

Section 5: SUPPLEMENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, WAIVER AND RELEASE: COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic presents athletes with a myriad of challenges concerning this highly contagious illness. Some severe outcomes have been reported in children, and even a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread the infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of being infected with or furthering the spread of COVID-19, PIAA has urged all member schools to take necessary precautions and comply with guidelines from the federal, state, and local governments, the CDC and the PA Departments of Health and Education to reduce the risks to athletes, coaches, and their families. As knowledge regarding COVID-19 is constantly changing, PIAA reserves the right to adjust and implement precautionary methods as necessary to decrease the risk of exposure to athletes, coaches and other involved persons. Additionally, each school has been required to adopt internal protocols to reduce the risk of transmission.

The undersigned acknowledge that they are aware of the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and the risks that they may be exposed to or contract COVID-19 or other communicable diseases by permitting the undersigned student to participate in interscholastic athletics. We understand and acknowledge that such exposure or infection may result in serious illness, personal injury, permanent disability or death. We acknowledge that this risk may result from or be compounded by the actions, omissions, or negligence of others. The undersigned further acknowledge that certain vulnerable individuals may have greater health risks associated with exposure to COVID-19, including individuals with serious underlying health conditions such as, but not limited to: high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, asthma, and those whose immune systems that are compromised by chemotherapy for cancer, and other conditions requiring such therapy. While particular recommendations and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with participating in athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic, these risks do exist. Additionally, persons with COVID-19 may transmit the disease to others who may be at higher risk of severe complications.

By signing this form, the undersigned acknowledge, after having undertaken to review and understand both symptoms and possible consequences of infection, that we understand that participation in interscholastic athletics during the COVID-19 pandemic is strictly voluntary and that we agree that the undersigned student may participate in such interscholastic athletics. The undersigned also understand that student participants will, in the course of competition, interact with and likely have contact with athletes from their own, as well as other, schools, including schools from other areas of the Commonwealth. Moreover, they understand and acknowledge that our school, PIAA and its member schools cannot guarantee that transmission will not occur for those participating in interscholastic athletics.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE VOLUNTARILY ALLOWING STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGER INVOLVED. WE HEREBY AGREE TO ACCEPT AND ASSUME ALL RISKS OF PERSONAL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY AND/OR DEATH RELATED TO COVID-19, ARISING FROM SUCH PARTICIPATION, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF PIAA OR OTHERWISE.

We hereby expressly waive and release any and all claims, now known or hereafter known, against the student's school, PIAA, and its officers, directors, employees, agents, members, successors, and assigns (collectively, "**Releasees**"), on account of injury, illness, disability, death, or property damage arising out of or attributable to Student's participation in interscholastic athletics and being exposed to or contracting COVID-19, whether arising out of the negligence of PIAA or any Releasees or otherwise. We covenant not to make or bring any such claim against PIAA or any other Releasee, and forever release and discharge PIAA and all other Releasees from liability under such claims.

Additionally, we shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the student's school, PIAA and all other Releasees against any and all losses, damages, liabilities, deficiencies, claims, actions, judgments, settlements, interest, awards, penalties, fines, costs, or expenses of whatever kind, including attorney fees, fees, and the costs of enforcing any right to indemnification and the cost of pursuing any insurance providers, incurred by/awarded against the student's school, PIAA or any other Releasees in a final judgment arising out or resulting from any claim by, or on behalf of, any of us related to COVID-19.

We willingly agree to comply with the stated guidelines put forth by the student's school and PIAA to limit the exposure and spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. We certify that the student is, to the best of our knowledge, in good physical condition and allow participation in this sport at our own risk. By signing this Supplement, we acknowledge that we have received and reviewed the student's school athletic plan.

Date: _____

Signature of Student

Print Student's Name

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Parent/Guardian's Name

Revised – October 7, 2020