

FAQs

Clear Bags at Varsity Football Games and Weapons Detection at Extracurricular Events

Clear Bags:

What are the clear bag requirements?

The requirements are posted to the public at www.lcps.org/athletics as follows:

Clear Bag Policy: Only clear bags will be permitted through the ticket gates at any LCPS high school hosting a varsity football game. This change aligns LCPS with safety practices already in place in neighboring school divisions and at many collegiate and professional venues.

To support this transition, school athletic directors have partnered with booster clubs to offer school-branded clear bags. Families interested in obtaining a personalized bag are encouraged to contact their school's booster organization.

Bag Guidelines:

- Must be clear plastic, vinyl or PVC
- No larger than 12" x 6" x 12"
- One bag per person
- No obscured interior pockets

Student Backpacks: Principals have discretion to address student backpacks that cannot be taken home or placed in a vehicle before the game.

All bags, containers and individuals are subject to search. LCPS reserves the right to deny entry to any item or individual deemed a safety concern.

When did LCPS notify parents and students of this new change?

The school communities, principals and public were notified in the summer through messages and newsletters. The information is posted on the website here: www.lcps.org/athletics

Who is responsible for enforcing the clear bag requirements?

This is a joint effort between our contracted security company Allied Universal, school administration, athletic departments and school security officers. Allied Universal personnel will be the primary face of enforcement, but school administrators must be available to assist and address any issues.

If Allied Universal is unable to provide personnel for any reason, school administrators must coordinate the enforcement.

Are there any exceptions to the clear bag requirements?

Medical bags and parenting or diaper bags will be allowed but must be searched prior to admission. School administrators have the ultimate discretion to grant exceptions including how to handle students with backpacks, but all non-clear bags entering the venue must be searched.

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Official media bags, as determined by school administration, will also be allowed but must be searched prior to admission.

Will this be enforced for the duration of the game?

Yes, enforcement will continue for the duration of the game.

Are all clear bags being searched?

No, absent the appearance of any contraband in the bag, a clear bag will not be searched. If contraband or other concerning items are seen in the bag, then the bag should be searched. If contraband is found, an administrator and law enforcement, if applicable, shall be notified immediately.

If Safety & Security deploys the weapons screening platform at a game then all bags, including clear bags, will be screened.

Is there an exception for students that are participating in the event? (athletes, performers, etc.)

Yes. For example, at a football game, the athletes, coaches, band and cheerleaders are exempt from the clear bag requirement. Only school administrators and athletic directors are authorized to make exceptions, and they must communicate any exception to personnel enforcing the clear bag requirement.

Is there an exception for LCPS staff?

Staff working at the event in an official capacity are exempt. Staff attending the event on personal time must adhere to the clear bag requirement.

Is there an exception for public safety and law enforcement personnel attending the event off duty?

No, only on-duty, public safety personnel are exempt.

Weapons Detection at Extracurricular Events:

Information is posted to the public on www.lcps.org/athletics regarding metal detectors as follows:

Metal Detectors: LCPS Safety & Security will also begin piloting the use of metal detectors at school extracurricular activities. These portable devices will add another layer of threat detection to the division's comprehensive safety measures. The metal detectors will be rotated randomly across schools and events throughout the division.

Prohibited Items Include:

- Weapons (firearms, knives, batons, etc.)
- Outside food or drinks (except one sealed water bottle per person, up to 1 liter)
- Glass or metal containers

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- Coolers of any size
- Blankets (unless unrolled for inspection)
- Lighters, matches, laser pointers or unapproved amplification or noise-making devices

All bags, containers and individuals are subject to search. LCPS reserves the right to deny entry to any item or individual deemed a safety concern.

Are the weapons detection scanners the same as metal detectors?

The weapons detection scanners are more sensitive than traditional metal detectors. The technology in the system can more accurately identify metal sources that may be potentially harmful rather than sounding an alarm for all types of metal, such as coins.

What types of weapons detectors are being used?

The scanners, developed by a company called CEIA, and called OpenGate, are designed to screen large numbers of people, including their bags, quickly and efficiently. The free-standing scanners are portable and suitable for indoor and outdoor use, making them a good choice for open-style campuses and traditional school buildings.

Who is operating the weapons detectors?

This is a joint effort between our contracted security company Allied Universal, school administration, athletic departments, and school security officers.

Safety and Security will deliver, set up, and test the metal detectors and will provide training prior to the event, as needed.

Who will pass through the detectors and what is the process?

All attendees will pass through the detectors. If someone fails to clear the screening process after multiple attempts, they will not be allowed inside the venue.

Is there an exception for LCPS staff?

Staff working at the event in an official capacity are exempt. Staff attending the event on personal time must pass through the detectors.

Is there an exception for students that are participating in the event? (athletes, performers, etc.)

Yes. For example, at a football game, the athletes, coaches, band and cheerleaders and their bags, are exempt from screening.

Is there an exception for sworn law enforcement attending the event on personal time?

Yes, upon providing proper credentials indicating current sworn law enforcement status, the individual will be allowed to proceed with their firearm.

Will the detectors be in place for the duration of the game?

Yes, screening for weapons will continue for the duration of the game.

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If deployed at varsity football games, will clear bags be screened?

Yes, all bags will be screened.

Will weapons detection technology slow the entry process?

These systems are designed to provide fast and efficient screening of multiple people at the same time, allowing for a natural flow of entry. During the initial implementation, some delays may be experienced; however, the goal is to minimize any potential disruptions to the entry process.

How sensitive will the settings on the weapons screening technology be?

Sensitivity settings will be decided by LCPS, with careful consideration of the Division's specific needs and requirements to ensure an optimal balance between maintaining security and minimizing false alerts.

What kinds of things does the technology detect?

The safety screening technology can detect assorted items, including but not limited to knives, firearms, handguns, long guns, and materials and components used to construct an explosive device.

What if a weapon or illegal substance is found?

If a weapon or illegal substance is found, law enforcement and school administration will be notified and proceed in accordance with their protocols and applicable law.

What if a person refuses to pass through the detectors?

The person will not be allowed inside the venue.

Are the detectors safe, do they give off radiation like an X-ray machine?

OpenGate technology provides advanced weapon detection without the use of harmful radiation. Unlike traditional X-ray systems that rely on ionizing radiation, OpenGate uses safe, low-frequency electromagnetic fields to detect concealed weapons as individuals walk through the system. This dynamic, non-contact approach ensures that the screening process is completely safe for all individuals, including children, pregnant women and those with pacemakers or other medical devices.

Is there an option to be screened with a handheld metal detector if a person has a health concern?

Yes, handheld devices will be available to accommodate any medical requests and may also be used for secondary screening.

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