COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

There are many policies and procedures unique to this year. We need you and your staff to carefully review these with your team and the individual event areas to make things as smooth as possible. Face covering rules will be strictly enforced, but you and your staff will be key to enforcing it, especially in your team areas. Repeated violations will not be tolerated. For us to continue holding meets it is up to all of us to show that it can be done safely.

Details, including expectations for visiting teams competing in South Carolina athletics venues, are included in the COVID-19 Testing Protocol for Non-SEC Teams document available here or at www.gamecocksonline.com (select the COVID-19 UPDATES and then Athletics COVID-19 Updates links). Note this will be sent to your medical staff and athletic director not less than two weeks prior to the meet. If you require additional school or conference specific documentation regarding Covid contact Jessica Allison allisonj@mailbox.sc.edu who will assist you. Additionally, any team or staff with symptoms upon arrival or occurring during meet will be required to isolate in a designated space in the Rice Building coordinated by athletic trainer Kelsey Stranc kstranc@mailbox.sc.edu until the athlete or coach can safely depart campus.

Currently, we plan on allowing spectators. Spectators do not have to meet the same Covid-19 policies as athletes and staff (no testing, vaccination, or attestation required). Tickets will be $10.00 for adults, $5.00 for 17 and under, with kids 2 and under free. Tickets are cash only and seating is limited. Masking is required and spectators will be restricted to non-team areas.

TEAMS PARTICIPATING - This list is subject to change
Appalachian State
Auburn University
Benedict College
Brenton-Parker College
Charleston Southern University
Claflin University
Coastal Carolina University
College of Charleston
Columbia College
East Carolina University
Embry-Riddle
Emmanuel College
Erskine College
Florida A & M University
Georgia Southern
Georgia Tech
Harvard
Jacksonville University
Johnson C Smith
Lenoir Rhyne
Limestone University

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Mercer University
North Carolina A&T
North Greenville University
Queens University of Charlotte
Savannah State University
Southern Wesleyan University
The Citadel
Troy State
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Miami
University of Mount Olive
University of North Carolina Greensboro
University of North Florida
Virginia Union University
Wingate University
Winthrop University

KEY DATES AND EVENTS FOR MEET WEEK

Monday, January 17
11:00 PM – Monday All entries due on Direct Athletics

Tuesday, January 18
5:00 PM – Accepted Entries & Final Schedule Released (Note no event will be moved earlier)
Heats, flights & progressions posted at Gamecocksonline.com and emailed to teams.

Thursday, January 20
Medical or team related Covid Scratches Due by 12:00 PM
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Packet pick-up, spike check, and weigh in available
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM – Practice Window

Friday, January 21
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Packet pick-up and spike check
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM - Weigh-In
10:00 AM – 8:30 PM – Competition schedule

Saturday, January 22
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Packet pick-up and spike check
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM - Weigh-In
10:00 AM – 8:30 PM – Competition schedule

Updated: 1/4/22
ENTRY INFORMATION

All entries will be done via Direct Athletics.

**Entry Deadline:** All submissions due by Monday, January 17, at 11 PM prior to the meet. You may edit and update your entries online any time before the entry deadline. All submitted entries in the system at the entry deadline will be considered FINAL. All questions concerning entries should be directed to Andrew Allden (allden@mailbox.sc.edu or 803-606-2091). All special requests are required to be submitted via email, so we have a record.

**Entry Limits:** All running event entries will be accepted if they meet the two entries per individual athlete limit. Each Field Event has a Field Size. Accepted entries for field events will be posted per schedule above. Athletes are limited to a max of two individual events (this does not include the relays). If an athlete is entered in more than two events after the deadline (the entry system does allow more than two events per athlete so it is up to the entering coach to keep track) they will be subject to being cut out of events without the discretion of coach. Any exceptions to this must be approved in advance by Andrew Allden via email allden@mailbox.sc.edu prior to the entry deadline. Due to COVID, marks will be accepted from as far back as January 2020. If no mark is available, please provide an estimated mark. If you have an entry mark that may be in anyway questionable, or you are unable to enter it, please email Andrew Allden allden@mailbox.sc.edu with information to support or verify your entry prior to the Thursday entry deadline. Entries must abide by NCAA Rules.

**Unattached Athletes** must be 18 years or older. **Unattached athletes** must commit to follow this protocol as a requirement for competition at the University of South Carolina. **Unattached athletes** must acknowledge the COVID waiver on DirectAthletics stating you will comply with the meet's COVID-19 requirements. **Unattached athletes** shall comply fully with the requirements for testing, surveillance, clinical, medical response plan, quarantine protocol and isolation protocols outlined below:

1. All unattached athletes who will participate in a University of South Carolina Track Meet (hereinafter referred to as unattached) will be PCR tested no more than 3 days prior to competition or Rapid Antigen tested within one day of competition (unattached entrants are required to provide a copy of the test negative test at packet pick-up, if you cannot provide the required proof, your entry will be canceled with no refund option) and have received a negative result for Covid-19.

2. Unattached are EXEMPT from the Testing Protocol if they meet either of the following (you are required to provide a proof of vaccination or a positive test in 90 day, but not less than 2 weeks, at packet pick-up, if you cannot provide the required proof, your entry will be canceled with no refund option):
   - Unattached athletes must be at least two weeks since their final vaccine dose AND the individual is asymptomatic.
   - Unattached athletes must be at least two weeks from a positive test. Unattached athletes with a positive Covid-19 test within the past 90 days are exempt from the testing protocol.

3. Everyone is required to wear a mask/neck gaiter in all campus buildings. Physical distancing should be employed to the extent possible. Competing unattached should wear a mask pre- and post-competition. All other individuals are required to wear a mask/neck at gaiter at all times.

*Updated: 1/4/22*
4. The individual unattached athlete attests below that they have not had a verified positive test within the past 10 days, have the symptoms associated with Covid-19 nor have they been advised to quarantine because they were identified as a close contact because of contact tracing.

5. In the event the individual unattached athlete who attests becomes symptomatic or has a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 in the 48 hours after a contest, unattached athlete will notify UofSC as soon as possible.
   • Unattached support personnel will only be allowed in spectator areas (they will have to buy a ticket, note ticket sales are limited and advance online purchase is recommended) and they will not be allowed in the indoor warm-up areas, they will allowed in outdoor warm-up areas (outdoor track) but must be masked. Special permission for support personnel to enter indoor warm-up/competition areas may only be granted by Andrew Allden Allden@mailbox.sc.edu by completing the same attestation process as detailed below for unattached athletes. A separate form will be provided upon request, and the proof required is the same as for the competing unattached athlete.

ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENT
Entries and payment will be handled online at Direct Athletics at the same time entry is submitted. Entry Fees are as follows:
- Team (14 or more) = $1200 per gender
- Individual College/University Entries = $80
- Unattached (not active on a University Roster) = $50

Unattached and club athletes must enter through the unattached and club entry site for the meet on DirectAthletics.

PACKET PICK UP, BUILDING ENTRY & MASK REQUIREMENTS
Due to COVID-19, masks shall be worn except when actively eating, drinking, or competing. Spike check (this includes prior to practice) and packet pickup will take place prior to entering the building at the tent in the parking lot at the top of the walkway leading to the facility. Teams may enter through the double grey doors facing Whaley Street at the end of the walkway. Do not enter through the glass doors. Student-Athletes and Coaches must have their wristbands on to enter. If you wish to leave the facility throughout the day, please use the side double glass doors. Once competition is complete all exit doors will be available for egress. See the attached facility map for details. Please keep you team 6 feet from any other team while they wait in line outside of the facility.

PARKING AND DROP OFF
Teams arriving in vans or buses should drop off athletes on the eastern side of the Indoor Track and Field Complex located on Bull Street. After dropping off, vans should turn right on Heyward Street and continue for two blocks. Parking is located in the rear of the garage located at 1300 Heyward Street. Buses should park in the grass field located directly behind the parking garage. Please see the attached parking and drop off map for more details.

Updated: 1/4/22
TEAM CAMPS & CAMP AREA

Specific locations for each team’s camp areas will not be assigned, but spectators are required to remain separated from visiting team athletes and staff while in the building. Due to Covid athletes and coaches have areas designated separate from spectator areas. Spectators are not allowed in team area, and athletes and coaches are not allowed in the spectator areas. Athletes are not allowed to mingle in the common areas, these are for pass through only. Within the team area please keep your team separate from others as much as possible. Face coverings shall be always worn in these areas except while actively eating, drinking, or competing. On the infield for field events, it is recommended that athletes sit with their teammates and not socialize with other teams.

MEDICAL AND ATHLETIC TRAINER INFORMATION

Due to Covid-19 USC will NOT be providing athletics training services, each team is REQUIRED to bring an athletic trainer and whatever equipment they require. If you are unable to bring a trainer, you may contract with and pay for a USC graduate student trainer to provide coverage on site. Contact Kelsey Stranc kstranc@mailbox.sc.edu for details and pricing. USC staff will provide ice and emergency medical assistance. Water stations will be spread out around the facility. Teams will not have a designated Athletic Training area and should set-up near their team camp.

The USC athletic training tent and EMS will be located outside Turn 1 on the track, by the large garage door. Ice and emergency medical equipment (AED & splits) will also be available in this area. Contact Kelsey Stranc kstranc@mailbox.sc.edu for any questions regarding medical needs. The USC team physician will be present or on-call during competition.

FACE COVERINGS

Running Events: Athletes are required to wear a face covering until the moment they step on the track. This can be disposable (provided by the visiting team) or the athlete can choose to keep their face covering (including a buff) on their person while they compete. Athletes must replace their face covering as they exit the track or competition area. If they do not have one at this point a disposable one will be provided (by the host institution). A trash can will be available for to disposable as the enter the track. Masks are required in the clerking area. In the case of the 60m and the 60m hurdles, the heats and final, masks should remain on until the heat is called to the start.

Field Events: Athletes are required to wear a face covering until they are on deck and must replace it as soon as possible after their attempt is completed. The holding benches in the jumps will not be segregated by team but it is recommended that teams do their best to social distance, and masks are required. In the case of the throws, athletes in the competing flight will have individual chairs designated by an assigned competition number (for example, 1-12).

Warm-Up: For the safety of all wearing a face covering in the warmup area is required. If you choose to warmup outside, you must wear a mask while exiting the building and replace it immediately upon your return to the building.

Updated: 1/4/22
CHECK IN FOR RUNNING EVENTS
Athletes will check in ONE TIME - 15 minutes prior to their events scheduled start time. Athletes should report race ready but wearing a mask. They will collect their hip numbers at this check-in. Athletes will be grouped by heats but 6 feet apart in the holding area then moved as rapidly as possible to the start. Events will not be reseeded (except for possibly the 200 and the 4 x 400). We will not run ahead of schedule.

CHECK IN FOR FIELD EVENTS
All field event athletes must check-in. Pole-vaulters may begin check-in 90 minutes before the event (runway will open for warm-ups). Other field event athletes may check-in with officials up to 60 minutes before the scheduled start. All field event athletes must be checked in 30 minutes prior to their event. Long jump, triple jump and high jump check in at clerks table, not at event and are escorted to the infield. At the clerk's check in tent each horizontal jumps flights will be given a return report time to be escorted to the event. Athletes will have 15 minutes for run through's after being escorted to their event. There will be no general warm up. Each flight will be given 15 minutes to do runs throughs to include flight 1. Do not enter the infield until your flight is called. Leave infield once your flight is completed. Pole Vault and Throwing events will check-in at the event area.

VIDEO ON INFIELD– NCAA Rules regarding our facility
Please note if a coach or manager is in the coaching box on the infield, which is considered the “field of play,” video may be shot, and the coach may view the video and the coach may consult with the athlete. The coach MAY NOT share the video with athletes from the on field coaching box. This is not true of coaching boxes outside the infield.

COVID PROTOCOLS FOR THROWS AND POLE VAULT
There will be no shared chalk bowl for the shot put. Athletes are free to use their own. There will be a chalk bucket at the weight throw for “dipping” the weight to help with marking. There will be wipes available and hand cleaner available for anyone to use at the shot put and weight throw area. Gloves will be available to use for officials so that implement retrievers keep their bare hands off implements as they retrieve them. There is NO sharing chalk at the Pole Vault event. Student-athletes and teams are encouraged to bring their own chalk for use during warm-ups and competition.

RESULTS, HEATS, FLIGHTS, PROGRESSIONS, and MINIMUM MARKS
- Live results will be available at adkins.trackscoreboard.com/#/results
- Final results will be available online at GamecocksOnline.com
- Heats and Flights, as well as High Jump and Pole Vault Progressions will be posted and emailed by Tuesday at 5:00 PM.
- Per new NCAA rules there will are no minimum marks but for the triple and long jump short boards will not be provided.

RUNWAY MARKINGS
Athletic tape is the only acceptable runway marker, per NCAA Rules. Triple Jump Boards: Women is 35’8” | Men is 40’7”.

Updated: 1/4/22
SPIKE CHECK
Spike check will take place outside near the entrance doors in the tent at the top of the walkway. To ensure a speedy process please have spikes out and ready to be checked upon arrival. Coaches can make this process go smoothly by checking their athletes equipment prior to arrival. To protect our track from damage, athletes will not be allowed to wear spikes of the wrong size or type. The use of unapproved equipment can result in disqualification. Spikes will be tagged and checked each day, with a different color tag each day. Spikes may not be longer than 1/4". This includes the high jump. Only pyramid spikes will be allowed. Permanent spikes are not allowed. Omni-light spikes are not allowed. Needles are not allowed.

WEIGH IN
Weigh-in will be conducted from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Friday and from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM Saturday. Weigh-in will be conducted 5:00 to 8:00 PM Thursday and from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Friday and Saturday.

FIELD EVENT CREDENTIALS
Each team will be issued a limited number of 2 infield coaching pass per gender to allow for infield coaching of the high jump and horizontal jumps and 2 throws coaching per gender to allow access to the coaching box at the throws area. NOTE: Field event passes only grant access to the coaching boxes. They are not intended for you to use to freely roam on the infield. You must remain in a coaching box.

RESTROOMS
Each team will be provided with one to two portable toilets at the located outside the rear of building, next to clerking, on the finish line end. These are marked by school logo. Bathrooms located near the main entrance are not for visiting team or coach use.

FACILITY RULES AND PROTESTS
NCAA rules will apply. This includes, for your safety, no headphones or cell phones, this includes pole vault and horizontal jumps, in competition and warm-up areas. Please abide by coaching boxes on infield for safety reasons. Protests must be filed, in writing, at the clerk's tent no later than 30 minutes following the involved incident or decision. Protests will be reviewed by the running or field event referee, who will make the final call. Coaches assist us by standing against the wall for your safety in the warmup area. Sprinting in warmup area is one direction only, starting at clerking area.

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FOOD DELIVERY
Teams having food delivered should instruct drivers they will have to meet them outside the building in the lower parking lot outside the main doors at 184 Marion Street. Drivers will be instructed by event parking staff to pull up in this lot. Teams are responsible for having a food contact assigned and for picking up their meals from the designated pickup space in a timely manner. Deliveries should not sit idle in the drop off lanes for long periods of time. Those attempting to drop off in incorrect locations or blocking traffic will be asked to move.
CAROLINA TRACK & FIELD
MEET INFORMATION - CAROLINA CHALLENGE
JAN. 21-22, 2022 | CAROLINA INDOOR | COLUMBIA, SC

VAN PARKING
SPIKE CHECK / PACKET PICKUP
- Team Entrance
- Spike Check/Packet Pickup
- Bus Drop Off / Pickup

Updated: 1/4/22