

# 2020-21 WIAA RETURN TO SPRING SPORTS CONSIDERATIONS

Updated April 19, 2021

The purpose of this document is to provide assistance to athletic administrators as they prepare for athletic events. The information and considerations within this document are not considered best practices; instead, they are based on a review of available guidance from multiple reputable sources. These considerations are designed to stimulate critical thinking and help inform decision-making. They can be adapted by decision makers to support event planning, event operations and other business operations based on federal, state and local municipal requirements. (Covid-19 Considerations for Sport and Entertainment Venues and Events; The University of Southern Mississippi National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security [NCS4]; [NFHS Opening Up COVID](#); [NFHS Statement on Risk](#))

This document provides assistance as schools prepare for competitive events.

The following factors should be strongly considered by stakeholders in assessing the potential for COVID-19 transmission related to high school athletics:

1. COVID-19 rates of participants in any given sport are directly proportional to prevailing community disease rates.
2. Participants in non-contact sports show lower rates of COVID-19 than contact sports.
3. Participants in outdoor sports show lower rates of COVID-19 than indoor sports.
4. Face mask use while participating in indoor sports results in COVID-19 rates comparable to the rates found in outdoor sports.
5. The great majority of sports-related spread of COVID-19 does not appear to occur during sports participation, but from social contact. Maximizing efforts to prevent this type of spread remains paramount. Social distancing, mask use, staying home while ill and proper hygiene must continue to be emphasized in the locker room, on the sidelines, and while traveling, dining and interacting in the community.

## COVID Basics

- COVID is primarily transmitted by aerosol, but also by touching contaminated surfaces.
  - Sports/training may cause heavier breathing which can increase spread of aerosol & virus transmission.
- Student-athletes with high-risk conditions or household/close contacts with high-risk conditions may want to avoid and/or adjust participation to reduce risk of transmission. CDC list of risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
- Symptoms of COVID: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- The **foundations** of reducing risk should always be kept in mind:
  - Avoid participation and attendance if sick (fever and/or symptoms) – always discuss with your primary care provider if questions or concerns.
  - Wear a cloth mask or buff to reduce spread of your aerosol to others (the mask captures some of your aerosol and reduces transmission to other people).
    - Do not wear medical/surgical masks or N95 masks for exercise as these can decrease airflow.
    - Cloth masks are safe with exercise, they do not decrease oxygen levels, increase carbon dioxide levels, significantly restrict airflow, or cause heat illness. They will take time to get used to, as they can be uncomfortable and increase the perceived effort of exercise.
    - Athletes may wear a mask while participating in exertion. Athletes not participating should wear a mask.
    - Coaches and sideline personnel should wear masks at all times.
  - Social distancing of at least 6 feet when not participating (sideline, waiting for turn, etc.)
    - Continue to train in smaller “pods” of athletes to reduce exposure risk.
    - “Close contact” is based on the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation that 15+ minutes of close (within 6 feet) exposure to another increases risk of transmission. Heavier breathing associated with exercise may decrease the amount of time needed to qualify as “close contact”.
  - Continue to emphasize hygiene.
    - Hand sanitization/cleaning frequently (every time on and off field) – each athlete should be encouraged to have their own bottle.
    - Do not share water or food/snacks.
    - Minimize shared equipment as much as possible and sanitize that equipment frequently.

## VACCINATED INDIVIDUAL GUIDELINES

The COVID vaccines currently authorized for use in the United States are effective at reducing the risk of severe disease from COVID and reducing the risk of contracting COVID (the SARS-CoV-2 virus). There is early evidence that the vaccines offer some protection (but are not as effective) against the new variants, including B.1.1.7 strain (the “United Kingdom/UK” variant) and

B.1.351 strain (the “South Africa” variant). Growing evidence also shows that vaccinated persons may be less likely to transmit COVID through asymptomatic infection when compared to non-vaccinated persons.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently released new guidelines for people who have been fully vaccinated. You are considered full vaccinated when:

- It is at least 2 weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
- It is at least 2 weeks after receiving the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

There may be some new strategies for fully vaccinated individuals based on these guidelines:

1. The CDC states that fully vaccinated individuals can gather indoors with other fully vaccinated individuals without a mask.
2. CDC also states that a vaccinated person can gather indoors and mask-free with unvaccinated people from one other household (example: going to visit relatives), but cautions that they should not have any risk factors for severe illness from COVID (if they do, then maintain strict precautions).
3. Finally, the CDC states that if a fully vaccinated person is exposed to COVID, they do not need to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.

These guidelines change the quarantine process for people that are fully vaccinated.

- Fully vaccinated people that develop COVID symptoms should isolate themselves from others and contact their primary care provider to discuss evaluation and testing.
  - These individuals will need medical clearance with negative testing in order to return to activity, or they will need to follow the previously established 14 day quarantine protocol.
- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID do not need to quarantine or test.
  - They should monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days after exposure, and if symptoms begin, they should isolate and contact their primary care provider.

#### WHAT IF ATHLETE IS SICK OR EXPOSED

- Any student-athlete that has symptoms and/or fever should not participate in any activity (meetings, practice, competition) and begin self-quarantine immediately.
  - Ensure that student-athletes with a positive COVID test (even if no symptoms) do not return to participation in training or competition until:
    - At least 10 days have passed since positive test; AND
    - No fever (fever is temp of 100.4°F or more) without the use of fever-reducing medicine for at least 24 hours; AND
    - COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) have improved;
    - Athletes may not return earlier if negative follow-up testing (cannot test out of isolation).
  - Ensure that student-athletes with probable COVID (symptoms of COVID – refer to [symptom chart](#) – but not tested), not be allowed to participate in any training or event until:
    - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
    - No fever (fever is temp of 100.4°F or more) without the use of fever-reducing medicine for at least 24 hours; AND
    - COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) have improved.
- Any student-athlete that has “close contact” (teammate, household, classroom, work, girlfriend/boyfriend, friend – someone with over 15 minutes of exposure within 6 feet) should begin self-quarantine immediately.
  - If the student-athlete that was exposed previously had COVID (with a hard copy positive PCR test) in the last 3 months and that student is asymptomatic, then there is no need to continue self-quarantine restrictions.
  - If the student-athlete that was exposed previously had probable COVID (illness but not tested) in the last 3 months, then they must continue with self-quarantine restrictions described below.
  - “Close contact” to an individual with a positive COVID test, student-athletes should not return until: **[NOTE: During the WIAA Tournament series quarantine shall be 14 days.]**
    - They have waited at least 10 days from last exposure to the infected person; AND
    - Have no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; AND
    - No COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) reported during daily monitoring.
    - Athletes may return after day 7 if:
      1. No symptoms were reported during daily monitoring; AND
      2. The person has a negative PCR test obtained on day 6 or 7 of quarantine.
    - In rare instances where the infected positive exposure is a family member with prolonged illness, then discussion and medical clearance with health care providers can be individually obtained and reviewed.
    - Daily symptom monitoring must continue for a full 14 days (post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be 1-10% after 10 days & 5-12% after 7 days with the above protocol).

- The athlete must strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines, wearing a mask and avoiding gatherings for a full 14 days after exposure.
- “Close exposure” to an individual with probable COVID (symptoms but not tested), student-athletes should not return until:
  - They have waited at least 10 days from last exposure to the infected person; AND **[NOTE: During the WIAA Tournament series quarantine shall be 14 days.]**
  - Have no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
  - No COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.).
  - If the individual with probable COVID is tested with a PCR test during the course of the quarantine:
    1. The PCR test comes back negative, then all individuals quarantined based on that exposure are free to return to participation if no fever and no symptoms.
    2. The test comes back positive, then all individuals must follow the directions above (close contact).
  - Athletes may return after day 7 if:
    1. No symptoms were reported during daily monitoring; AND
    2. The person being quarantined has a negative PCR test obtained on day 6 or 7 of quarantine.
- Athletes may decondition during their quarantine and may require additional time to get back to full speed.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRACTICES**

#### **Pre-Workout/Pre-Contest Screening:**

- Athletes and coaches should check their temperature at home before attending practices or games. If a student-athlete or a coaching staff member has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, they should not attend practices or games.
- What if athlete is sick or exposed? – See above section.
- A record should be kept of all individuals present at team activities.
- Vulnerable individuals can resume public interactions, but should practice social distancing, minimizing exposure to social settings where distancing may not be practical, unless precautionary measures are observed.

#### **COVID-19 Coach:**

- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that [social distancing](#) is maintained during training.

#### **Social distancing:**

- **Practice** – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing, chatting, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting a turn. Workouts should be conducted in ‘pods’ of students, with the same 5-10 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- **Hydration** – All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
  - Due to the importance of hydration during practice, athletes should not be allowed to work out if they do not have access to their own water bottle.
  - Water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc. should not be utilized.
  - Water refill stations should be cleaned/disinfected frequently.

### **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR EVENTS**

#### **WIAA Event Accountability:**

- When arriving at the venue for a contest, coaches will exchange a [tracing sheet](#) and [verification form](#) signed by the coach and athletic director acknowledging that the students have been pre-screened and the tracing sheet is accurate.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form signed by the coach and athletic director acknowledging the tracing sheet’s accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.
- Failure to produce the verification form and/or the tracing sheet will result in a forfeit.

#### **Venue**

- Review Air Circulation/Filter System – Work with maintenance staff to ensure that venues meet proper circulation requirements.
- COVID-19 Signage at entrances and throughout each venue – i.e. spectator flow with designated entrance/exit areas with one-way traffic, reminders of not to attend if feeling ill, masking, social distancing, of hygiene habits, etc.

- Identify commonly touched areas/items, such as water refill stations, door handles, handrails, etc. and develop a risk minimization/sanitization plan for these areas.
- Sanitizing Stations – Consider placing sanitization products in specific areas, such as scorer’s tables, team benches, ticket sales, etc.
- Parking/Drop-Off/Pick-Up Areas – Coordinate these areas to allow for social distancing before, during and after events.
- Restroom Access – Establish protocols to ensure restroom capacity is limited and adheres to social distancing guidelines.
- Booster Club/Sponsor/Vendor Sales – Consider eliminating to reduce fan congestion.
- Concession Sales – Consider eliminating concession sales completely and/or create seating arrangements to allow for social distancing, cashless transactions, establish a plan per the FDA and CDC guidelines.

### **Staff**

- Changes to Policies/Procedure Handbooks – Review current policies and procedures, edit as needed and communicate changes.
- Review Emergency Action Plan with Event Staff – Review EAP, edit as needed and communicate changes.
- Training and Education of Staff and Event Personnel – Provide staff with necessary training on sanitization protocols and other COVID-related items for event.
- COVID-19 Coach – Designate a staff member to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Crowd Control Staffing Needs – Ensure adequate staffing to address event needs with additional attention to COVID-related items.
- Minimize the number of personnel on the sidelines.

### **Participants**

- Eliminate any shared water stations – Require all participants to bring their own water.
- Player benches and coaching boxes – Use paint or tape as a guide to help maintain social distancing on the sideline for athletes and coaches. Encourage teams to clean up their respective benches before leaving the venue.
- Mask/facial covering on sideline for coaches and athletes not participating, especially if not able to maintain full social distancing.

### **Spectators**

- Follow county guidelines on limiting spectators.
- Face covering requirements – Event Personnel, Media, Spectators – consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- Ticket sales – If unable to eliminate on-site sales, consider steps to establish social distancing and provide a sanitization station.
- Pedestrian flow – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide and communicate in advance.
- Seating – Establish a procedure for all indoor and outdoor venues that allows for social distancing guidelines. The number of spectators allowed must be in accordance with state/local regulations for gathering sizes.

### **Concessions**

- If opening/allowing, post signage at stand for patrons to maintain social distancing of 6’ between parties near food stand.
- Maintain a sanitize solution for wiping cloths during operations and increase cleaning/sanitizing frequency – especially high-contact surfaces such as equipment, utensils and countertops.
- Discontinue self-service operations for the public such as drink stations, condiment trays, cup/napkin/utensil dispensers and other amenities to help maintain infection control.
- Consider the use of fans or open (screened) windows to improve air circulation in smaller indoor stands.
- Use single-use condiment packets and avoid using shared condiment containers if possible.
- Consider barriers such as Plexiglass between employees and customers if practical.

### **Other**

- Advance messaging to teams, spectators, media – Visiting school teams and spectators are expected to comply with the host school strategies for COVID risk mitigation.
  - Provide written notice to all attendees, outlining procedures for the event.
  - Provide PA announcements to reinforce key site requirements and reminders of guidelines.
- Social distancing requirements – Teams, event personnel, media, spectators – Review and communicate plans to all
- Face covering requirements – Event personnel, media, spectators – Review and communicate plans to all.
- Livestream options for spectators who cannot attend in person – Review and communicate plans to all, consider camera location(s).

- Seating capacity/configuration – Teams, spectators, media, medical, event personnel. Consider tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- Designate Event Management team – Includes a health professional. This group has the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event based on public health risk or other factors.
- Screening of participants, spectators, event personnel, event officials, teams, media – Communicate pre-screening expectations for all attendees.
  1. All attendees should check their temperature at home before attending an event. If any attendee has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, or if they have any symptoms, they should not attend the event.
- Create communication plan – Attendees can receive an emergency notification, if necessary. Think about how you will address and communicate a positive COVID test of an attendee before, during or after the event.
- Attendees – Consider grouping people into tiers from essential to non-essential and decide which tiers will be allowed at an event:
  1. Tier 1 (Essential): Athletes, coaches, officials, event staff, medical staff, security
  2. Tier 2 (Preferred): Media
  3. Tier 3 (Non-essential): Spectators, vendors

\*Only Tier 1 and 2 personnel will be allowed to attend events until state/local health departments lift restrictions on mass gatherings.
- Athletic Training services – As health-care professionals, athletic trainers can take lead roles in developing and implementing infection control policy throughout the school. School administrators should partner with athletic trainers to develop and implement infection control policy throughout the school.
- Transportation to events – Schools must consider social distancing requirements when scheduling contests and events for the fall. Masking and social distancing (as required by state or local health departments) will need to be maintained on buses/vans. Thus, multiple buses/vans and/or parental/guardian transportation will likely be needed.

**Additional information can be found in The University of Southern Mississippi National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) COVID-19 Considerations for Sport and Entertainment Venues and Events ([click to view](#))**

**MEDICAL CLEARANCE FORM**  
**For Sports Participation After Positive Test or Symptoms of Covid-19**

Name of Student-Athlete \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

County of Student-Athlete Residence \_\_\_\_\_ County of School \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Initial Symptoms \_\_\_\_\_ Covid-19 Tested? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT IF ATHLETE IS SICK OR EXPOSED**

- Any student-athlete that has symptoms and/or fever should not participate in any activity (meetings, practice, competition) and begin self-quarantine immediately.
  - Ensure that student-athletes with a positive COVID test (even if no symptoms) do not return to participation in training or competition until:
    - At least 10 days have passed since positive test; AND
    - No fever (fever is temp of 100.4°F or more) without the use of fever-reducing medicine for at least 24 hours; AND
    - COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) have improved;
    - Athletes may not return earlier if negative follow-up testing (cannot test out of isolation).
  - Ensure that student-athletes with probable COVID (symptoms of COVID— refer to [symptom chart](#)— but not tested), not be allowed to participate in any training or event until:
    - At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
    - No fever (fever is temp of 100.4°F or more) without the use of fever-reducing medicine for at least 24 hours; AND
    - COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) have improved.
- Any student-athlete that has “close contact” (teammate, household, classroom, work, girlfriend/boyfriend, friend – someone with over 15 minutes of exposure within 6 feet) should begin self-quarantine immediately.
  - If the student-athlete that was exposed previously had COVID (with a hard copy PCR test) in the last 3 months and that student is asymptomatic, then there is no need to continue self-quarantine restrictions.
  - If the student-athlete that was exposed previously had “presumed” COVID (illness but not tested) in the last 3 months, then must continue with self-quarantine restrictions described below. **[NOTE: During the WIAA Tournament series quarantine shall be 14 days.]**
  - “Close contact” to an individual with a positive COVID test, student-athletes should not return until:
    - They have waited at least 10 days from last exposure to the infected person; AND
    - Have no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; AND
    - No COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) reported during daily monitoring.
    - Athletes may return after day 7 if:
      1. No symptoms were reported during daily monitoring; AND
      2. The person has a negative PCR test obtained on day 6 or 7 of quarantine.
    - Daily symptom monitoring must continue for a full 14 days (post-quarantine transmission risk is estimated to be 1-10% after 10 days & 5-12% after 7 days with the above protocol).
    - The athlete must strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines, wearing a mask and avoiding gatherings for a full 14 days after exposure.
  - “Close exposure” to an individual with probable COVID (symptoms but not tested), student-athletes should not return until:
    - They have waited at least 10 days from last exposure to the infected person; AND **[NOTE: During the WIAA Tournament series quarantine shall be 14 days.]**
    - Have no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
    - No COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.)
    - If the individual with probable COVID is tested with a PCR test during the course of the quarantine:
      1. The PCR test comes back negative, then all individuals quarantined based on that exposure are free to return to participation if no fever and no symptoms.
      2. The test comes back positive, then all individuals must follow the directions above (close contact).
    - Athletes may return after day 7 if:
      1. No symptoms were reported during daily monitoring; AND
      2. The person being quarantined has a negative PCR test obtained on day 6 or 7 of quarantine.
- Athletes may decondition during their quarantine and may require additional time to get back to full speed.

I have reviewed the WIAA guidelines for return to participation for this athlete, and provide medical clearance to return as defined by the above guidelines.

Provider Name \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_  
(MD, DO, PA, NP)

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Provider Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# SPORT-SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPRING SPORTS

## BASEBALL

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### Equipment:

- **Batting helmet** – Players should use their own batting helmet.
- **Baseball bat** – When possible, players should use their own baseball/softball bat and not share bats.
- **Catching equipment** – Players should use their own catching equipment.
- **Baseballs need to be sanitized** – Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
  - In the event that a game ball goes out of play, the defensive team is responsible to retrieve the ball and provide another ball to the catcher for inspection by the plate umpire.
- **Maintenance equipment (rakes, bases, paint sprayer, tractor to drag field, etc.)** – Daily cleaning and disinfection are recommended.
- **Dugouts** – No dugouts should be used during practice. Players' items should be lined up outside and against the fence at least six feet apart. Dugouts should be permitted only during games, and may be extended, by NFHS rule, down the foul lines outside the playing area to allow for social distancing. Additionally, bleachers can be placed directly behind the dugouts for additional seating for team personnel. Players should maintain social distancing unless they are actively participating in the game.
  - Daily cleaning and disinfection is recommended.
- **What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using** – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing [EPA-registered disinfectants](#). Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

#### Practice and Game Protocol:

- **Practice** – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing chatting, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat. Workouts should be conducted in 'pods' of students, with the same 5-10 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- **Masks**
  - Masks are strongly encouraged upon arrival to the venue and until the official warm-ups have started or a player is competing.
  - Masks are strongly encouraged at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
    - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors when unable to socially distance.
    - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors when unable to socially distance.
- **Pitcher licking fingers** – If a pitcher touches their mouth, a dead ball is called and the pitcher must sanitize their hands. If they touch the ball after going to their mouth, call a dead ball, remove the ball from play to be sanitized and the pitcher sanitize their hands. Players may have 1 to 2 oz bottles of sanitizer in their baseball/softball pants and a 1 to 2 oz bottle of sanitizer may be left behind the pitchers' mound near a rosin bag.
- **Baseball habits** – Coaches should now work to create new habits including staying away from touching their face, not allowing sunflower seeds and not spitting.
- **Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes** – Players, coaches, and umpires are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. The WIAA SMAC recommends using hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each at bat and when going out to, and coming in from, the field. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their face.
- **Admission or Ticket Selling** – Ticket sellers/takers should follow similar guidelines to that of check-out personnel at retail stores. Where possible, stand behind a shield. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) frequently.

#### Other Hygiene Considerations

- Any equipment that is shared should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following each use and each meet. Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Each athlete should bring their own hydration/water bottles – no sharing.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use frequently – including before going on the competition field and after returning to the sideline.
- Emphasize to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.
- Spitting/nose clearing/coughing – All athletes and coaches are prohibited from spitting/nose clearing and must cover coughs.

#### General Reminders for Athletes

- **Personal Items** – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items.
- **Clothing/shoes/helmets** – Must not be shared among athletes. Any items that are not currently being worn should be stored inside a personal gym bag.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- **Water bottle** – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.



- Towels – Athletes should bring their own towels, if needed.
- Athletes should refrain from the removal of mouthguards while on the playing field. If mouthguards are removed on the sidelines or bench area, the athlete should use hand sanitizer each time after touching the mouthguard.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.

## **COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS**

### **WIAA Event Accountability**

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day, before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form, signed by the coach athletic director, acknowledging the tracing sheet's accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### **Competition Structure**

- Encourage only local, single opponent, single day competitions.
- Teams from the same school (varsity and JV) should remain on the same bench/dugout side.

### **Social Distancing**

- **Warm-ups/Stretching** – Maintain social distancing between players.
- **Congregating of Athletes and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the field, prior to game warm-ups, and immediately following the game.
- **Conferences** – Social distancing to be maintained as much as possible when the coach is communicating with the entire team or in smaller groups. All players and coaches should be encouraged to mask during huddles, especially non-active players.
- **Elimination of Team Handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing. Teams can acknowledge opponent with a tip of hat or a wave, or other appropriate non-contact measures.
- **National Anthem** – Align team members in a manner that allows them to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- **Interaction with Officials** – Coaches should maintain social distancing when interacting with an umpire or any other individual on the field. Substitutions and a general rules interpretation conversation can occur at social distance.
- **Pre-game** – One coach from each team and 2 umpires at home plate may have a meeting with the players remaining in the team dugout. Normal line-up exchange can take place.
- **Coin Toss** – If used, reduce the number of individuals at the coin toss.
- **Starting line-ups/Introductions** – Introduce from positions, after players have taken the field, and other athletes are socially distanced in the dugout.
- **Playing Field and Dugout area** – Allow only essential personnel on the playing field. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/trainers, and officials. Encourage facial coverings.
  - All others (i.e. managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be in the dugout or extended dugout area. Adhere to social distancing guidelines and encourage facial coverings.
  - Players should not leave the dugout to congratulate other players.
- **Extended Dugout** – Designate "places", within the dugout, for members of the team to be when they are not on the field. Consider paint and/or tape to help athletes recognize social distancing.
- **Substitutions** – Designate a safe area for players entering the game. Minimize contact with the umpires and with each other.
- **Media** – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend games. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving at games to plan appropriate entry and available workspace.
- **Press box** – Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the press box considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.
- **Departing the Field of Play (post game)** – The visiting team should depart the field immediately after the completion of the game, followed by the home team. Every effort should be made to ensure that a log-jam does not occur upon departure of the two teams.

### **Spectators**

- **Face covering requirements** – Event personnel, media, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- **Ticket sales** – If unable to eliminate on-site sales, consider steps to establish social distancing and provide a sanitization station. Ticket sellers/takers should follow similar guidelines to that of check-out personnel at retail stores. Where possible, stand behind a shield. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) frequently.
- **Pedestrian flow** – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- **Seating** – Establish a procedure for all indoor and outdoor venues that allows for social distancing guidelines. The number of spectators allowed must be in accordance with state/local regulations for gathering sizes. Limit the use of bleachers for fans.



Schools should encourage fans to bring their own chairs or stand. Fans should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.

### **Concessions**

- If opening/allowing, post signage at concessions stand for patrons to maintain social distancing of 6' between parties near food stand.
- Maintain a sanitize solution for wiping cloths during operations and increase cleaning/sanitizing frequency – especially high-contact surfaces such as equipment, utensils and countertops.
- Discontinue self-service operations for the public such as drink stations, condiment trays, cup/napkin/utensil dispensers and other amenities to help maintain infection control.
- Consider the use of fans or open (screened) windows to improve air circulation in smaller indoor stands.
- Use single-use condiment packets and avoid using shared condiment containers if possible.
- Consider barriers such as Plexiglass between employees and customers if practical.

### **UMPIRES CONSIDERATIONS**

**Umpires are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

- Cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged if no state or local mandate. Plate umpires should wear masks due to their close proximity to catchers.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer and/or wash hands frequently. Gloves are permissible.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, and other apparel/equipment.
- Officials should use their own water bottles.

### **COACHES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount.
- Communicate expectations regarding minimizing the spread of the virus and the habits that will contribute.
- Remind players to use hand sanitizer when prior to going on the competition field and after returning to the sideline.
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the competition venue.

### **FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- Before, during, and after the contest, players, coaches, officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and disinfect their hands as often as possible.
- Maintain social distancing at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- Everyone should have their own beverage bottles that are not shared.
- Cloth coverings are recommended for all coaches and team staff for all game administration.
- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration.
- Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.
- If possible, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
- Covid-19 Resources on WIAA web site: <https://www.wiaawi.org/Health/COVID-19-Resources>

# GOLF

## EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Course and Other Equipment

- Players should not touch the flagstick, bunker rakes or ball cleaning devices on the course.
- Attending the flagstick—the flag stick shall remain in for all events. No players or coaches shall touch the flagstick and coaches will not be allowed on the greens.
- Coaches can continue to use carts when allowed – course management is responsible for sanitizing carts before and after use.
- Players should use their own equipment and golf balls. Players should not touch another player's equipment or golf balls.
- Gloves may be worn by athletes if desired.

### Hole/Cups

- Cup types shall be determined by the course management. Use of regular cups, cups with Styrofoam noodle ends or up-side-down cups, etc., are all allowed.

### Hygiene Considerations

- Any equipment that is shared should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following each use and each meet. Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use frequently.
- Emphasize to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.
- Spitting/Nose Clearing/Coughing – All athletes and coaches are prohibited from spitting/nose clearing and must cover coughs.
- Athletes, coaches and staff should avoid touching doors, gates, fences, benches or other schools' equipment.

### General Reminders for Athletes

- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of the event. No shared clothing/shoes.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- Water bottle – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.

## COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS

### WIAA Event Accountability

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day, before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form, signed by the coach athletic director, acknowledging the tracing sheet's accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### Competition Structure

- Consider scheduling adjustments to reduce the number of events, duration and/or participants present.
- Contests that require less travel when possible should be considered.

### Practice Range and Greens

- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing, chatting, or changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to hit.

### On Course Play

- Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others, i.e., managers, video people, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery remaining by the cart path (when present) or remaining at least 15 yards from the players.

### Media/Press Area

- All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend meets. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving.
- Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the designated press area considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.

### Coach Conferences

- Encourage limiting the number of individuals in a conference and/or huddle to those who must be in close proximity for these discussions. It is strongly encouraged that coaches wear a mask.

## **Masks**

- Masks are strongly encouraged upon arrival to the venue and until the official warm-ups have started or a player is competing.
- Masks are strongly encouraged to be appropriately worn at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.

## **Social Distancing**

- **Warm-ups/driving range**– Maintain social distance between athletes.
- **Congregating of Athletes and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the course, prior to warm-ups, and immediately following the competition.
- **Huddles** – Social distancing to be maintained, as much as possible, when the coach is communicating with the entire team, or in smaller groups.
- **Elimination of Handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing.
- **Tee Box** – Allow only essential personnel in the competition area. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/trainers, and marshal. All others (i.e. managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be on the course.

## **Spectators**

- Follow county guidelines on limiting spectators.
- **Face covering requirements** – Event personnel, media, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- **Pedestrian flow** – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.

### **COACHES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount.
- Communicate expectations regarding minimizing the spread of the virus and the habits that will contribute.
- Remind players to use hand sanitizer when prior to entering the course and after the last hole.
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the competition venue.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines:

[https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/course-care/covid-19-resource-center/back2golf/back2golf\\_operations\\_playbook-version4-0-june10-2020.pdf](https://www.usga.org/content/dam/usga/images/course-care/covid-19-resource-center/back2golf/back2golf_operations_playbook-version4-0-june10-2020.pdf)

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi\\_zfF4MchVFVpFxFxNx51D/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zfF4MchVFVpFxFxNx51D/pub)

# SOCCKER

## RULE CONSIDERATIONS

### Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)

- Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
- Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
- Masks must be worn if unable to socially distance.
- Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.

### Ball Holders (6-1)

- Follow social distancing guidelines.

### Team Benches (1-5-1)

- Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing guidelines.
- Encourage all athletes and sideline personnel to wear masks.

### Substitution Procedures (3-4)

- Maintain social distancing between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.

### Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)

- Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer, with recommended social distance guidelines.
- Encourage all individuals involved to wear masks.
- Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

### Equipment and Accessories (4-1)

- Cloth face coverings and neck gaiters/buffs are permissible for athletes to wear during play and encouraged for all athletes and sideline personnel.
- Gloves are permissible.

### Legal Uniform (4-2)

- Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
- Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
- Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)

## EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Masks

- Masks are strongly encouraged upon arrival to the venue and until the official warm-ups have started or a player is competing.
- Masks are strongly encouraged to be appropriately worn at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Athletes may use "buffs" or neck gaiters. Competitors may find that it is easier for them to mask-up when they feel they need to, and pull it back down without it dropping on the ground.

### Set-up and Breakdown Equipment

- Any equipment used for competition should be disinfected prior to and immediately following the game. Only one individual should handle the equipment on any given day (i.e. resistance bands, mats, cones/flags, etc.).

### Balls

- Sanitized before and after each game.
- Switching the ball at intervals during play, having multiple available on the sideline and sanitizing the ball that is removed from play, before entering it back into the game.
- If ball shaggers are used, they could disinfect the balls between use, and should wear a mask and gloves.

### Other Equipment

- Towels – Athletes and officials should bring their own towels, if needed.
- Foam Rollers, Resistance Bands, etc. – Should not be shared among athletes.

### Other Hygiene Considerations

- Any equipment that is shared should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following each use and each meet. Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use frequently.
- Emphasize to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.

- Spitting/Nose Clearing/Coughing – All athletes and coaches are prohibited from spitting/nose clearing and must cover coughs.
- Athletes, coaches and staff should avoid touching doors, gates, fences, benches or other schools' equipment.

### General Reminders for Athletes

- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of the event. No shared clothing/shoes.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- Water bottle – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.

## **COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS**

### WIAA Event Accountability

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day, before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form, signed by the coach athletic director, acknowledging the tracing sheet's accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### Competition Structure

- Encourage minimal travel, single opponents or tournaments with a maximum of 4 teams, and single day competitions.
- Teams from the same school (varsity and JV) should remain on the same sideline.

### Social Distancing

- **Warm-ups/Stretching** – Maintain social distancing between players.
- **Congregating of Athletes and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the field, prior to game warm-ups, and immediately following the game.
- **Huddles** – Social distancing to be maintained as much as possible when the coach is communicating with the entire team or in smaller groups. All players and coaches should be encouraged to mask during huddles, especially non-active players.
- **Elimination of Team Handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing.
- **National Anthem** – Align team members in a manner that allows them to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- **Interaction with Officials** – Coaches and officials should maintain social distancing when interacting
- **Coin Toss** – Eliminate and determine protocol (i.e., teams will defend the end of the field where their team bench is located for the first half. Home team will kick off in the first half, visiting team will kick off in the second half.)
  - Reduce the number of individuals at the coin toss.
- **Starting line-ups/Introductions** – Introduce from positions, after players have taken the field, and other athletes are socially distanced in the team box.
- **Playing Field and Sideline area**
  - Allow only essential personnel on the playing field. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/trainers, and officials. Encourage facial coverings.
  - All others (i.e. managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be on the field of play. Adhere to social distancing guidelines and encourage facial coverings.
- **Team Box** – Designate "places", within the team box, for members of the team to be when they are not on the field. Consider paint and/or tape to help athletes recognize social distancing.
- **Substitutions** – Designate a safe area for players entering the game. Minimize contact with the table and with each other.
- **Departing the Field of Play (post game)** – The visiting team should depart the field immediately after the completion of the game, followed by the home team. Every effort should be made to ensure that a log-jam does not occur upon departure of the two teams.

### Spectators

- Follow county guidelines on limiting spectators.
- **Face covering requirements** – Event personnel, media, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- **Ticket sales** – If unable to eliminate on-site sales, consider steps to establish social distancing and provide a sanitization station.
- **Pedestrian flow** – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- **Seating** – Establish a procedure for all indoor and outdoor venues that allows for social distancing guidelines. The number of spectators allowed must be in accordance with state/local regulations for gathering sizes.

## OFFICIALS CONSIDERATIONS

**Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

- By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (Rule 5-1-3)
- No sharing of game shirts or AR flags for competition.
- Encourage face covering/mask use for AR's who may be near to team benches and/or fans. Consider mask use for all officials during games.
- Electronic whistles are permissible. Bring an extra battery. Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
  - Fox 40 Mini
  - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic – 3 tone
  - Ergo-Guard (3 tone) –orange
  - Windsor (3 tone) – grey
  - Consider other similar items in marketplace
- Bring your own water bottle(s).
- Bring your own supplies (gear, pencil, headset, etc.).
- Coin Toss – check with game administration regarding their decision on the coin toss protocol.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently. Gloves are permissible.
- Eliminate hand shake and follow social distancing guidelines.

## COACHES CONSIDERATIONS

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount
- Communicate expectations regarding minimizing the spread of the virus and the habits that will contribute.
- Remind players to use hand sanitizer when prior to going on the competition field and after returning to the sideline.
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the competition venue.



# SOFTBALL

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Equipment

- **Batting helmet** – Players should use their own batting helmet. All batting helmets are required to be school colors or neutral (white, black, grey) colors. Only school logos, reward or commemorative stickers are allowed beyond the NFHS requirement (Rule 1-6-1 and 1-7-1).
- **Softball bat** – Players should use their own softball bat and not share bats.
- **Catching equipment** – Players should use their own catching equipment.
- **Softballs**
  - Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
  - Each team shall be responsible for supplying their own game balls (NFHS Approved):
    - At the conclusion of each half inning, the pitcher shall take the game ball with her to the dugout
    - To start each half inning, the catcher shall show the game ball to the plate umpire for visual inspection prior to the ball being used by the pitcher
    - In the event that a game ball goes out of play, the defensive team is responsible to retrieve the ball and provide another ball to the catcher for inspection by the plate umpire.
    - In the event that weather conditions or other damage create a need to change the ball out, the defensive team is responsible to provide another game ball.
- **Maintenance equipment (rakes, bases, paint sprayer, tractor to drag field, etc.)** – Daily cleaning and disinfection are recommended.
- **Dugouts** – No dugouts should be used during practice. Players' items should be lined up outside and against the fence at least six feet apart. Dugouts should be permitted only during games, and may be extended, by NFHS rule, down the foul lines outside the playing area to allow for social distancing. Additionally, bleachers can be placed directly behind the dugouts for additional seating for team personnel. Players should maintain social distancing unless they are actively participating in the game.
  - Daily cleaning and disinfection is recommended.
- **What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using** – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing [EPA-registered disinfectants](#). Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

### Practice and Game Protocols

- **Masks**
  - Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn upon arrival to the venue and until the official warm-ups have started or a player is competing.
  - Masks are strongly encouraged to be appropriately worn at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
    - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
    - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
    - Optic yellow masks are not allowed.
- **Practice** – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing chatting, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat. Workouts should be conducted in 'pods' of students, with the same 5-10 students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- **Softball habits**
  - Coaches should now work to create new habits including staying away from touching their face, not allowing sunflower seeds and not spitting.
  - Pitchers are prohibited from touching their mouth, licking their fingers or blowing into their hands prior to delivering a pitch. Any violation of this policy shall be called a "dead ball" immediately, the ball shall be removed from play, another game ball provided by the defensive team and the pitcher's hands shall be sanitized before play resumes. Players may have 1 to 2 oz bottles of sanitizer in their softball pants and a 1 to 2 oz bottle of sanitizer may be left behind the pitchers' mound near a rosin bag.
- **Media** – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend games. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving at games to plan appropriate entry and available workspace.
- **Press box** - Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the press box considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.
- **Umpire Interaction** – Coaches should consider social distancing guidelines (6 feet) when interacting with an umpire or any other individual on the field. Substitutions and a general rules interpretation conversation can occur at social distance. Pre-game: One coach from each team and 2 umpires at home plate may have a meeting with the players remaining in the team dugout. Normal line-up exchange can take place.
- **Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes** – Players, coaches, and umpires are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. The WIAA SMAC recommends using hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each at bat and when going out to, and coming in from, the field. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their face.

- **Admission or Ticket Selling** – Ticket sellers/takers should follow similar guidelines to that of check-out personnel at retail stores. Where possible, stand behind a shield. Wear a mask. Use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) frequently.

### COVID-19 Coach

- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that [social distancing](#) is maintained during training.

### General Reminders for Athletes

- **Personal Items** – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of the event. No shared clothing/shoes.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- **Water bottle** – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.
- **Gym Bag** – Supplies recommended for your personal gym bag:
  - A reusable facial mask should be worn when entering and exiting the venue.
  - Towels or other items that are normally used during practices will stay in your gym bag.
  - Personal bottle of hand sanitizer creates a smaller possibility of cross contamination and less time standing around waiting to use a shared bottle – be sure to have this inside a Ziploc bag, in case it leaks. This will be used before each game/practice and when entering and exiting the venue.
  - Athletic tape and any other tape you normally use during practice.
  - Personal water bottles for drinking
  - Your street shoes will also be stored in your gym bag, in a separate compartment or bag that is inside your gym bag. Preventing possible cross contamination with other items in the gym bag.
- \*\*Everything inside the gym bag must be disinfected after every practice – before you return to practice again. Be sure to spray the inside and the outside of the bag as well. This is for everyone’s protection.

## **COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS**

### WIAA Event Accountability

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form signed by the coach and athletic director acknowledging the tracing sheet’s accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### Competition Schedule

- Consider only local, single opponent, single day competitions
- Consider scheduling adjustments to reduce the number of events, duration and/or participants present.
- All personnel and spectators should follow social distancing guidelines.

### Competition Area

- Only essential personnel are permitted in the competitive area. These are defined as players, coaches, trainers, and judges. All others, i.e., managers, video personnel, media personnel, etc., are considered non-essential personnel and are to be outside of the competition area.

### Sidelines

- Players’ items should be lined up against the fence or in the bleachers at least six feet apart.

### Coach Conferences/Team Huddles

- Encourage limiting the number of individuals in a conference to those who must be in close proximity for these discussions.
- Team huddles should be conducted using mask guidelines and social distancing.

### Social Distancing

- **Warm-ups/Stretching** – Maintain social distance between athletes.
- **Congregating of Players and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the event, prior to warm-ups, and immediately following the meet.
  - No congregating of players while waiting in line for drills.
  - Players are not allowed to exit the dugout to congratulate teammates after a home run
- **Huddles** – Social distancing to be maintained, as much as possible, when the coach is communicating with the entire team, or in smaller groups.
- **Elimination of Handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing.
- **National Anthem** – Align team members in a manner that allows them to maintain social distance from others.

- **Interaction with Umpires** – Coaches should maintain social distance when interacting with umpires or any other event worker.
- **Seating Capacity/Configuration** – Teams, spectators, media, medical, event personnel. Consider tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.

#### Pre- and Post-Game Procedure

- Establish softball-specific social distancing competition protocols, including the elimination of handshakes, high fives, and huddles.
- Develop awards presentation procedures that maintain proper social distancing.

#### Hydration

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should NOT be utilized.

#### Spectators

- Follow county guidelines on limiting spectators.
- **Face covering requirements** – Event personnel, media, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- Ticket sales – If unable to eliminate on-site sales, consider steps to establish social distancing and provide a sanitization station.
- Pedestrian flow – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- Seating – Establish a procedure for all indoor and outdoor venues that allows for social distancing guidelines. The number of spectators allowed must be in accordance with state/local regulations for gathering sizes.

#### Concessions

- If opening/allowing, post signage at concessions stand for patrons to maintain social distancing of 6' between parties near food stand.
- Maintain a sanitize solution for wiping cloths during operations and increase cleaning/sanitizing frequency – especially high-contact surfaces such as equipment, utensils and countertops.
- Discontinue self-service operations for the public such as drink stations, condiment trays, cup/napkin/utensil dispensers and other amenities to help maintain infection control.
- Consider the use of fans or open (screened) windows to improve air circulation in smaller indoor stands.
- Use single-use condiment packets and avoid using shared condiment containers if possible.
- Consider barriers such as Plexiglass between employees and customers if practical.

#### **UMPIRES CONSIDERATIONS**

**Umpires are not responsible for monitoring activities outside the competitive area, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

- Cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged if no state or local mandate. Plate umpires should wear masks due to their close proximity to catchers. Optic yellow masks are not allowed.
- Eliminate any handshakes.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer and/or wash hands frequently. Gloves are permissible.
- Do not share equipment. Bring your own supplies.
- Umpires should use their own water bottles.
- Work with assignors and have backup umpires. Take your temperature before you leave for the event. Anything over 100.4 is considered unacceptable, and you are to notify the school that you will not be attending.
- Umpiring crews should not be changed during the course of an event. Keep the same partner(s) through the event.
- Umpires should not hand out ranking cards. Rely on the WIAA website.

#### **COACHES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount.
- Communicate expectations regarding minimizing the spread of the virus and the habits that will contribute.
  - Reinforce the need for athletes and team personnel to maintain social distance, wear masks, and not attend if exposed to someone with COVID or if ill themselves.
  - Remind players to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the competition area and after returning to the dugout.
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the practice/competition venue.
- Coaches should socially distance (3-6 feet) when interacting with an umpire or any other event worker. Conversations can occur at a distance.
- Learn more by taking the free online course: "COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators."

# TENNIS

## EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Tennis Balls

- A recent study determined that the surface of tennis balls unlikely harbor SARS-CoV-2 in a manner that is compatible with risk of developing COVID-19 from the ball during normal play. The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Sport Science and Medicine Commission, the USTA Sport Science Committee, and the USTA Medical Advisory Group support this conclusion. Consequently, there is no further need for tennis balls to be distributed to players with different numbered tennis balls.

### Masks

- Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn upon arrival to the venue and until the official warm-ups have started or a player is competing.
- Masks are strongly encouraged to be appropriately worn at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.

### Court and Other Equipment

- Players should use their own equipment and tennis balls. Players should not use or touch other players' equipment or tennis balls.
- Gloves may be worn by athletes if desired.

### Other Hygiene Considerations

- There should be no shared athletic equipment. Any equipment that is used should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following the meet. Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use frequently.
- Emphasize to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.
- Spitting/Nose Clearing/Coughing – All athletes and coaches are prohibited from spitting/nose clearing and must cover coughs.
- Athletes, coaches and staff should avoid touching doors, gates, fences, benches or other schools' equipment.

### General Reminders for Athletes

- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of the event. No shared clothing/shoes.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- Water bottle – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.

## COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS

### WIAA Event Accountability

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day, before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form, signed by the coach athletic director, acknowledging the tracing sheet's accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### Competition Structure

- Consider scheduling adjustments to reduce the number of events, duration and/or participants present.
- All personnel and spectators should follow social distancing guidelines.
- Follow USTA Guidelines: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/usta-statement-on-safety-of-playing-tennis-during-the-covid-19-v.html>.

### Courts and Sidelines

- Allow only essential personnel around the tennis courts. These are defined as players, coaches, medical personnel/athletic trainers, and officials. Strongly encourage facial coverings for athletes not actively participating.
- All others, (i.e., managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery or remaining outside the court area (behind the fence). Personnel must maintain social distancing guidelines and encouraged to wear masks.
- Consider using every other court.
- Consider having nine players with one coach on a bank of four courts.
- Consider staggered practices to limit the number of participants.
- Remain apart when taking a break and maintain social distancing if changing ends of the court.

### **Coach Conferences**

- Limit the number of individuals in a conference and/or huddle to those who must be in close proximity for these discussions. It is encouraged that coaches wear a mask.

### **Social Distancing**

- **Warm-ups/Stretching** – Maintain social distance between athletes.
- **Congregating of Athletes and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the venue, prior to practice, match or meet.
- **Elimination of Handshakes** – Teams may find other respectful ways to acknowledge each other before or after a competition, while maintaining social distancing.
- **Seating capacity/configuration** – Teams, spectators, media, medical, event personnel. Consider tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.

### **COACHES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount.
- Communicate expectations regarding minimizing the spread of the virus and the habits that will contribute.
- Remind players to use hand sanitizer when prior to going on the competition field and after returning to the sideline
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the competition venue.

# TRACK & FIELD

## RULE CONSIDERATIONS

**Rule 5-10-5** – The baton is the implement which is used in a relay race and is handed by each competitor to a succeeding teammate. Gloves are not permitted in relay events.

- Schools can bring their own batons, or they should be disinfected after each heat/race.

## EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Masks

- Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn upon arrival to the venue and until the athlete is competing.
- Masks are strongly encouraged to be appropriately worn at all times, particularly when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Coaches and officials are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks indoors and outdoors.
  - Athletes may use “buffs” or neck gaiters. Competitors may find that it is easier for them to mask-up when they feel they need to, and pull it back down without it dropping on the ground.

### COVID-19 Coach

- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- All coaches, staff, officials and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

### Set-up and Breakdown of Meet Equipment

- Any equipment used for competition should be disinfected prior to and immediately following. Only one individual should handle the equipment on any given day, or gloves should be worn for set up and take down.

### General Equipment

- There should be no shared athletic equipment (foam rollers, resistance bands, towels, etc.). Any equipment that is used for practice (untouched by athletes, such as cones) should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following practice.

### Implements

- Athletes should provide (or be assigned) their own implements and athletes should retrieve their own implement after all throws. Sanitize implements frequently.

### Mats

- Option 1 – Athletes are to provide their own disinfectant wipes (i.e. Purell wipes or hand sanitizer) to disinfect their hands/arms/legs after each jump or vault, or
- Option 2 – Host should cover mats with a tarp that is removed and disinfected after each athlete (multiple tarps would be needed).

### Blocks/Batons/Vault Poles

- If shared, these items should be disinfected between athletes as well as before and after each meet.

### Clothing/Shoes

- Must not be shared among athletes. Any items that are not currently being worn should be stored inside a personal gym bag. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of practice/competition.

### Other Hygiene Considerations

- Any equipment that is shared should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following each use and each meet. Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use frequently.
- Emphasize to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.
- Spitting/Nose Clearing/Coughing – All athletes and coaches are prohibited from spitting/nose clearing and must cover coughs.
- Athletes, coaches and staff should avoid touching doors, gates, fences, benches or other schools' equipment.

### General Reminders for Athletes

- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of the event. No shared clothing/shoes.
- Athletes are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and use frequently.
- Water bottle – All athletes shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.

## COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS



### WIAA Event Accountability

- A tracing sheet and verification form shall be kept of all individuals traveling with the team to the contest verifying that the traveling party has been prescreened that day, before departure.
- When departing for the contest, coaches take their tracing sheet and verification form, signed by the coach athletic director, acknowledging the tracing sheet's accuracy. If a coach cannot, or does not produce the tracing sheet when verification is requested, it shall be reported to the WIAA office by the opposing coach.

### Competition Structure

- Encourage minimal travel and single-day competitions.
- Consider single opponents (dual meets), but invitationals can host 8 teams.
  - Ensure that all teams have their own area removed from other teams.
  - Consider splitting boys and girls teams at different locations.
  - Consider splitting levels (varsity, nonvarsity) at different locations.

### Event Information

- Throwing events – Enforce social distancing for all athletes and officials. To limit contact, athletes can provide their own implements (that pass inspection) and retrieve their own implements after all throws. If athletes cannot provide their own implements, then it is recommended that implements be sanitized between each use.
- Jumping events – Enforce social distancing for all athletes and officials. To lower the risk of these events, meets (practices) can cover pits by a tarp that is removed and disinfected after each athlete (therefore, multiple tarps may be needed for appropriate event pace). To limit contact, athletes should not share vaulting poles unless disinfected after each use. (See additional disinfection information on previous page.)
- Sprint, Hurdle and relay events should be run entirely in lanes (may use every other lane to assist with distancing).
  - Any equipment that is shared should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following each use and each meet.
  - Do not use baskets at start line for apparel.
  - Recommendations for students to wear a cloth facial covering when not actively competing.
- Middle Distance and distance races on the track of 800m and longer (any event not run entirely in lanes) are considered moderate risk activities if conducted under normal circumstances.

### Social Distancing

- **Warm-ups/Stretching** – Maintain social distancing between athletes.
- **Congregating of Athletes and/or Coaches** – Discourage congregating upon arrival to the field, prior to warm-ups, and immediately following the race/event.
- **Huddles** – Social distancing to be maintained as much as possible when the coach is communicating with athletes. All athletes and coaches should be encouraged to mask during huddles.
- **National Anthem** – Align team members in a manner that allows them to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- **Interaction with Officials** – Coaches and officials should maintain social distancing when interacting.
- **Competition Areas**
  - Allow only essential personnel to be present in the practice/competition areas. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/trainers, and officials. Encourage facial coverings.
  - All others (i.e. managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be in the competition areas. Adhere to social distancing guidelines and encourage facial coverings.

### Spectators

- Follow county guidelines on limiting spectators.
- **Face covering requirements** – Event personnel, media, and spectators are strongly encouraged to wear masks when moving or unable to socially distance.
  - Consider having masks available to purchase or to provide for those who may have forgotten to bring one.
- **Ticket sales** – If unable to eliminate on-site sales, consider steps to establish social distancing and provide a sanitization station.
- **Pedestrian flow** – Create protocols and signage to address ingress and egress areas and high traffic areas to avoid congestion. Consider using stanchions, tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- **Seating** – Establish a procedure for all indoor and outdoor venues that allows for social distancing guidelines. The number of spectators allowed must be in accordance with state/local regulations for gathering sizes.

### **OFFICIALS CONSIDERATIONS**

**Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently.
- Bring your own water bottle.
- Don't share equipment. Bring your own supplies.

- Follow social distancing guidelines.
  - Pre and Post meet conferences.
  - Tabulations and posting of results.
- Consider using an electronic whistle
- Do not shake hands and follow pre- and post-game ceremony guidelines.
- Cloth face coverings are strongly encouraged, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.

#### **COACHES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Coaches are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Athlete safety is paramount.
- Communicate expectations regarding finish line and chute protocol.
  - Minimizing contact with other runners is paramount. Discussions must encompass behaviors of the athletes when they cross the finish line – i.e. falling to the ground and spitting/nose clearing.
- Follow the CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting the practice/competition venue.

#### **ATHLETES CONSIDERATIONS**

- Athletes are strongly encouraged to wear masks at all times, especially when unable to maintain social distancing.
- Be responsible for your own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Tell coaches immediately when you are not feeling well.
- It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items. All personal items should remain in the gym bag when not in use. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of practice.

#### **PARENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 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.
  - Gym bag
  - Communicate with your child, ways to keep their items separate from others, and emphasize the importance of the guidelines that are being provided.