

## Athletic Department COVID-19 Spectator and Fan Policy

### External Fans (Not part of Campus Community)

**Spectators/Fans:** *The University of Providence isn't going to allow fans at athletic events for the 2020-21 athletic year.* Student athlete safety and athletic staff safety is the main concern and the reason for this policy.

\*The only exception to the 'no spectator' decision, is for senior night of each respective sport (if public health guidelines allow/conference guidelines allow). Senior night will be held on the first home contest for each sport. Each senior for that sport will be given 4 tickets to give to family or friends. These family and friends will have to do a symptom screen and temperature check to be able to get into the game/contest. Please complete the Senior Day Spectator COVID-19 Symptom Screening: [Senior Day Spectator COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire](#) . Any "Yes" answer will require an Athletic Trainer to evaluate before access to athletics facilities would be granted.

\*Approved by COVID-19 Task Force

### Spectator and Fan Proposal for Internal Spectators and Fans

#### Internal Fans (Part of the Campus Community)

*The University of Providence isn't going to allow internal fans at athletic events for the 2020-21 athletic year.*

**Internal Spectators/Fans:** The University of Providence has a responsibility not only for the community of Great Falls, but also for our own campus community. The state of Montana and Cascade county currently is in the category of "severe outbreak" for COVID-19. Safety of all individuals involved in a game (student athletes, coaching staff, officials, table workers, administrators, athletics trainers, student workers and SID's) is the main reason for this policy, along with mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in our campus community and to the opposing team.

Both the Frontier Conference and Cascade Conference have weekly PCR testing for athletics and anyone who works closely with student athletes. The goal with the testing is to make sure when an athletic contest occurs everyone associated with the game is COVID-19 free at the start of the contest. All conference members must follow the same testing criteria. With no fans/spectators an "athletic bubble" is created. This keeps everyone safe and mitigates the risk of the spread in our campus community or general community in Great Falls.

Even though our campus community is receiving baseline testing and all athletes are receiving weekly PCR testing this doesn't change the risk of attending an event with a large gathering of people. The risk of contracting the virus even with proper social distancing and mask wearing is still highly possible. Even if public health guidelines of 25 individuals for any event are followed the risk is still present for everyone in the venue. This risk is greater than the reward.

In meetings with the Frontier Conference AD's and public health officials across the state of Montana the Frontier Conference made the decision to have no spectators and fans through Dec. 31, 2021. This decision is already being reviewed by the conference and trending in a direction on "no spectators or fans" for the rest of the year. Montana is not trending in the right direction.

Almost all athletic events are streamed, so the campus community as a whole can support and watch Argo games in a safe manner. Jim Croft has worked very hard with Jim Sargent and Alex Semadeni to make the broadcast look just like a televised college game. Having virtual viewing events on campus can allow for the campus community to engage with each other and support student athletes.

The email that Jim Sargent sent in regard to having a picture of an individual on card board cut-out to be put up in the bleachers in to create a since of normalcy for our student athletes. These cut-outs can be images of student athletes' parents, friends, professors, girlfriend, boyfriend, grandpa, grandma, etc... This makes the gym feel less empty and can give student athletes a since of comfort to see a familiar face even if they can't be there in person.