



## Media Release

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### MANATEE DISTRICT ANNOUNCES ENHANCED SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES FOR DISTRICT ATHLETIC EVENTS

**(Bradenton, FL – August 11, 2022)** The School District of Manatee County is announcing that enhanced safety and security measures can and will be employed at district athletic events including the use of weapons detection systems and wandings, and the resumption of a clear bag policy.

As a reminder – with the exception of authorized law enforcement and school district security personnel – weapons of any kind are not allowed on school district campuses. That School Board policy (1217) is based on Florida Statute 790.001.

Under the clear bag policy, fans will be permitted one large clear bag, plus a small clutch-type handbag (see examples in the attached photo).

The large clear bag must be no larger than 12” x 6” x 12” and made of clear material that may be easily searched. A gallon-sized Ziploc bag is a readily available clear bag that meets these requirements. The small clutch-type handbag can be used to carry personal items and will be subject to search by security officials or law enforcement. The clutch must be no larger than 4.5” x 6.5”. Every spectator, including children, may bring in one clear bag.

For more information on the policy, please see the attached item titled “SDMC Clear Bag Procedures.”

The enhanced safety and security measures will go into effect immediately and they will be used at multiple entrances to games. The enhancements are being implemented to ensure the safety of all students and spectators. Fans heading to district athletic events should arrive early to account for additional time needed to enter the games.

We thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to a safe and exciting school year.