

MADISON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #12
ATHLETIC EVENT ATTENDANCE AND SPECTATOR POLICY

Purpose

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of providing a safe, orderly, and family-friendly environment at all District athletic events. This policy establishes attendance and spectator requirements for all school-sponsored athletic contests and activities.

1. Applicability

This policy applies to all spectators attending athletic events sponsored, hosted, or conducted by Madison CUSD #12, including contests held at all District facilities and, when applicable, District-hosted events at other locations.

2. Adult Supervision of Younger Students (currently not included, recommended)

Students in 8th grade and below may not attend a District athletic event without being accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult who is at least 18 years of age.

- The adult must remain with the student for the entire duration of the event.
- Dropping off a student at an athletic event is not permitted.
- Students in grades PreK–8 may not be admitted without the required adult.
- District personnel are not responsible for providing individual supervision of students attending athletic events as spectators.
- The District may require identification or other reasonable verification of the accompanying adult.

3. No Unaccompanied Youth (currently not included, recommended)

No student below high-school age may enter or remain at a District athletic event without adult supervision.

High school students attending as spectators must comply with all District athletic-event rules and may be required to present a current school identification card.

4. Students From Non-Participating Schools (currently not included, recommended)

Students who are enrolled in a school that is not participating in the athletic event may not attend the event as spectators unless they are accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult age 18 or older.

For purposes of this policy:

- A student from a non-participating school includes students from outside the District whose school is not participating in the scheduled athletic contest.

- Students from another school may not attend an athletic event as an unsupervised group.
- Students from non-participating schools who are in 8th grade or below are prohibited from attending without an accompanying adult, consistent with this policy.
- The accompanying adult must remain with the student for the duration of the event.
- The District reserves the right to deny admission to students or groups whose presence presents a supervision, security, or crowd-management concern.
- This provision does not apply to students who are members of an officially participating visiting team, pep band, cheerleading squad, dance team, school-sponsored organization, or other group officially attending the event in an authorized capacity.

Alternate language for students from non-participating schools. (Recommended, more concise)

4. Students from Non-Participating Schools

Students who attend a school that is not participating in the athletic event are not permitted to attend the event as spectators, regardless of whether they are accompanied by other students. This restriction does not apply to students who are members of an officially participating athletic team, band, cheerleading squad, dance team, school-sponsored organization, or other officially authorized visiting school group.

5. Bag Policy (currently for basketball)

Bags are prohibited at District athletic events unless specifically authorized by the District.

Prohibited bags include, but are not limited to:

- Backpacks
- Book bags
- Drawstring bags
- Large purses
- Gym bags
- Duffel bags
- Shopping bags
- Coolers
- Other personal bags or containers

Exceptions may be made for:

- Medically necessary bags or equipment;
- Diaper bags when accompanying an infant or young child; and
- Other items specifically authorized by District administration.

Approved bags and their contents may be subject to inspection.

This approach is consistent with athletic-event policies being used by other school districts, including Illinois districts that prohibit backpacks and outside food and beverages.

6. Outside Food and Beverages (currently not included, recommended)

Outside food and beverages are prohibited at District athletic events.

This includes:

- Soda and soft drinks
- Sports drinks
- Energy drinks
- Coffee and other beverages
- Bottled or canned drinks
- Fast food
- Restaurant food
- Personal food containers
- Coolers
- Personal cups or beverage containers

Exceptions may be made for:

- Medically necessary food or beverages;
- Infant formula or baby food;
- Accommodations required by law; or
- Items specifically authorized by the Athletic Director or Superintendent.

District concession stands, when available, shall be the primary source of food and beverages for spectators.

7. Prohibited Items (in policy, recommended changes for clarity)

In addition to bags and outside food and beverages, the following are prohibited unless specifically authorized:

- Weapons or dangerous objects
- Alcohol
- Tobacco and nicotine products
- Illegal drugs or controlled substances
- Glass containers
- Coolers
- Laser pointers

- Artificial or mechanical noisemakers
- Items that could interfere with the contest or create a safety hazard
- Any item determined by District administration to pose a safety or security concern

8. Admission and Security Screening (this is done at basketball but not consistently for all sports)

All persons entering an athletic event are subject to reasonable security procedures established by the District.

The District reserves the right to:

- Inspect prohibited items;
- Deny entry to a person who refuses to comply with the policy;
- Require prohibited items to be returned to a vehicle or otherwise removed from District property;
- Remove individuals who violate the policy; and
- Contact law enforcement when circumstances warrant.

9. Spectator Conduct (currently in place, expanded language)

All spectators are expected to demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship and respect toward:

- Student-athletes;
- Coaches;
- Officials;
- School employees;
- Visiting teams;
- Other spectators; and
- District property.

Profanity, threats, harassment, fighting, taunting, disruptive behavior, or conduct that interferes with the athletic contest may result in immediate removal.

District athletic events are school-sponsored activities, and spectators may be removed for misconduct.

10. Leaving and Re-Entry (in place for basketball, not for all events)

Unless otherwise authorized by the Athletic Director or Administrator.

There shall be no re-entry once a spectator leaves the athletic facility.

Spectators who leave the event may be required to purchase another admission ticket to return, if re-entry is permitted at all.

11. Responsibility for Students (currently not included, recommended)

Parents, guardians, and other adults accompanying students are responsible for the supervision and behavior of the students in their care.

Attendance at an athletic event does not create a custodial or supervisory responsibility for District personnel beyond the ordinary supervision provided for the event.

12. Enforcement (currently not included, recommended)

The Athletic Director, event administrator, school administrators, security personnel, and designated event supervisors are authorized to enforce this policy.

Failure to comply may result in:

1. Denial of admission;
2. Removal from the event;
3. Loss of admission privileges for future athletic events;
4. Student disciplinary consequences when applicable; and/or
5. Referral to law enforcement when appropriate.

The Superintendent may prohibit an individual from attending District athletic events for a specified period when the individual demonstrates repeated or serious violations of this policy.

13. Notice

The District shall make this policy available through its website, student/parent handbooks, athletic communications, ticketing information, signage, and other appropriate means.