

SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL FALL SPORTS ATHLETICS SPECTATOR ATTENDANCE POLICY



TURF FIELD & GRASS FIELD ENTRY POINTS

**Grass Field Entrance
From the P&R parking lot.**

**NO FANS ALLOWED BETWEEN
LIGHT POLES & TEAM BENCHES**

**Grass Field Entrance
From SES parking lot.**



Grass Field
Walk around fence

Stands 25% Capacity Seating
Entrance No standing on walkway
6' SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES

Stands
Exit

Grass Field
Walk around fence

Standing on the perimeter of the turf field is allowed with at least 6' social distancing (fence pole to pole is 10'). No access or standing between the light poles behind the team benches is allowed.

Access to the grass soccer field from the main parking lot: please walk around the perimeter fence of the turf field, and enter through the side gates to the stands that are on the south side of the complex. Signs will be posted for directions and access.

1. Seating locations in the stands will be marked at 6' intervals for social distancing. Only direct family members can sit together in an appropriately marked section with 6' social distancing. Seating capacity is set at **(50) maximum spectators** in the main bleachers and will be marked with red tape. Per the current guidelines of the CT Re-Opening phase 3, outdoor athletic event attendance will be limited to 150 spectators. We will monitor attendance in order to ensure we are meeting the updated state guidelines.
2. **Masks are required** as a spectator in order to sit in the bleachers and to stand along the perimeter fence while attending any game at either field.
3. Fans are allowed to stand on the outside of the perimeter fence of the field, with the exception being between the fence light poles. No standing is allowed at the

entry and exit area of the bleachers, and on the front walkway and ramp of the bleachers. Spectators are asked to social distance at least 6' on the perimeter of the complex (NOTE: distance between the fence poles is 10').

4. No spectators are allowed on the track or inside the fenced area.
5. No spectators are allowed access to either team's athletes, and we will be limiting fan access at entry and exit points for our visiting teams.
6. The Booster Club snack shack will be closed for the fall season.
7. **Access to the high school is not allowed.** Portable bathrooms are available near the storage sheds on the east side of the complex and by the large white shed on the west side of the complex.
8. Spectator access to the grass field will be along the perimeter of the east and west side of the turf field outside of the perimeter fence. It is recommended that fans wishing to attend any game on the grass field park use the P&R parking lot behind the high school softball field.
9. The stands at the grass field have been moved to the far south side of the field with the athlete's benches moved to the near side in order for our trainer to manage each team's needs and minimize traffic between fields. The stands at the grass field will be separated and marked for social distancing for seating. It is recommended to bring personal chairs to the grass field for seating.
10. Spectators are not allowed to sit or stand on the east fence line behind the grass field goal, and immediate seating access is not allowed directly behind the goals on the west side of the field.
11. For all home cross country meets starting at the top of the P&R complex, spectators must wear masks and social distance at least 6' upon leaving the immediate parking lot area. All spectators must stay outside of the start and finish line area and not enter the team areas (Somers team will congregate under the upper pavilion, while visiting teams will congregate under the lower pavilion/snack shack). As in any cross-country meet, spectators should always stay safely away from the athlete and their course.
12. For MBA events, all spectators are asked to social distance 6' in seating areas away from the team areas and the cross-country start and finishing lines.
13. **PARKING:** Parking is available at the high school main parking lot in front of the turf field, the student parking lot, and at the P&R lot in front of the softball field. The SES parking lot is not available for high school sporting events until after 3:45 PM. Parking is not allowed on the back driveway behind the high school. Individuals shall not congregate in common areas or parking lots with athletes and social distance with masks while entering and exiting the complex.

While Somers High School is allowing only home fans at our outdoor facilities for our fall sports home sporting events, our administration will be evaluating our progress in maintaining the safety guidelines of the NCCC, our district, and the Re-Open Connecticut process. We are asking if you or members of your family are feeling sick to please stay home. We all must work together to maintain a safe environment for everyone in order to continue to allow fans to attend our high school sporting events.

NCCC COVID19 ATHLETIC CONTEST PROTOCOLS



As we face unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the goal of the NCCC has remained unchanged: to provide the safest possible environment for our student-athletes, coaches and essential game personnel in all sports. The NCCC strives to meet all requirements and guidelines set forth by the State of Connecticut and the CIAC emphasizing two priorities:

Staying Safe: Health and safety remain our top priority. We will continue to make decisions that protect the health and safety of all student-athletes, coaches, officials and essential game personnel.

Working Together: We will collaborate with all member schools, local health departments, the CIAC and the State of Connecticut in making decisions that are in the best interest of all nineteen schools in our conference.

NCCC SPECTATOR POLICY

Due to COVID 19, the NCCC will be adopting the following changes for the fall 2020 season:

Any NCCC School that elects *to have no* spectators at NCCC Athletic events will notify the league immediately. All other NCCC schools *will* allow only their home fans to attend athletic events at their home site and will adhere to the following.

- **No visiting team's spectators will be allowed to attend any away events for any NCCC Athletic Contest.**
- Home sites are to follow state, local and district COVID 19 guidelines for monitoring appropriate gathering size, social distancing protocols and masking.
- Home sites are to provide clear signage and instruction of their COVID 19 protocols and fan expectations.
- All NCCC Schools will provide this information to their fan base, parents of athletes, booster club, coaches and athletes prior to the games beginning on October 1, 2020, and then repeated as often as necessary.
- Each participating school will develop their own protocols for entering and exiting their site as well as ensuring the spectators compliance are their own.
- If a spectator violates this policy and attends or tries to attend an away event, each school can impose its own consequence and will notify the visiting school following the event.
- If a student from the visiting team is dropped off by a parent they are still *not permitted* to attend the event.

RATIONALE FOR SPECTATOR GUIDELINES

- The CIAC has made the recommendation of having no spectators.
- The NCCC understands that other leagues/towns are having difficulty with that concept and believes these recommendations can be implemented appropriately to satisfy safety guidelines and to provide support of our student athletes.
- The NCCC believes that schools can limit spectator attendance to a manageable size, provide clear COVID protocols and allow home fans, especially those in their last season to enjoy the event and support the student athletes.
- Each School has the option of having no fans at their home site.
- Allowing only home fans creates a fairness to each school as there are no more than 6 home and 6 away contests for each sport.
- The NCCC will follow the state sector rules of 150 people for an outdoor event (based on the current state mandated phase 3 of the REOPEN CONNECTICUT Sector Rules).
- Allowing people from another town but not allowing a few of our own student body did not align with our support of the student athletes or with our mindfulness of community connection.
- Each school will continue to ensure that an appropriate and sportsmanlike atmosphere will be provided to visiting teams.

FOR BACK-TO-BACK JV/VARSITY GAMES: Depending upon the amount of spectators attending back-to-back JV and varsity games (field hockey or soccer), we may have to limit attendance to parents/spectators to only the game in which their family member athlete is playing. In-game announcements will be made to monitor the flow of spectator traffic and overall attendance between games, and the start of the second game could be delayed in order to maintain existing attendance and social distance guidelines.

NOTE: Failure of any school/team to abide by the guidelines set by the NCCC and each district could result in the immediate stoppage of play or the potential to end any game in progress. Also, violations of the “no visiting fans allowed” rule will result in corrective action up to postponing future games by the offending school.

SUMMARY

Somers High School and the NCCC are committed to working with our community to safely manage our athletic events while providing the opportunity for our student athletes to once again play sports. While no visiting fans are allowed, our expectations include providing our visiting high school athletes with a welcoming spirit accompanied by outstanding sportsmanship worthy of a Class Act high school program. Our coaches, athletes, staff and administration greatly appreciate everyone’s effort to maintain the standards and guidelines required at this time in order to continue to safely host high school sporting events.