



OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT RETURN TO PLAY TOPICS

This document was released on July 29, 2020. Over time this document will change – please check back frequently for updates. The first four pages of this document feature easy-to-understand overviews of Fall 2020 COVID-document related guidelines. For more detailed answers, read this entire packet. Fall athletics will not be risk-free, but by following the guidance in this document we all can help mitigate those risks. We also ask that you consider your interactions outside of sports during this season in order to limit the potential for exposure in other portions of your daily routine.

PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE CASES: A detailed and more complete version of these protocols can be found on page five of this document (“What to Do When Someone Gets Sick”).

1. Contact health department and follow guidance.
2. Close contacts MAY have to quarantine for 14 days – follow health department guidance. “Close contact” is defined as anyone who was less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes, at any point from two days before symptoms until the time the individual is isolated.
3. Notify all schools, families and officials involved without identifying the person involved.
4. Student, coaches, officials and others at the event but NOT in close contact should be closely monitored for symptoms and may not need testing. Follow health department guidance.
5. Clean the area.

FACE COVERINGS: Athletes while participating on the field/court are not required to wear face coverings but are permitted to do so. Bench personnel are required to wear face coverings at all times – this includes athletes not currently in the game, coaches, managers, trainers, statisticians, media and anyone else on the sideline. It is recommended that game officials wear face coverings, but it is not required when carrying out their duties. Contest management, school administrators, media and all staff are required to wear face coverings. Spectators are also required to wear face coverings.

REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS, INVITATIONALS, MULTI-TEAM COMPETITIONS: The following limitations are in place for regular season fall tournaments and invitationals, both home and away. Regular season dual/head-to-head matchups, between multiple levels of two different schools, are not affected.

- Cross Country – maximum of 70 runners are allowed in a race
- Golf – maximum of 72 competitors at an 18-hole site
- Football – two teams at a site
- Soccer – four teams at a site
- Swimming & Diving – four teams at a site
- Tennis – four teams at a site
- Volleyball – four teams at a site

When determining the number of teams present at a tournament, count the school’s varsity team as one team, and its JV team as a second team. The goal is to achieve physical distancing at all possible times; teams not in competition should be provided adequate space, and spectator limitations must be followed. Consider staggered contest and team arrival times to maintain physical distancing.

SCRIMMAGES: There are no scrimmages allowed for any sports this fall.

SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS: Spectators will be limited. The number of spectators and individuals allowed for indoor and outdoor events will be based on future guidance from the governor's office, and will be posted prior to the first dates of competition.

ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES: Consider strategies to prevent groups from gathering at entrances/exits to facilities to limit crossover and contact, including staggering starting/ending times.

PRE-WORKOUT AND PRE-GAME SCREENING: All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including with a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature of greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential. Any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate, should self-isolate, and contact his or her primary care provider or other health-care professional. Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adult individuals should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.

COVID GAME CANCELLATIONS: Except for football, any game cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no play provided the contest has not started. For official's payment purposes this is considered an act of God.

TICKETS: Schools should strongly consider using a digital ticket or cashless system. Schools must work together to develop a distribution plan for the limited amount of tickets available per game. If a physical ticket is used, each school should consider conducting a pre-sale, with no on-site ticket sales – only tickets, not money, is collected at the event site.

TRANSPORTATION: The use of buses is a local school district decision. Cleaning and ability to physical distance should be part of the decision. Schools should also consider length of trips when determining the season schedule. When feasible, consider having parents drive athletes to and from games.

LOCKER ROOMS: Home teams are not required to offer locker room access. Visiting teams should arrive dressed and ready to play. Locker room restrooms should be available, and a cleaning schedule should be created.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Have an action plan ready for outdoor sports that go into a weather delay. Determine where teams should go in the case of lightning or thunder.

FACILITY CLEANING: Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities. Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (bleachers, chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.). Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds before participating in workouts. Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.

CONCESSIONS: Schools should consider closing concessions stands, especially when there are limited spectators.

BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ATHLETES – THIS IS NOT SPORT SPECIFIC

Administrators/Host Management

- Administrators must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Obtain officials' information in order to trace contacts if necessary. (This information may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- At larger spectator events, consider providing volunteers to monitor entrances and spectator seating areas who can promote physical distancing and face coverings.
- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 3-6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available on site with devices sanitized between uses.

Coaches

- Coaches must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Provide and review NFHS Playing Rule modifications with players and parents.

Officials

- Officials must practice physical distancing, and it is recommended they wear face coverings.
- Electronic whistles are permitted.
- Officials must come dressed to officiate; a locker room will not be provided.
- Officials should bring their own food and water, and their own pen to sign lineup sheets, scorebooks, etc.
- Officials will not be expected to monitor physical distancing; each person is responsible.

Spectators

- Spectators must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Entrance and exit protocols, and posted signs by host management must be obeyed.

Media Personnel

- Media must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Press box/table accommodations should allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Promote to local media the need to call in advance of the event to secure accommodations.
- Designate locations where photographers may shoot from and enforce it. Make sure photographers are aware of restrictions when they arrive. Photographers must be kept out of team box (football) and bench areas (basketball, volleyball, other sports).
- Limit postgame interviews to open air areas. No locker room access.
- Establish times when the venue will become available to the media and when it will close.



Updated 07/28/20

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Precautionary Measures (in addition to other protocols and precautions)

- Anyone attending or participating in an MHSAA regular season or tournament event should check his/her temperature before arriving. Spectators, participants or personnel displaying COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., *fever, cough or shortness of breath*), or with temperatures of 100.3F or greater, should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms persist.
- Prior to participation, the COVID-19 athlete/coach monitoring form should be used, which includes five questions plus a temperature check. **NOTE: Athletic Directors should consider requiring similar precautions for game officials.**

Protocol for Suspected Cases of COVID-19

- All schools should have an emergency action plan in place for each site. If a student, coach or official is or becomes sick on site with symptoms of COVID-19, they should be placed in a clearly identified and designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they can be picked up. Staff who are identified to care for students must wear a mask.
- A symptomatic student should be sent home with a parent or designated adult until they have tested negative or have been released from isolation according to the local health department's protocols.
- Students, coaches, and/or officials should be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact or ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being brought to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19. If a student, coach or official becomes sick, they must not use group transportation to return home.

Protocol for Positive Cases of COVID-19

- The local health department should be contacted by the school for further direction. They likely will initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practices.
- All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and collect the contact information for any close contacts (*i.e., individuals less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes*) of the infected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last at the event. Close contacts should be quarantined for 14 days at home. Local health officials may identify other contacts who require quarantine.
- Administrators of the schools involved, as well as students/families/officials in attendance, should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 so there continues to be awareness and close observation of any symptoms. **NOTE: Student communicable disease related information is protected health information. The individual with COVID-19 should not be identified by name to non-family or non-health department officials. Even if a family/student acknowledges and publicly discloses a positive test, school staff and officials must not participate in discussion or acknowledgement of a positive test by identifying a specific student.**
- Students, coaches or officials who were at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, should continue to be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, these individuals are not required to receive testing unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Areas that were used by the sick person should be closed off and should not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting them (this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area). If possible, cleaning and disinfecting of the area should not occur until at least 24 hours has elapsed. If 24 hours is not feasible, as much time possible should be allowed to pass before cleaning or disinfection occurs.



SPORT: Girls Golf
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Considering all recommendations by the [MISafeSchools Return to School Roadmap](#), [MHSAA Re-Opening Guidelines](#) and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committees, the following are the specific guidelines for Golf:

The MHSAA/NFHS Guidance For Re-Opening School Sports lists Golf as a low risk sport.

Low risk sports can be done with physical distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors.

Competition and Spectator Limitations

- 2020 Fall regular season tournament competition limit – no more than 72 competitors at a site.
- No scrimmages allowed.
- Spectators will be limited. The number of spectators and individuals allowed for indoor and outdoor events will be based on future guidance from the governor’s office, and will be posted prior to the first dates of competition.

Special Equipment and Facility Considerations for Girls Golf

Sports Equipment	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Balls• Clubs• Tees• Ball Markers• Bags• Towels• Water Bottles• Scorecards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flags, Pins• Bunker Rakes• Ball Cleaning Devices• Carts• Bathrooms• Warm-Up Areas (Driving Range, Chipping/Putting Green, Practice Bunker)• Clubhouse

GIRLS GOLF – Return to Play Guidelines

PRACTICE

- Team Meetings prior to Practice- Observe social distancing/ wearing of face masks recommended.
- Handouts/Rule Books- use of online materials, emails and other electronic communication is recommended
- Hydration/Food, Snacks- All players must provide their own water bottles or drinks and snacks. There is to be no sharing of food or drink. Also, public drinking facilities should not be used. Coaches should not provide food or drink to players.
- Workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone becomes ill.
- When engaging in multiple drills or stations, ensure that players are properly spaced out and there is no congregating of players while waiting to hit or perform drills.
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times.
- There should be no shared athletic equipment (towels, clothing, shoes, rangefinders or specific equipment) between students.
- Do not touch flagsticks, rakes in the bunker or ball cleaning devices during practices unless they are sanitized after contact.
- Players should only touch and use their own golf ball and not touch other players golf balls or equipment.
- Players licking fingers – If a golfer touches their mouth, practice is stopped and the player must sanitize their hands.
- Students should wear their own appropriate clothing (do not share clothing.)
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual. Cleaning/ sanitizing supplies should be readily available on site.
- Coach Modeling- Coaches should be great role models for their players and observe all of the stay safe, stay healthy guidelines.
- Player habits – Coaches should work to continue to reinforce safe and healthy habits. This includes staying away from touching their face, social distancing of 6 feet between individuals, and constant hand washing.
- Masks – Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are required to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing. If an individual would like to wear a mask on the playing course or in a meeting, they may do so. There is no prohibition on the color of the mask. Spectators, workers, and others are required to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes – Players, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes.

COMPETITION

- Field size should not exceed 72 competitors at a course. Player groupings of no more than threesomes are recommended.
- Team issued uniforms, umbrellas, golf bags, competition golf balls, towels, etc. must be sanitized before handing out and if possible, players would be advised to use their own equipment or keep it for the duration of the season.
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- Provide clear instruction regarding suggested arrival time and protocols for clubhouse, restrooms and practice facilities. When using the restroom, maintain social distancing while waiting and avoid congregating in the rest room.
- Arrivals of participants are not be prior to 30 minutes before tee time (limit practice time).

- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- All players are encouraged to have their own hand sanitizer in addition to what coach has available.
- Masks – Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are required to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain physical distancing. If an individual would like to wear a mask on the playing course or in a meeting, they may do so. There is no prohibition on the color of the mask. Spectators, workers, and others are required to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Consideration should be given to limiting or restricting access to driving ranges and putting greens.
- Warm-up facilities-Coaches are responsible for ensuring physical distancing is maintained. Host school should set up practice facilities to ensure physical distancing.
- Range Balls should be sanitized if possible prior to being put on range.
- Coaches carts should be sanitized prior to use and there use may be restricted.
- No gathering points for registration.
- Coaches meeting- It is encouraged that coaches wear a mask and social distancing is set up.
- Coaches coffee and donuts during coaches meeting should not be shared and may have to be eliminated.
- Handouts/Tournament information/ Local rules given to coaches via electronic communication or verbally at the coaches meeting. Team packets may have to be eliminated or reduced.
- Players meetings should be changed and/or cancelled instead relying upon each coach to share tournament information to their players in a physically distanced manner while everyone wears a mask.
- If players meetings do become necessary, face coverings must be worn during any players meeting.
- No pre-match and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- Consideration should be given to reducing the amount of shuttling between and to holes.
- Consideration should be given to not exchanging scorecards but instead using electronic scoring via cell phone if available. This includes programs like iWanamaker, BirdieFire and Golf Genius to score events. A process for verifying, collecting player and team scores should be determined prior to competition by administration and/or coaches.
- Consideration should be given to alternative end of round procedures to ensure golfers do not congregate.
- Golf equipment – Players should use their own equipment and golf balls. Players should not touch other players equipment or golf balls.
- Course equipment – Players should not touch the flagstick, bunker rakes or ball cleaning devices on the course.
- All players shall bring their own water bottle or drinks. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Public water facilities should NOT be utilized. Bottled water or individual water bottles should be used.
- Use of team coolers is not recommended.

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 25 yards from the players.
- Shotgun starts are allowed with strict social distancing and staging that eliminates the potential for large gatherings. Alternative tee time starts are still recommended.
- Gatherings no larger than 72 players may be held, though it is recommended to keep these gatherings to a minimum. (ex. scoreboard area, clubhouse, registration, etc.).
- Award ceremonies may have to be modified or eliminated. No gathering points for awards ceremony. Functions may be held following physical distancing protocol and local guidelines.

GIRLS GOLF – USGA/PGA Playing Rule Modifications

- Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines:
 - USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook - <https://www.usga.org/course-care/covid-19-resource-center.html>
 - PGA Jr. League Guidelines - https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvlq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zfF4MchVFVpFxFxNx51D/pub

