

Guidance for Summer Activities

Questions & Answers

Updated 7/1/20 - 8 a.m.

1. Are these recommendations to use when creating our own protocol to open up our building and sports?

A: You may use them if/when/ how and as you wish. They are not mandates – only well-researched suggestions.

2. The role of the designated COVID-19 coach will require particular attention and training since that individual is tasked with collecting personal, identifiable public health information about a student, similar to a health record which requires confidentiality. Has any thought been given as to how that information will be collected and stored, is there an app or other way to ensure the security of this personal information which is being requested?

A: At this time, the COVID-19 coach is the coach/trainer/person who is a lay person watching and reminding players and coaches of the social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting when necessary. They may remind the players and coaches to use proper hygiene, etc. Similar to the “Get Back” coach who keeps the sidelines clear in coaching box. The tracing document could be kept with the school nurse for two weeks since 14 days seems to be the time period.

3. I just need clarification on local decision making. Is there a possibility that individual schools will decide if they conduct a fall sports season or is it likely that the WIAA will make that decision? The guidelines spoke most about summer contact.

A: You are correct that the guidance is summer contact. Sport specific will be out soon. School districts will determine what they do in the fall. We will work on transitioning to fall guidance.

4. The guidance repeatedly refers recording screening questions and the data/answers from such questions. Not all coaches may be familiar with the confidentiality requirements associated with student records and personnel medical records. In addition, the guidance mentions that there may be more need for parent/guardian transportation of athletes. Not all coaches are familiar with the legal aspects associated with such transportation and the liability issues that are involved when parents/guardians transport athletes as part of the program.

A: You are correct in that school leaders must recognize some of these things that will be a part of the new expectations within schools as part of student records and do what they need to in order to comply with legal requirements. Leadership and clear direction will be essential. Transporting students is an issue that presents a challenge. Not only transportation to activities and events – but best practices for getting kids to school and how to best reduce exposure and duration of exposure.

5. Looking to get clarification on a rule for softball games in July. Does the limit of 50 include players and coaches or is that just for spectators?

A: The numbers coordinate with the levels of risk. Moderate has a number of 10 indoors and 50 outdoors. The numbers would be guides, but not specific to your community. The health department would provide the limit on numbers and which risk level would be appropriate. Right now, the number 50 would be total of everyone in the gathering.

6. For home games on school grounds, do we have to really take the temp of everyone that attends?

A: We have not yet addressed contests/competitions. We recommend those who are attending a practice or event would self-check prior to attending

7. Who determines what the risk level is in our area?

A: Check with your nearest public health official.

8. Last week a helmet manufacturer came out with the helmet visor approved by NFHS so we are just wondering if this will not be allowed in Wisconsin or if it is going to be allowed when football season starts?

A: The helmet visor attachment for football helmets is legal by the NFHS provided there is no tint and they are clear. The coloring or tint of the visor is illegal. If clear, it is legal. The reference to plastic face shields in the guidelines are the ones used by medical professionals and others that not are not allowed. These are the type of face shields seen on TV with people testing people in their cars. The helmet visors that have been used to attach to helmets and meet NFHS rules are allowed provided they have no tint.

9. We have sent a plan for our weight room activity to our local health department, and they approved it for our area. It allows 25 percent of normal capacity in our weight room (20 athletes). We are expecting to have 40+ outside (socially distanced) working on conditioning while we move groups of 20 through the weight room. With the document sent out by the WIAA, would that make us non-compliant?

A: The guidelines that we sent out are just that. Use your plan if you are comfortable with it and if your local health department approves it.

10. If our school has a heavy curtain (floor to ceiling) that divides the gym in half, but leaves a four foot walking area open on each end of the curtain, does this count as acceptable method of division to allow two groups of 10 in the gym? If both groups of 10 enter and exit on different doors of the gym, and keeping them separated by the curtain, this would be safe, preventing intermingling of pods, and allow for more pods to use the gym at a given time.

A: Provided the curtain is impermeable and not mesh at any point – and with the enter/exit strategy you outline and that not drills are occurring within the 6-10 feet area of each opening – yes, this can work. It would be recommended that the groups do not intermingle, stay separate, and stay the same each day.

11. Who determines the risk level that helps to determine what activities may occur and how they would look? Who is responsible for determining each school's level of risk?

A: You will have to determine your risk level by using your county's health status and plan. Best advice is to see what they have advised.

12. For a basketball open gym or contact days, does each student need their own basketball, can basketballs be shared, should the ball be disinfected, how often should they be disinfected? I have the same questions for volleyball open gyms and contact days.

A: The disinfecting of balls and equipment along with the limits on users is listed in the examples of high and moderate risk. Balls and hands are disinfected when the users change.

13. When weightlifting do the spotters have to wear a mask?

A: Masks are encouraged for spotters.

14. Are the details in the document a guideline, a recommendation, or a requirement?

A: The Guidance for Summer Activities are guidelines and are the recommended best practices to return to summer activities.

15. This is unrelated to COVID-19 and more in regards to eligibility and contact. If my school coaches are running a youth basketball camp for our elementary aged students can high school players volunteer to help at the camp? Can those high school students be paid to help work at the camp?

A: In the Rules at a Glance, athletes may be used as clinicians with their coaches for up to six days from the last day of school (July 1 this summer) to the last day of unrestricted school coaching contact. Clinicians, if paid, may not be selected and paid based on past or future team status.

16. Is the WIAA planning on making a recommendation regarding fall sports and whether they should or should not happen? Will this most likely be a school decision, conference decision, county decision, or a WIAA decision? Is there a timeline for the release of this recommendation?

A: As stated in the preamble of the guidelines, it will be a local decision based on their environmental risk status, health department input, etc.

17. Are the WIAA recommendations with the four zones referenced today (Lowest, Low, Moderate, High) are simply references and up to the school district to make a choice on which risk zone they fall into? Or will local health departments be working with districts to identify which risk zones each district fall into? We've referenced the state dashboard that was discussed, but were still unclear if that's the only health guidance we're going to receive.

A: The key is to get as much information that you can and determine which level best fits. The gathering numbers after the title are a good start. High is limited to 10 inside and outside. Moderate is 10 inside and 50 outside. Compare that to the information that you have and see where your district is comfortable in assessing the risk. The assessment factors on in the guidelines.