MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic Directors

FROM: Steve Savarese, Executive Director AHSAA

DATE: August 6, 2020

REF: Spectators/fans attending athletic events

Many of our member schools have started the school year and are preparing for fall athletic events. As you are making plans to start school and fall sports, please review the AHSAA Best Practices Return to Play that can be found at www.ahsaa.com and the Current Order of the State Health Officer that can be found at https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov. The Best Practices for Return to Play is an easy to read document based on information presented by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), and it provides basic guidance for schools to commence the 2020-21 athletic seasons.

In accordance with the Current Order, paragraph 11.b. and c., spectators are allowed to attend athletic events, but attendance at events will be significantly reduced as “spectators shall not congregate within 6 feet of a person from another household except to the extent necessary.” Furthermore, “spectators shall wear a mask or other facial covering that covers his or her nostrils and mouth at all times while within six feet of a person from another household.”

The AHSAA Best Practices was created to mitigate-not eliminate- the risk of COVID-19. As a result, our schools are strongly encouraged to establish and follow policies for limiting event attendance in order to comply with the Current Order and requiring fans to wear masks at all times including, but not limited to, when entering/exiting the gates, sitting in the stands, visiting the concession stand and restroom, etc.

Many schools have reached out to the AHSAA for guidance regarding what to do if and when a student-athlete or coach tests positive for COVID-19. Assistance related to quarantining and isolation can be found in the ADPH Back to School Toolkit, and in accordance with the ALSDE Roadmap to Reopening Schools and the Toolkit, contact tracing is an ADPH function and not the responsibility of local schools.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any AHSAA staff member. We pray you all remain safe and well and are hopeful you are practicing ADPH safety guidelines. Your influential leadership and support during these trying times are extremely appreciated, as we are counting on each of you to be a role model for our student-athletes regarding ADPH guidelines.