September 12, 2025

Dear Parents and Families of DC Public Schools (DCPS),

DCPS is committed to ensuring the safety of our school communities. Part of that commitment involves preventative measures when needed to safeguard students, staff, and spectators during athletic competitions.

Football games are a time-honored tradition, and for decades, DCPS has brought communities together to celebrate school spirit and cheer on our student-athletes. We know how important these moments are for our schools, and we want to keep them safe and enjoyable for everyone. **Following multiple instances of spectator conflict, I am reaching out today to communicate updated protocols for DCPS football games, which will remain in place through at least Friday, October 10, 2025.**

Effectively immediately, the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) will implement the following changes:

1. **Limited Spectators** – Spectators will be limited to adults or students accompanied by an adult chaperone. For each adult chaperone, no more than three students will be admitted to the game. There will be no entry after the 3rd quarter ends.
2. **No Re-entry** – Once a spectator leaves the field or stadium, staff will reinforce the existing protocol that does not permit spectators to return to the game.
3. **Concession Sales** – Concession sales will end promptly at the end of the 3rd quarter. We suggest getting your snacks and drinks early in the game to ensure you do not miss the opportunity.
4. **Adjusted Schedules** – For the next month and to the extent possible, schools will attempt to reschedule games to start earlier in the afternoon between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m., rather than the typical start time of 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Additionally, schools may reschedule Friday games to be hosted on Thursday or Saturday.
5. **Separate Fan Sections** – Spectators from the home and away teams will have assigned and clearly marked seating sections, even within stadiums that only have one set of bleachers. Schools will also work to allow for empty space between the sections, whenever possible.
6. **Staffing** – Schools will ensure that a sufficient number of staff members are actively working and engaging students at the event.
7. **Communication** – Visiting and host schools will collaborate ahead of the game to enhance coordination regarding seating, entry and exit procedures, staffing plans, and other game-specific details.
8. **Public Safety Collaboration** – DCPS Safety and Security Division will continue working closely with our schools and public safety partners providing schedules, times, and locations of games in advance to ensure law enforcement is positioned to immediately support.

These adjustments are being introduced to help reduce and prevent conflicts, and we will be monitoring their effectiveness closely. Our hope is that these changes will be temporary, and we commit to reevaluating later in the season with the goal of maintaining safety and our football traditions.

If you have any questions regarding these updated protocols, please contact your student's school directly or email athletics.dcps@k12.dc.gov. Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

Drewana Bey, Ed.D.
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DC Public Schools