

University of Richmond Department of Athletics COVID-19 Impacts Question and Answer Document

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges for intercollegiate Athletics and requires all of our student-athletes, coaches and staff to be flexible and adaptable as we meet these challenges. Through collaboration with local and campus officials, we have developed strong policies and protocols, in accordance with University, Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Center for Disease Control (CDC), and NCAA guidance, with student-athlete and staff well-being as the foremost priority. This document is intended to answer frequent questions regarding Spider Athletics during the pandemic for members of the Spider Community.

How were Richmond Athletics' COVID protocols developed and approved?

The Richmond Athletics COVID protocols have been developed in accordance to University, local, state and federal guidance. Further, all protocols have been reviewed and approved by the University, the Atlantic 10, the Virginia Department of Health and align with the guidelines of the NCAA and CDC. Due to the fluid nature of the pandemic, the Athletics Department has conducted preseason training and meetings for our coaches and staff, as well as provided regular updates and ongoing communication with Spider coaches, staff and student-athletes.

Who makes decision regarding return to play & participation?

Decisions regarding whether or not a student-athlete or team may play or not play are made independently and certified by medical personnel. Neither the Richmond coaching staff nor the athletic administration is involved in making these decisions. Such decisions are determined solely according to protocols developed by the University, the Atlantic 10, the NCAA, the Virginia Department of Health, and the CDC.

Are all NCAA institutions following the same guidelines?

While the NCAA has established COVID-19 guidance with the [NCAA Core Principles on the Resocialization of Sport](#) and regular updates, each institution is required to follow their own local and state public health protocols. Therefore, institutions or organizations may have slightly different protocols or interpretations of certain guidelines such as contact tracing or quarantine/isolation. The Athletics Department works closely with the local health departments of the localities where Spider teams are travelling to ensure that local conditions are safe for team travel and competition.

What are the Athletics testing and protective gear protocols?

Spider Athletics has made significant investments in testing, contact tracing technology and personal protective equipment (PPE). Student-athletes are tested frequently based upon NCAA recommendations and guidelines for their particular sport. Further, Athletics has implemented strict protocols regarding team travel, meals and health and safety measures in all facilities access by student-athletes or athletics staff. These protocols include, but are not limited to the following:

- Spider student-athletes have been outfitted with enhanced PPE, such as KN95 masks and face shields for travel.
- Enhanced facility hygiene and vehicle sanitization.

- Teams are not permitted to eat at public restaurants. All meals are prepared, boxed and delivered to student-athletes.
- Testing Frequency:
 - Low Transmission Risk Sports are tested a cadence of two times as frequent as non-student-athletes.
 - High Transmission Risk Sports are tested at a cadence of six times as frequent as non-student-athletes.

How are scheduling decisions made during COVID-19?

COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenges throughout intercollegiate athletics. The impacts of these challenges range from schedule disruptions, travel protocols and significant financial constraints. Richmond Athletics is making all decisions regarding scheduling with the health and safety of student-athletes and staff as the foremost priority. In addition, we are committed to providing safe opportunities for competition for our student-athletes and preserving the access to Conference and NCAA Championships.

How do we support student-athlete welfare during this challenging time?

Participating in intercollegiate athletics during a pandemic and the uncertainty impacting our programs contributes to stress and challenges for our student-athletes, staff and coaches. We have been committed to supporting the Spider Athletics Community and promoting student-athlete welfare. This includes but is not limited to all student-athlete meetings, coaches and assistant coach support, leadership trainings, mental health support (both team and individual), mindfulness and stress management opportunities.

Important Links:

[University of Richmond COVID Resource Page](#)
[Virginia Department of Health](#)
[United States Center for Disease Control](#)
[NCAA Resocialization of Sport](#)