SASKATOON SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DIRECTORATE

EDUCATION THROUGH ATHLETICS

DATE: September 1, 2026

TO: School Administrators, S.R.C. Staff Advisors, SSSAD Executive

FROM: Scott Aaro, Consultant: SSSAD Athletics

SUBJECT: **Reminders for "Welcome Week" Football Games**
September 10 & 11 - all games at SMF

Supervision

1. A designated school supervisor must sign in at the gate with their cell number so that you can be reached if any issues arise (please report to Crystal Sjodin at the gate).
2. We encourage school supervisors to be active in their supervision around the entire facility.
3. Please review with your students the expectations for sportsmanship and appropriate behavior at this school activity.
4. Bus - Staff supervision of grade 9 school charter buses is mandatory to and from the stadium.
5. Bleacher Supervision
    a. Staff supervision must be in place for bleacher supervision at SMF Field.
    b. Please sit with your supervision group in the stands and walk near the concession/bathrooms.
    c. Supervisors:
        i. Encourage positive cheering throughout the game and enforce suitable standards of conduct for this school event.
        ii. Please be visible in the stands and try to prevent problems from arising.
        iii. Please keep your students in the bleachers during the game, instead of standing below the stands.
    d. Unfortunately, we have had numerous broken items in the past during welcome week:
        i. Please ask your students not to stand, step, or push on the seats.
        ii. They should not have more than one person sitting in a seat and they should not put their feet on the seat in front of them.
        iii. Also, be aware of a congregation of students near the bathrooms and concession.

Going through the crowd as the students enter the stands is the best time to educate them on expectations!
Thank-you for your help in this regard.

Admission

1. Admission is free for IDENTIFIED grade 9's ONLY (these students MUST arrive by chartered bus).
    a. You must clearly distinguish the grade 9's from the rest of the student population who will be paying admission into the park. Please have the grade 9's identified so admission to the park is efficiently facilitated SSSAD gate workers.
        i. Wristbands or colored passes made at the school with the school's name stamped on it are best practice.
        ii. Avoid using tickets as they are not ideal for distinguishing the grade 9's being admitted free into the park from the other students.
        iii. If you have any other arrangements, please contact Scott Aaro and we will inform gate personnel.
    b. All identified grade 9's will use the players gate (not the regular entrance) for welcome week games only.
        i. **Students must have their bags checked prior to getting on the bus**, as we will not be checking them at the gate.
    c. Supervisors for Welcome Week games can come in with the students and just let us know that they are supervising as they enter.
2. Staff members get free admission to SSSAD events if they show a staff card – the people working the gate do not know if you are a staff member!
3. All other students will have to show last year's student card to get in for the student price, which is $3.00.
4. Adults must pay $5.00 or have a season pass.

Security

1. SPI Security and will be in place at the main entrance and throughout the concourse for Welcome Week (and the remainder of the football season).
    a. They will assist staff supervisors.
2. Security will search students entering the park with backpacks, purses, sleeping bags etc.
3. Remind all students that any items used in hazing type activities such as shaving cream, hair spray, perfume, bingo dabbers will be confiscated at the gate by the security guards.
4. Any feather scarfs/boas or other garments that leave tiny bits of garbage behind to clean will be confiscated at the gate.
5. No outside drinks or containers of any type are allowed into SMF Field.

Others

1. I would ask the principals and designated staff supervisors to let Crystal Sjodin (Gate Manager) and the SPI Security guards know you are at the park and to check with them periodically for any problems for Welcome Week Games and games throughout the season.
2. Again, this year all designated supervisors are required to check in at the gate when they arrive and write down their school, name, and cell number so that she may contact you if any problem with your students occurs at the gate.
3. Reminder to staff and students that SMF Field is an extension of the school and all student behavior policies and guidelines must be adhered to.

4. Students suspected of drug or alcohol use will be detained at the front gate by security and administration intervention will be required.
5. Seating arrangements for Welcome Week Football games:
    a. Home team fans sit in the bleachers behind their team's bench.
    b. Visiting team fans sit in the bleachers behind their team's bench.

NOTE: Please remove students from standing along the fence behind the benches and on the tarmac.

6. Please encourage your students to behave in a responsible and sportsmanlike manner, keeping all their cheering positive in nature.
7. School Mascots are allowed at the discretion of principals – but most discourage the presence of mascots for the Welcome Week games to avoid any potential problems.
    a. Please discuss the presence and supervision of mascots at league games with your administration.
    b. Please enforce with your mascot that confrontational and taunting gestures with the fans of the opposing school will not be tolerated. If the mascot exhibits poor behavior and poor sportsmanship, this will model similar behavior with their fans.
8. If a student leaves SMF Field for any reason they will not be allowed re-entry.
9. Smoking and vaping are not permitted on GHSC property.
10. Please encourage your students to use the recycle and garbage bins. We have a great facility, so let's keep it looking great and look after our environment.
11. SPI Security procedures for dealing with student problems:
    a. They will take the student to the gate office.
    b. Administrators / Supervisors will be contacted and are required to deal with students.

<u>Welcome Week Game times are</u>:

Welcome Week				
Thursday, September 10, 2026				
3:00 PM				
5:15 PM	STJ	@	HC	SMF
7:30 PM	AB	@	EH	SMF

Welcome Week				
Friday, September 11, 2026				
12:45 PM	MR	@	BR	SMF
3:00 PM	Cent	@	WM	SMF
5:15 PM	BJM	@	MG	SMF
7:30 PM	BETH	@	TD	SMF

If you have any questions or concerns, please email, or call me (at 306.381.9801). Thank you for your anticipated assistance and cooperation in the above matters. There are lots of great matchups, so enjoy the exciting action of Welcome Week. It is one of the most exciting events on the high school sports calendar.