

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)



Cameron Crazyies, known for their raucous ways, will be out in full force again this year thanks to a revised policy.



For the first 2 games of the year, Crazyies could not stand in the bleacher row directly behind the press.

Fans allowed in Cameron front row

University, fire marshall agree on policy to keep high turnout in stands

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Students will be able to stand in the area directly behind the press row of Cameron Indoor Stadium during men's basketball games, officials confirmed Thursday.

A limited change in regulations and a new wristband system will also be implemented to accommodate the policy.

Policies emerged earlier this month that banned undergraduates from standing in the first row behind the press during last week's two exhibition games, due to enforced Duke Fire Safety regulations.

Following the games, Duke Student Government, the Department of Athletics and University officials entered discussions to negotiate another policy change before the start of the regular season.

"We were able to prove it was safe with [students] in there," Executive Vice President Tallman Trask said.

DSG President Elliott Wolf, a junior, said the missing front row was especially pronounced and the gap would be clearly visible on national television broadcasts.

"You see the Cameron Crazyies restraining themselves and that's just not acceptable," he said.

The University was able to regain the front row for student fans because of additional provisions made to increase the number of ushers present at games and to keep the paths to the main exits open.

"By guaranteeing that those [paths] stay clear, that gave us some administrative control that let us say we could handle those students in the first row," Fire and Safety Manager Fred Knipper said.

Under the revised regulations, all undergraduates entering the stadium will now receive a wristband to ensure that only accredited Duke students are in the undergraduate section.

The change will go into effect beginning with this Sunday's game against Columbia.

Approximately 1,200 wristbands have been designated for students for the lower area of the stadium.

Knipper added, however, that if student demand exceeds the lower-bowl capacity, some students may be seated in other sections of the stands.

"We don't want to say that we are limiting it to 1,200," he said. "They may end up upstairs, they may end up in the graduate student section, but we are going to do everything we can to get everyone in."

Wolf said using the wristbands-distributed by DSG and funded by the Department of Athletics-will not result in a decrease in seating or capacity.

"The procedure will remain the same-the wristbands are being used just the way DukeCards were used [to track attendance]," he said. "There's no planned limitation on the number of undergraduates to get into the game."

A greater number of Fire Safety staff members will be present at the games to ensure crowds do not obstruct main exits, which have been blocked in previous years by students, employees or vendors, Knipper said.

The regulations-which have existed for some time but had recently become more lax-were coordinated between the University and the Durham Fire Marshal, who ensures that the stadium complies with state and county fire codes.

"The fire marshal is quite content with where we are," Trask said. "We're going back as close to where we were as we can."

Wolf added that tent registration for Krzyzewskiville should not be affected under the new policy.

"Before we got the front row back, we were going to have to limit K-ville, but not anymore," he said, adding that K-ville could have been restricted to 80 or 90 tents.

The usual 100 12-person tents will still be allowed this year, however. If tenting students fill all 1,200 spots, officials said fans in the walk-up line will be accommodated as best as possible.

"We're going to do everything in our part to get every student in without jeopardizing the safety of anybody in the facility," Knipper said.

Adam Eaglin contributed to this story.

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