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Introduction:

As many of you are aware, this cross country season is going to be unlike any other we have seen before. With that being said, it is going to be extremely important that coaches and athletic directors ensure their student athletes, staff members, and all spectators uphold the following guidelines while competing and spectating at this year's Tiger Classic. Remember, although the expectations may not be what we are all used to, or agree with, our athletes are getting the chance to compete because of them. It is imperative that we follow the guidelines and do the best we can to ensure everyone does their part to ensure our athletes make it through the entire fall sports season.

Arrival:

Teams and spectators should arrive no earlier than 1 hour and 15 minutes before your school's first scheduled race. White Division teams can arrive any time after 7:15 AM, and Orange Division teams can arrive any time after 11:30 AM. Upon arrival, teams will be greeted at the bus with their packets. Coaches and athletes are REQUIRED to wear a facial covering. After exiting the bus, teams can set up camp in the usual areas (behind the school). The teams attending in each division are limited (15 - White and 9 - Orange) this year, therefore there will be ample amount of space to set-up team camps at a GREAT distance between teams. Coaches, please ensure you adhere to this recommendation and space your camp away from other teams as much as possible. Team tents are permitted, based on the fact that we have ample amount of time between divisions which will allow for teams to tear down and move out prior to the next teams arriving. One final note in regards to team camps is spectators are NOT permitted in the team camp area.

General Meet Guidelines:

Spectators have been approved in a limited number, therefore tickets have been sent in the mail to each participating school. Tickets have been allotted at 1.5 per athlete (due to a limit in total capacity per the Seneca County Health Department), and will be the only way to enter the meet (\$5.00 per ticket). It is extremely important that other spectators do not attempt to gain entry in order to help us stay below the maximum number of approved attendees.

Upon arrival, spectators are REQUIRED to wear a facial covering, and must maintain a social distance from others who are not within their family group. Signage will be posted, and X's will be painted on the ground in high traffic areas (i.e. finish) to help spectators maintain a social distance. Restrooms will be available in the form of porta-pots behind the greenhouse as usual. Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the school grounds for use during the event. Concessions and special edition COVID t-shirts will be available for purchase. Please maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet while in line to purchase these things.

Behaviors during the meet should be that of social distancing at all times. Spectators are not permitted in team camp areas, and in the start/finish areas. Spectators are encouraged to cheer on all athletes, and do so while maintaining a distance from the course. Please do NOT stand directly on the edge of the course to cheer on runners, rather stand back at least 6', and maintain a distance.

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Starting Line Procedures:

The starting line is going to be the area of greatest change, and will follow the recommendations of the OHSAA and OATCCC. It is extremely important that coaches teach runners these expectations prior to arriving on Saturday. Teams are to arrive at the starting line approximately 5 -7 minutes prior to race time (**officials will start races at the exact times scheduled**). There is no need to arrive earlier, as there is not a pre-race meeting, there are no run-outs or walk-outs, and there are no team huddles/cheers permitted. Seneca East will be using a "laned" start for each race. Each team will be given a box number that will be included in your packet. Each starting box is 6' in length, and there is another 6' box that will not be used to the right and left of each team box. Inside each team box there will be white dots. There are two white dots at the front, two white dots 6' behind, and etc. Athletes are to stand on a white dot so they are socially distanced while waiting for the starter's commands. When race time reaches less than one minute away (most likely around 30 seconds), the starter will blow a whistle and runners in the back can then leave their white dots and move up closer to the starting line. Once runners have moved up and are motionless, the starter will signal the start of the race by firing the gun. After leaving the starting line, runners must stay in their team's respective lanes (which will be painted on the ground out to the trees where the course begins to funnel. After reaching the trees, there will be a cone signaling the "break," at which point runners can proceed to run the race like normal as there will be no further lanes.

Finish Line Expectations:

Athletes will finish the race as they normally would while using chip timing. Upon finishing, runners should stay on their feet (unless they require medical attention), and move toward the back of the finish area. Athletes should NOT congregate and wait on teammates to finish, or high five and chat with others. It is understood that this is natural to do in our sport, but in order to follow the guidelines set forth by our leaders, this is prohibited. There will be two exits located at the back of the finish area, and athletes will grab a bottle of water off of the table as they exit the finish area. Please be sure to discuss with the athletes these procedures, and inform them that once they exit the finish area to please move away, and not stand outside of the exits. Spectators are most certainly prohibited from coming into the finish area, and are asked to remain away from the area to avoid crowding.

Results/Awards:

Results will not be posted on the board as done in years past. Paper copies will be printed and available for pickup by **head coach only** at the awards table (located near the podium), and results will be posted on Baumspage immediately after they are finalized. Awards can be picked up by coaches or athletes throughout the day at the awards table. Please maintain a distance of 6 feet if in line to claim an award.

Departure:

The last race of the White Division is scheduled for 10:20 AM, and is the junior high boys, so the race should conclude around 10:45 AM at the latest. Teams and spectators are expected to depart the school campus by no later than 11:15 AM. It is extremely important that this expectation is followed as the next wave of teams and buses will be arriving at 11:30 AM. Coaches, please remember to turn in all chips at the awards area prior to departing.