

Blackburn College Athletics COVID-19 Plan (Fall 2020)

Athletic Teams Return Dates

Monday, August 10: Men's Soccer Returns Day 1 (18 students)

Tuesday, August 11: Men's Soccer Returns Day 2 (18 Students)

Wednesday, August 12: Women's Soccer Returns (25 students)

Thursday, August 13: Volleyball Returns (20 students)

Friday, August 14: Golf and Cross-Country Returns (15 students)

Friday, August 14: Returning student-athletes for Baseball, Basketball and Softball

Saturday, August 15: New freshman and transfer student-athletes for Baseball, Basketball and Softball

Additional Information regarding Move-In

Guests/Visitors

- Student-athletes and guests should arrive between 9-11 am or 1-4 pm and report to the Dawes/Woodward Athletic Department for required COVID-19 symptom screening and temperature checks. Both student-athletes and guests will undergo temperature checks and screening.
- Student-athletes and guests must self screen prior to departure and **MUST NOT** come to campus if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or if they have other COVID-19 symptoms.
- Student-athletes may bring only two guests for check-in.
- Once students have completed their move-in, guests will be asked to leave campus within two hours.
- All are required to wear masks and attempt to practice six feet of social distancing during move-in.

Athletic Practice Schedules

Phase 1: Beginning August 10th Practice Can Begin - Small Group Activities

- 1) Student-athletes will do small group activities/practices with coaches monitoring and coaching (10 or less student-athletes per group)
- 2) Student-athletes should not share equipment
- 3) Strict attention paid to Student-athletes temperature checks and daily symptom screening data.

Phase 2: Beginning August 17th - Full Team Activities - Limit of 50

- 1) Full team acclimatization, training and practices
- 2) Continued focus on small group sessions of 10 or fewer student-athletes

- 3) Shared equipment may be used but extra cleaning and sanitization of equipment must be maintained
- 4) Strict attention paid to student-athletes health history – temperature checks and symptom screening.

Phase 3: Beginning on or after September 1st. Full Team Training and competition

- 1) No player restrictions, full team practices
- 2) Shared equipment may be used
- 3) Scrimmages and competition can begin
- 4) Continued daily temperature checks and symptom screening will be maintained

Team Practice Policy

1. Student-athletes will come to practice in small group waves with a minimum time period in the locker room for changing to practice gear. Appropriate physical distancing will be required in team locker rooms.
2. Coaches will design practice sessions to eliminate large group activities during the majority of the first two weeks of practice.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>.

SCREENING

Please note that the screening requirements are based on data that is currently available. As findings related to COVID-19 continue to develop, this information will be evaluated and updated accordingly. Beginning August 10, coaches, student-athletes and those in close contact with student-athletes are required to be screened each day a practice or team activity occurs. For competition, all game-day participants (student-athletes, coaches, support staff, officials, etc.) are required to be screened within twelve hours of the beginning of the contest. All screening must be done by an athletic trainer or member of the coaching staff.

An outbreak of the 2019-2020 Coronavirus (COVID -19) requires early and effective detection of suspected cases to limit the possible exposure to others. We are requiring student-athletes and athletic staff personnel to complete the following questions and to have your temperature checked prior to daily practice sessions and if traveling for a contest or participating in a home contest.

Name (print)

First _____ Last _____

Today's Date: Month _____ Date _____ Year _____

Within the last 24-48 hours have you had any of the following symptoms? Circle Answer

Fever or Chills	Yes - No	Difficulty in Breathing	Yes - No
Headache	Yes - No	Shortness of Breath	Yes - No
Cough	Yes - No	Upset Stomach	Yes - No
Sore Throat	Yes - No	Muscle or Body Aches	Yes - No
Fatigue	Yes - No	Diarrhea or Nausea	Yes - No
Confusion	Yes - No	Chest Pressure	Yes - No
		Loss of Smell or Taste	Yes - No

- During the past 14 days have you been to any foreign country or associated with an individual(s) who recently returned from a foreign country? No ___ Yes ___
If yes, specify the city/location and/or date _____
- In the past week have you or anyone in your immediate family been tested for COVID-19? No ___ Yes ___ If yes, Positive Result ___ Negative Result ___
- Did you recently spend time (more than 10 minutes) within a 6-foot distance of a person who did have, or was under investigation for having the COVID-19 virus?
No ___ Yes ___

Temperature Taken: Yes ___ No ___ Temp Reading _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Medical Screener (print name)

Medical Screener (signature)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

During Athletic Contests

Currently, we do not expect athletic competitions to occur during the fall 2020 semester due to institutional and St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference policy. However, if competition is permitted at a later date during the fall 2020 semester, the following procedures will be followed:

1. All home game personnel entering the site of a contest (press box, filming station, etc.) will be required to have their temperature taken prior to entrance.
2. Spectators **will not** be allowed during the fall 2020 semester at Blackburn College athletic competitions. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

3. Only student-athletes, athletic staff, essential event workers, game officials and coaching staff will be allowed at athletic events. Masks must be worn by all game personnel at indoor venues and when social distancing is not possible for outside events.
 4. Hand sanitizer stations will be available within the venue, player bench area and score table area.
 5. Game equipment will be cleaned and sanitized during the contest as often as possible.
 6. No pre or post-game handshakes, fist bumps or high-fives will be allowed by teams, coaches or officials.
 7. Social distancing must be adhered to during the pre-game warm-up, captains talk, national anthem and starting line-up procedures
 8. There will be no shared athletic equipment (towels, water bottles, clothing, or sports specific equipment) between student-athletes, officials or athletic staff.
 9. No shared water bottles, powerFlows, towels, etc.
 10. Water coolers stay with the assigned team throughout the entirety of the competition and must be changed between games.
- **Men's and Women's Soccer**
 1. Do not go to the bench after the first game until clearance is given
 2. Benches must be cleaned and sanitized between games
 - **Volleyball**
 1. Teams will not switch benches between sets.
 2. Tournaments must give ample time between games for cleaning and sanitizing.

Woodward Fitness Center

The Woodward Fitness Center is closed until further notice for the general campus community or public use. Only physical education activity classes and varsity athlete teams will be allowed in the Fitness Center

Dawes Gymnasium

Dawes Gymnasium is closed until further notice to the general campus community or public use. Only physical education classes and varsity athletic teams will be allowed in the gymnasium.

Athletic Training Facility

1. Masks or other face coverings are mandatory while in the AT facility.
2. Six feet social distancing will not be possible for AT staff to maintain while treating and evaluating student-athletes.
3. Athletes are required to schedule appointments to report to the facility. Details about scheduling appointments will be provided to student-athletes upon their return to campus.

4. Athletic Training appointment times may be limited to 20 minutes maximum. This permits more student-athletes to be seen by staff and the appropriate cleaning and disinfecting between scheduled appointments.
5. Maximum capacity of AT facility is three athletes at any given time plus AT staff members.
6. Additional medical screening will be required for any COVID-19 (confirmed, suspected, or close exposure) athlete prior to resuming physical activity due to the increased risk of cardiac or renal complications.

Safety Practices for the Campus Community

All campus community members are asked to be considerate of others on campus and to consistently participate in the safety practices described below, as they are intended to help keep our campus safe.

Face Masks

Students, faculty and staff are required to wear face coverings in all public settings on campus when inside buildings and when outside in situations when physical distancing of at least six feet is not an option. These settings include common workspaces, hallways, dining facilities, classrooms, restrooms, meeting rooms, residence halls, locker rooms, athletic training office, and College vehicles.

Exceptions to this requirement include:

- While you are in your assigned residence hall room.
- While you are seated at a table, eating in a dining area and appropriately socially distancing.
- While participating in certain co-curricular activities such as with an intercollegiate sports team during active athletic participation during practice and/or game competition.
- Coaching staff may remove their face covering if located in an area that is no less than 10 feet from student-athletes.

Social Distancing

Students, faculty and staff on campus are expected to maintain appropriate social distancing in order to avoid being exposed to or spreading COVID-19. To that end, the College has implemented the following social-distancing/separation measures:

1. Maintain at least a distance of 6 feet (about two-arm's length) from other people at all times;
2. Avoid crowded places and avoid mass gatherings;
3. Utilize electronic communication, when possible.
4. Signage will be placed in every campus building, including on display boards and in other highly visible locations. This signage will include CDC guidelines and other safe practices.
5. Additional signage will be posted in all public places on campus, both interior and some exterior. This includes locker rooms, athletic training rooms, restrooms, conference rooms, and other places where individuals can congregate, as well as entry ways, benches and other exterior gathering places. Signage will encourage social distancing and include capacity limitations.
6. Additional floor markings will be placed at locations where lines or groups potentially can form or need to form in order to facilitate social distancing.
7. Physical spaces in the athletic department (e.g., classrooms, team rooms, restrooms, shower rooms, etc.) have been analyzed and adjustments made to promote social distancing.

Personal Sanitation Measures

Students, faculty and staff should maintain good personal sanitation/hygiene, keeping the following in mind:

1. Frequent hand-washing is the first line of defense against the spread of COVID-19. Everyone should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after being in a public place, or after coughing, sneezing, blowing their nose, or touching their face. If soap and water are not readily available, employees should use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
2. Everyone is encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizer
3. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own water-bottle. Campus water fountains will be turned off until COVID-19 restrictions have been reduced. Everyone should minimize or avoid sharing personal items and athletic supplies with others.

In addition, the College has implemented the following measures to encourage people on the College's campus to practice good sanitation/hygiene:

1. Hand sanitizer will be available in various campus locations.
2. Hand-washing and hygiene posters will be displayed in various locations around campus, including in academic buildings, administrative buildings and residence halls.
3. Supervisors will continue to remind employees of good hygiene practices, such as:
 - a. Frequent hand-washing;
 - b. Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in the trash; if a tissue is unavailable, the cough or sneeze should be covered with the inside of an elbow and not the hands;
 - c. Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth;
 - d. Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often; and
 - e. Keeping tissues and hand sanitizers easily accessible.
4. Additional measures may be implemented.
5. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to get flu vaccinations, as appropriate to their other health conditions.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

Student-athletes, coaching staff and student workers in the athletic department will be expected to assist with cleaning high-touch surface areas in various athletic department locations. Cleaner and disinfectant will be provided in high-traffic areas, as needed.

As it relates to cleaning and disinfecting the campus, the College has implemented the following protocols:

1. Deep cleaning will occur in all residence halls, academic buildings, athletic buildings as well as other campus facilities. Once areas are opened, it will occur at regular intervals, based on occupancy and use.
2. Open buildings will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis at regular intervals, and as necessary, based on occupancy and use.
3. Cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surface areas (such as controls, door handles, railings, copy machines, etc.) will occur on a regular basis.

4. Disinfecting sprayer will be utilized where appropriate, such as in locker rooms, shower areas, College vehicles, etc. Additional cleaning measures will be taken if the College is notified that an individual is/was on campus with a positive diagnosis of COVID-19.

Academic Calendar

The Fall 2020 academic calendar has been altered — classes will begin Wednesday, August 19, and end Tuesday, November 24. There will not be a fall break, and campus will close for most students at Thanksgiving. Finals will be administered remotely after Thanksgiving. Students will not return to campus until Spring 2021 classes start in January, with the possible exception of select populations of winter student-athletes.