



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 Soccer Rules Modifications & Considerations

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

Participants, coaches, officials or spectators that feel sick or have been exposed to someone with a confirmed positive COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days, should not attend or participate in practice or competition. The NSAA requires all non-active participants, coaches, and spectators to wear face coverings. Physical distancing should be practiced when possible.

NSAA Approved Ruling Modifications:

- **NSAA schedule deadline is extended from March 10th to March 19th**
- **Regular season games that are canceled due to COVID-19 will be considered a “no-contest.”**
 - **Wild card points will not be awarded for “no-contest” games.**
 - **Forfeits will not be issued for “no-contest” games.**
- **Replacement games (not originally scheduled) may be scheduled at any time.**
 - **Wild card points will not be awarded.**
 - **Contest limitations may not be exceeded.**
- **Attendance can be limited according to the respective DHM capacity restrictions**

Additional NFHS/NSAA Soccer Rules Modification/Considerations

- Eliminate shaking hands with officials at any time
- Eliminate shaking hands with opposing team or coach before or after the contest
- Pregame conference
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
 - All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- Team benches should be more than 6 feet off of the out-of-bounds line to allow for the AR to freely move and keep socially distanced
- Limit the official’s table to essential personnel which includes: home team scorer, and timer with a recommended distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to be at an alternate location
- Consider percentage of capacity allowance for spectators – follow respective DHM’s for your area

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Practices

- No shared drinking facilities (individual water bottles)

Competitions

- Wash stations or sanitizer at each team bench.
- No one touches the score sheet except the scorer.
- Disinfect the benches prior to competition.
- Stagger seating of fans.
- The home team should provide the game balls
- Coaches need to wear face coverings at all times

- When not competing, players need to wear face coverings and physical distance
- Sanitary wipes and sanitizer available at the scoring/head tables
- Reduce the traveling parties to essential personnel only (competitors and coaches, medical personnel)

Venues, Workers and Spectators

- All staff, workers, and spectators wear a face covering
- Prepare field for physical distancing, where possible - follow respective DHM's for your area and follow capacity limitations
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes available at each scorer's table
- Writing utensils, when used, handled by one person or sanitized between uses by other workers
- Limit the number of workers at each table – only necessary personnel

Officials

- Officials are NOT responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as physical distancing, hand sanitizing, symptoms of illness and other such issues. This monitoring is the responsibility of the respective coaching staff and school personnel.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently
- 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 official's dressing rooms. They should be cleaned and sanitized.
- Face coverings required when arriving and departing and optional when actively officiating
- May wear disposable gloves
- Do not share equipment