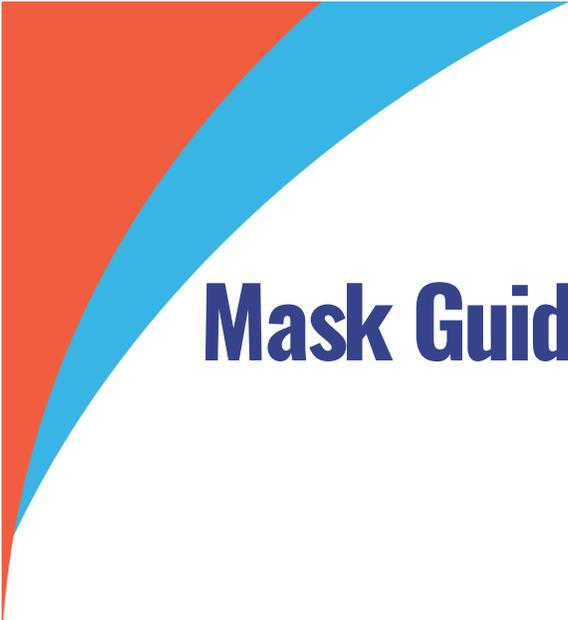


# Mask Guidance for Athletics

After months of decline, North Carolina is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among those who are unvaccinated. In addition, the Delta variant, which is now the predominant strain of the COVID-19 virus in North Carolina, is significantly more contagious than the original virus. While the original virus spread from one person to an average of two or three people, the Delta variant spreads from one person to an average of six people (NC Department of Health and Human Services, July 29, 2021).

As a result of the increased COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, Cumberland County Schools publishes its mask and face –covering guidance for outdoor and indoor athletic events. This guidance includes requirements and recommendations for mask/face coverings for participating athletes, cheerleaders, band members, coaches, trainers, officials, and spectators. This guidance will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure CCS adheres to Federal, State, and Local guidance about COVID-19 and mask/face coverings.

Cumberland County Schools will take several actions to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and reduce the spread during competition and practice. The more people a child or coach interacts with the closer the physical interaction, the more sharing of equipment there is by multiple players, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. To help decrease the risk associated with athletic participation, CCS mask/face coverings guidelines are as follows:



# Mask Guidance for Athletics

## CCS Mask/Face Coverings Guidelines

When required, face coverings should be properly worn. Properly worn means covering the nose, mouth, and chin.

# Mask Guidance for Athletics

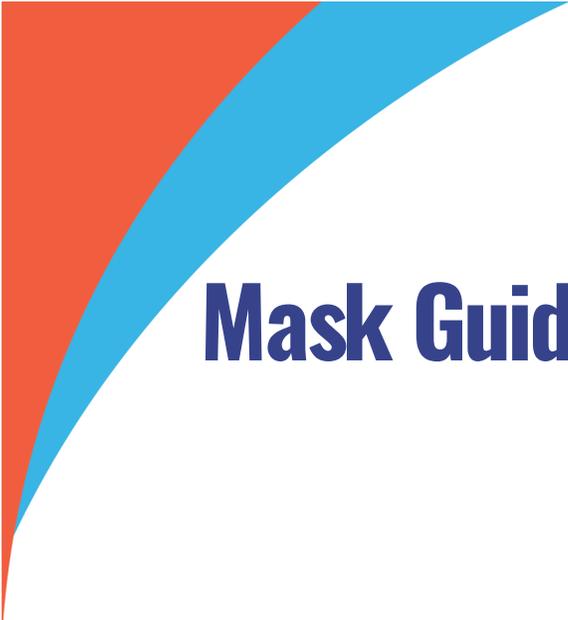
## Participants, i.e. players, cheerleaders, band members, ROTC etc.:

<b>Not Required</b>	<b>Required</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants are not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in workouts or competitions held outside.</li><li>• Following the completion of the competition players and referees need to put their masks back on as soon as possible prior to leaving the venue.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coaches &amp; trainers are required to wear face coverings when on the sideline, not actively involved in the competitions etc., and especially anytime 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.</li><li>• Required to wear face coverings when traveling to and from events using school transportation.</li><li>• Facial coverings are required for participants when not actively competing in a game or competition held indoors.</li></ul>

# Mask Guidance for Athletics

## Administrative Staff, Coaches and Officials

Not Required	Required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not required to wear face coverings while actively engaged in the competition, actively coaching, or giving directions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Required to wear face coverings when working as ticket takers, timers, scorers, etc.</li><li>• Required to wear face coverings when on the field, in the dugout, etc., and especially anytime 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.</li><li>• Required to wear facial coverings when at or interacting with the table i.e., chain crew, ball boys, game supervision.</li><li>• Required to wear face coverings when traveling to and from events using school transportation.</li><li>• Coaches, trainers, and officials should consider masking when having close contact with student athletes.</li></ul>



# Mask Guidance for Athletics

## Officials & Referees

Officials and referees supervising outdoor competitions are allowed to remove their facial coverings if officiating requires them to run in the field of play.

# Mask Guidance for Athletics

## Athletic Directors

### Required

- Ensure that participants, coaches, and staff know the mask/face/coverings guidance when traveling to other school districts.

- Make COVID-19 public service announcements encouraging spectators to wear face coverings.

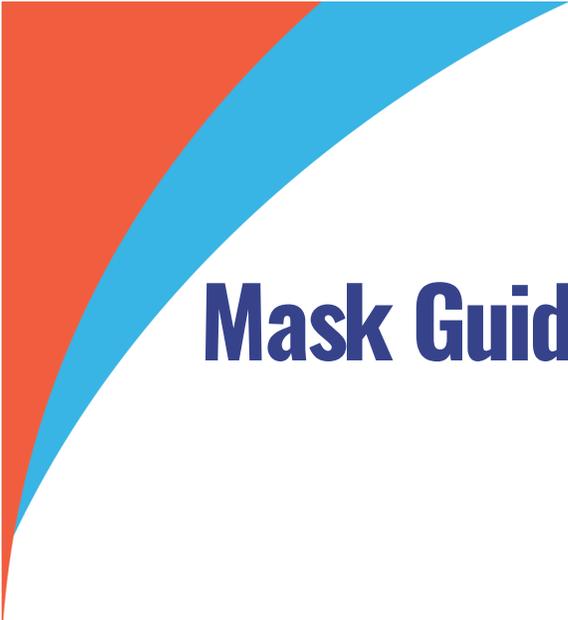
## Spectators

### Required

- Required to wear face coverings at all indoor athletic events.

- Recommended that spectators wear face coverings when 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained at outdoor athletic events.





# Mask Guidance for Athletics

CCS mask/face coverings guidelines are subject to change in keeping with the changes in state policy and StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12).

It is incumbent upon the school athletic director to ensure that participants, coaches, and staff know the mask/face coverings guidance when traveling to other school districts.

At a minimum, CCS athletics will adhere to the guidelines as written in this document.