



February 24, 2026

Subject: Safety Measures During the 2026 Sr. Cager Basketball Tournament, February 26 to March 1, 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, and Students,

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are our highest priority.

Last week, the administrations of École Sir John Franklin High School (SJF) and École St. Patrick High School (ESPHS) responded to potential safety concerns, prompting enhanced measures for the upcoming Sr. Cager Basketball Tournament. In collaboration with our Senior Administration, NWT School Sports Association (NTSSA), and the RCMP, we have implemented additional safety protocols for all games taking place from February 26 to March 1, 2026. These measures will be in effect at all three venues: SJF, ESPHS, and the Weledeh Catholic School (WCS) gymnasiums, to ensure a safe and positive experience for all participants and spectators.

These safety measures include:

- RCMP presence during the tournament
- Additional professional security personnel were hired
- Enhanced supervision by school and tournament staff
- Bag checks of athletes and spectators throughout the weekend
- Reduction of entrances and exits at each venue
- All athletes are wearing identification wristbands, which will allow them into the change room areas

The tournament will proceed as planned with these measures in place. School and district leadership will continue to closely monitor the situation.

We ask all attendees, athletes, and coaches to support a safe environment by:

- Cooperating with staff and security personnel
- Reporting any concerns to a staff member or security immediately
- Avoiding speculation or sharing unverified information
- Taking bags that are only necessary into venues

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure a safe and positive experience for all. The safety and well-being of every child and youth entrusted to our care remains our highest priority. We continue to work closely with our partners to ensure our schools remain safe and welcoming places of learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust.

Sincerely,

Dean MacInnis, École Sir John Franklin High School Principal

Kathleen Finnigan, École St. Patrick High School Principal

Andrew Gilmour, Executive Director for the NWT School Sports Association (NTSSA)