

February 12, 2021

To the Hampden-Sydney College Community,

Now more than a full month into our spring semester, I know I speak for our young men when I thank our faculty and staff for making it possible for us to continue offering on-campus, in-person instruction. And, all of us on campus are grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from our alumni and parents during this challenging time.

The spring semester has brought the start of our long-anticipated athletics season, with all of our teams having the opportunity for some level of intercollegiate competition. Earlier, in advance of our modified basketball and swimming season, we shared that the Old Dominion Athletic Conference had adopted a “no spectators” policy for indoor events. Even so, with our new enhanced live-streaming, we are pleased that many of you are watching and cheering on our Tigers.

Many of you have inquired about spectator policies for outdoor athletic competitions, and we are grateful for your passion for Tiger athletics. We also know you understand that our spectator policies are designed to give our student-athletes the best possible opportunity to compete this spring. Our fall and spring sports teams will soon begin competition, and we must adhere to both the current Virginia regulations that limit outdoor athletic events to no more than 250 spectators and our own College’s “no visitors” policy. While these limitations are in place, the following guidelines will be in effect for our outdoor athletic venues:

Everett Stadium

- Each participating Hampden-Sydney athlete’s family members (limited to two family members for football) may gain entry to Everett Stadium and be seated in designated seats in the stadium stands and bleachers at least 15 minutes before each contest.
- If additional seating capacity remains available 15 minutes before the start of any contest, Hampden-Sydney students and employees will be allowed to enter on a first-come, first-served basis until the 250 spectator limit is reached.
- All spectators must be masked, and individuals/family units must be socially distanced, including while entering and exiting the stadium.
- Spectators will not be allowed to gather on the sidelines, track, or hills surrounding the field.
- Tailgating will not be permitted anywhere on campus.
- Spectators for visiting teams will not be allowed.

All Other Outdoor Athletic Venues

- Each participating Hampden-Sydney athlete’s family members may gain entry to the venue and be seated in designated areas at least 15 minutes before each contest.
- If additional capacity remains available 15 minutes before the start of any contest, Hampden-Sydney students and employees will be allowed to enter on a first-come, first-served basis until the 250 spectator limit is reached.
- All spectators must be masked, and individuals/family units must be socially distanced, including while entering and exiting the venues.
- Spectators will be allowed anywhere in those venues, except along the fence at Hellmuth-Gibson field.
- Tailgating will not be permitted anywhere on campus.
- Spectators for visiting teams will not be allowed.

We understand that these limitations are disappointing, not only for our student-athletes, but also for our students, alumni, community members, and other faithful fans of Tiger athletics. However, these precautions give our student-athletes the best chance at playing their full seasons. They have trained and worked hard through the fall and winter in difficult circumstances, and their ability to compete this

spring depends on the campus community following all necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19. Our beloved traditions of tailgating, large gatherings, and packed stadiums risk undermining their efforts, and we must put those activities on hold right now. We hope you will take advantage of our live-streaming capabilities and cheer on the Tigers from the comfort of home. Should the Governor relax the 250 spectator limit, we will reconsider these guidelines and promptly notify you of any changes.

Roll Tigers!
Chad Eisele
Director of Athletics