



2020-21 NSAA Spring Season Guidelines

Effective: March 1, 2021

Circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly changing and vary from community to community. Decisions will have to be made from week to week or even day to day. The health and safety of students, staff, and local communities remain the priority of the NSAA as we provide opportunities to participate in the spring sports season.

Each school has the authority to determine if it will participate in the 2020-21 Spring Season. During the season it will be the responsibility of the host school to provide administrative oversight and compliance with established COVID-19 guidelines in accordance with their local health departments and facilities.

FOR ALL SPRING ACTIVITIES:

The NSAA is requiring the following of schools, officials and spectators for all spring season contests:

- Active participants are permitted, but not required, to wear face coverings during competition/performance.
- Spectators are required to wear face coverings for entrance to all activities. Face coverings may be removed if outside and 6 feet of physical distance can be maintained.
- Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth.
- Follow local/state DHM's for spectator attendance.
- The host school may establish additional requirements in consultation with local health departments. Additional requirements implemented by the host school must be the same for all schools, officials, judges, and spectators.

Recommended protocols for spring contest hosts:

- Coaches and non-active participants are encouraged to wear face coverings at all times
- Create separate points of entry and seating for home and visitor teams/spectators
- Provide no concession stands or separate/multiple concession stands
- Provide separate/multiple restrooms
- Use signage, stanchions, or field markings to ensure physical distancing of 6 feet at concession stands and restrooms
- Communicate availability of locker room space for the opposing team and officials
- Implement diligent and effective cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces

NSAA expects schools to play their regularly scheduled competitions unless a COVID-19 issue prevents them from playing. Member schools, in consultation with their local health department, shall be responsible for determining whether a scheduled game, match, contest, or other activity is cancelled or postponed due to a COVID-19 related issue. Member schools shall notify the NSAA of any cancellation or postponement.

The NSAA has great appreciation for all its member schools and their tireless efforts to provide opportunities for learning and participation in NSAA activities. Communication, flexibility, and patience will be key in supporting our high school student participants as they participate in activities this spring season.



2021 NSAA Baseball Rules Modifications & Considerations

These modifications are subject to change in response to COVID-19.

- All NSAA member schools must follow their local [Directed Health Measures](#).
- The host administration must pre-communicate local protocols and activity requirements to participating school(s).

NSAA Approved Rulings:

Schedules

1. The deadline to submit varsity schedules to the NSAA has been extended to Thursday, March 18th.
2. Regular season games that are canceled due to COVID-19 will be considered a “no-contest.”
 - a. Wild card points will not be awarded for “no-contest” games.
 - b. Forfeits will not be issued for “no-contest” games.
3. Replacement games (not originally scheduled) may be scheduled at any time.
 - a. Wild card points will not be awarded.
 - b. Contest limitations may not be exceeded.

NSAA Baseball Rules Modifications:

- **Facial Coverings:** Players are not permitted to use white facial coverings and they cannot be distracting. Facial coverings should not have designs other than the school mascot/logo.
- **Offensive helmets** do not need to match.
- **Pregame conferences:** Limit attendees to one coach from each team plus the umpires. Coaches should stay outside the width of the batter’s box at home plate, maintaining six feet of distance between each person.
- **Lineups** should be handed to the umpire, and the umpire will verbally approve or ask any questions about the lineup. It is recommended that lineup cards be exchanged team to team and teams to scorekeeper to be shared via photo or text.
- **Pitch Counts** should be exchanged verbally after each game at each level of play.
- **Substitutions/Coaching:** The verbal exchange should occur six feet from the coach to scorer and opposing team when making lineup changes. Coaches who wish to discuss a rule or a ruling on the field must maintain at least six feet of distance from the umpire.
- **Bench & Field Conduct:** Players are not permitted to leave the dugout area to congratulate players when scoring or after home runs. Players and coaches should maintain six feet of social distance when possible. If extending the dugout, rule 1-2-4 shall be followed and the dugout extension should be outside of the field.
- **Conferences:** Conferences shall be limited to one coach attending with all persons involved maintaining at least six feet of social distance.
- **Press Box:** Limit the number of non-essential personnel who are in the press box throughout games.

General Considerations:

- Have hand sanitizer and wipes available at the field.
- Wash stations or sanitizer at each dugout.
- No one touches the score sheet except the scorer.
- Disinfect the bench/dugout prior to competition.
- Stagger seating of fans.
- The home team should provide the game balls.

- Provide a clean/dirty bucket.
- Clean/sanitize as needed.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Wear masks on and off the field.
- Eliminate handshakes post-game.
- Maintain six feet distance between players and umpires.
- Limit and shorten visits with Homeplate umpires between innings.
- No seeds, gum or spitting.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social/physical distancing is maintained between players as much as possible.

Considerations for Players:

- No seeds, gum or spitting.
- Players should clean and sanitize equipment after each game.
- Social distancing on the bench and/or dugout.
- No sharing of water bottles, helmets, catcher's equipment, or bats.
- Sanitize all equipment after each game.
- Eliminate handshakes post game.
- Eliminate handshakes with coaches/umpires pre-game.
- Carry hand sanitizer.

Considerations for Umpires:

- Wearing of facial coverings. Facial coverings should be one solid color and not distracting.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently
- Don't share equipment.
- No touching of baseballs.
- Clean equipment after each game.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Consider six feet minimum distance when talking to others (players, coaches, other umpires) at plate meeting.
- Do not shake hands and follow pre and post-game ceremony guidelines established by state associations.
- Consider facility size and spacing within umpire dressing rooms. They should be cleaned and sanitized.
- If umpires must enter the field through the dugout, the dugout should be empty with no players/coaches/team personnel.