option from school as noted above, there could be consequences such as game forfeitures, playing suspension, etc.. We appreciate our SJMSAA families working with us as we try to navigate this unprecedented time to the best of our abilities in keeping all our athletes' health and safety a priority.

