

NOTICE OF RISK, WAIVER, AND INFORMED CONSENT

Given the current pandemic health emergency related to the highly contagious novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”), and following the recommendation of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the 2020 fall season of interscholastic football has been cancelled. The Meriden Board of Education (the “Board”) and the Meriden Public Schools (together, the “District”) will allow District students to borrow District owned football equipment (the “Equipment”) for student’s use while playing football in an independent football league. Any independent football league is not a District activity and has no affiliation with the District. This Notice of Risk, Waiver, and Informed Consent (the “Notice”) relates to the use of the Equipment. The parents or legal guardians (“Parents”) of students seeking to borrow the Equipment must sign this Notice and return it to [REDACTED] by [DATE]. If any Equipment is not returned to the District, the District will impose a fee for the Equipment that is not returned in a timely manner.

INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include, among other symptoms, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

COVID-19 is a new disease and there is limited information regarding risk factors for severe disease. Based on currently-available information and clinical expertise, those at high-risk for severe illness and death from COVID-19 are:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including people with cancer; chronic kidney disease; COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease); people who are in an immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant; people with obesity (body mass index [BMI] ≥ 30); people with serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies; sickle cell disease; and people with Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. **The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also advises, among other precautionary measures, that individuals should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available; avoid close contact with people who are sick in their household and put six feet of distance between themselves and people who do not live in their household; cover their mouth and nose with a mask when around others; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily; and monitor their health daily for symptoms of COVID-19.

Additional information regarding COVID-19 is available on the following websites or upon request from the District:

- CDC’s website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- CT Department of Public Health website at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus>
- District website at _____

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the high risk of transmission inherent in full contact football, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (“DPH”) and the National Federation of State High School Associations have categorized full contact football as a “higher risk” sport. As a result, in collaboration with public health officials, the 2020 fall season of interscholastic football has been cancelled. Any independent football league is not a District activity and has no affiliation with the District. Players, Parents, and/or other spectators may become infected with COVID-19 as a result of participating in football in an independent football league or being a spectator at an independent football league. Moreover, the District cannot protect against exposure to or infection by COVID-19 that occurs due to the actions, omissions, and/or negligence of students or others, including District staff members.

WAIVER AND INFORMED CONSENT

I, _____, agree that my child, _____, may borrow Equipment from the District in order to participate in an independent football league. I understand an independent football league is not a District activity and has no affiliation with the District and that the DPH has advised against full contact football due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission. Before my child will be permitted to borrow the Equipment, the District requires that I read the information in this Notice and sign below to ensure that I am informed of and understand the risks related to COVID-19 associated with borrowing the Equipment and participating in an independent football league.

In signing below, I attest that I am the parent/guardian of the above-named child and that I have read the Notice and understand the risks related to COVID-19 associated with borrowing the Equipment and participating in an independent football league. I further understand that the District is closely monitoring this situation and reserves the right to request the return of the Equipment at any time. I also acknowledge that the health and safety risks posed by COVID-19 are inherent in playing full contact football and the use of the Equipment does not mitigate these risks. Finally, given the unknown nature of COVID-19, I understand that it is not possible to list each and every specific risk associated with COVID-19 and that neither the District nor public health officials can guarantee that any child borrowing Equipment will not come into contact with someone infected by COVID-19 and/or contract such illness.

In signing below, I waive the right to initiate and/or pursue in any manner any and all lawsuits and any other claims in any forum against the Board, its board members, officers, employees, agents, contractors, and/or the District, and assign for any injury or harm connected to mine or my child’s use of the Equipment, including but not limited to claims for negligent acts or omissions and/or claims for death and/or seriously bodily injury and/or claims for property damage.

By opting to allow my child to borrow the Equipment, I agree to be responsible for the return of the Equipment at the conclusion of the fall 2020 independent football league season. I further agree to pay for any Equipment that is not returned to the District. The fee for lost Equipment shall be equal to the amount the District must pay to replace the lost Equipment.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE NOTICE ABOVE (INCLUDING THE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19) AND CONSENT TO MY CHILD BORROWING DISTRICT-OWNED FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT.

Parent/Legal Guardian signature

Date

Parent/Legal Guardian signature

Date