

BEST PRACTICES REMINDERS



Recommended Safety Guidelines for Contest and Spectators

Communication

- Host schools should communicate prior to an event their best practices and/or local restrictions regarding mitigation of COVID-19 to the visiting team, officials, media, fans, etc.
- Communication between member schools should also include, but is not limited to, information regarding parking, concessions, locker rooms, ticketing, payment methods, entrance/exit gates, bands, cheerleaders, etc.

Transportation

- The local school system and school administration may determine the safest way to travel to and from contests in accordance with CDC, DHEC, and SDE guidelines.
- When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are recommended.
- To avoid infecting and/or possible quarantining the whole team, assigned seating is recommended.

Locker/Dressing Rooms

- Host schools should be responsible for providing a clean environment for all visiting teams to dress and have pre-game meetings. When possible, the area should be large enough to maintain social distancing.
- If locker/dressing rooms are not large enough to maintain physical distance, visiting teams may consider traveling dressed, dressing in groups, and/or limiting travel team numbers.
- When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are recommended.

Facilities

It is an expectation member schools will comply with CDC, DHEC and local health agencies related to best practices for facilities. When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are recommended.

- Host schools should communicate all guidelines, including local restrictions, to visiting schools and officials prior to an event.
- Host schools should consider posting visible signage encouraging physical distancing, facial coverings, and hand washing, etc. and urging anyone with COVID-19 symptoms not to enter an athletic event. (Examples of signage may be found at www.cdc.gov.)

Considerations for Coaches:

- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.

It is recommended that all coaches complete the free NFHS online course “COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators,” before the first contest (preferably as soon as possible). Additionally, administrators with athletic responsibilities are also encouraged to complete the course. The link to access the course is here:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/covid-19-for-coaches-and-administrators>.

Considerations for Students:

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Face coverings are permitted.
- Bring your own water bottle.

Considerations for Contest Officials

- Host schools should communicate all local restrictions regarding COVID-19 prior to the event.
- Host schools should provide contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival that provides for appropriate spacing between individuals.
- Dressing rooms should have hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.
- Officials should self-screen every day for COVID-19 symptoms for themselves and family members.
- Pregame meetings between teams and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
- Officials’ table should be limited to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an

alternative location. The number allowed at the officials' table is determined by the space available at the table. When physical distancing cannot be maintained, facial coverings are suggested.

- The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
- Officials may use an electronic whistle, wear face coverings and protective gloves.
- Officials should have their own labeled beverage container, and these should be brought onto the field or court for their use during time outs or breaks.
- Suggest the elimination of handshakes during the coin toss and pregame festivities.

Considerations for Parents:

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.

Other Considerations

- Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.
- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible
- Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- Facial coverings may be worn by all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.
- Dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.

Ticketing

If attendance restrictions are in place, **equal access for visiting fans must be provided.**
GoFan offers a “CASHLESS” platform.

NFHS Network

If restrictions prevent fan attendance, a live-streaming platform through the NFHS Network is available. Please contact Tammie Newman, at tnewman@schsl.org for additional information.