



*Andrew Klaich
Director, Athletics, Health & Physical Education*

**DOBBS FERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT
COVID-19 ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION WAIVER/INFORMED CONSENT**

On January 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health issued [updated guidance](#) to enable Winter Season “Higher-Risk Sports” to be conducted, provided that the school district follows certain protocols set forth in the guidance. These protocols need to be followed by all student-athletes, along with the attached Student Code of Conduct and Health Risk Communication issued by the Westchester County Department of Health on February 2, 2021. You are expected to review such documents with your child and sign and date where indicated.

It is known that COVID-19 is highly infectious and variant forms of the virus have already begun to emerge in our area that could lead to the discontinuation of the higher-risk sport activities. The County will inform school authorities if its permission to continue with the sports will continue or be withdrawn based upon local infection rates and other health-related considerations. Permissions to engage in higher-risk sports may be withdrawn if the positivity rate in the county exceeds the state average.

It is also known that being infected with COVID-19 may be uneventful, with the infected individual being asymptomatic, whereas in other cases, unfortunately, the infection may be quite debilitating, and even cause death. The protocols established to create conditions where the risk of being infected with COVID-19 are greatly reduced do not guarantee that infection will not occur. Both the student-athlete and parent(s) need to understand that there is an assumption of risk of COVID-19 infection not only for the student-athlete, but also a significant risk of transmission for those with whom the student-athlete might later come into contact, at home and/or in the community. Symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can spread the virus. Masking, social distancing, proper hand hygiene and other mitigation measures reduce, but do not eliminate risk. The District will not be responsible for the consequences of infections that occur as a result of the student-athlete’s participation in the sport in which he/she voluntarily chooses to participate. Thus, he or she will be voluntarily seeking to participate on the team and thereby assuming the risks attendant to such participation.

Having read the information above, it is acknowledged that the student-athlete’s participation on a District higher-risk sports team is being undertaken on a fully voluntary basis and there has been no influence or compulsion on the part of the District or its officers or personnel leading to the student’s participation.

The undersigned agree that the District shall be held harmless, to the maximum extent allowed by law. Consequently, the undersigned knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waive their right to bring any and all legal causes of action or claims against the District based upon events arising from the student-athlete’s being infected with COVID-19 as a result of participation in a Winter Season Higher-Risk Sport.

It is agreed that the undersigned shall adhere to New York State Department of Health and Westchester County Department of Health guidelines for post-infection isolation or precautionary quarantine (as applicable) for the community welfare and the safe operations of the District’s schools.

Electronic signatures may be used to execute this document and shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date