

Covid-19 Return to Play Question and Answer



What is the definition of formal competition?

The start of the fall contest season in accordance with the IHSAA Calendar.

Is a Summer scrimmage a Formal Competition? No, formal Competition coincides with the start of the fall contest season.

What's the definition of contact sports?

In the NFHS return to play guidance, football is the only Indiana sport listed as a contact sport.

Are student managers considered essential? Yes, student managers could be considered essential. (Student Participant)

Are volunteer coaches essential? Yes, volunteer coaches could be considered essential. (Coaches)

Are officials considered essential during Phase II? Yes

If a student answers yes to having sustained a concussion, been unconscious or lost memory from a blow to the head – then they would need a new physical even if we have documentation that they were cleared to play? Yes, a 2020-21 Pre-participation physical would be required.

Is there a timeline for Health History questions on that form or is it, have you ever had these health issues? i.e. Would that include a concussion they may have had a year or two ago from which they have been cleared and been participating since then. Health History questions should only focus medical events occurring since the date of the 2019-20 participation physical examination.

Do Pre-Participation Physicals forms need to be in by 1st official day of practice or by the July 6th date? The recommendation is for the form to be returned prior to the July 6th participation date. The form is required to be turned in by the first official day of Practice.

Is the IHSAA Health History Consent form required prior to July 6th, or prior to first official practice? The recommendation is for the form to be returned prior to the July 6th participation date. The form is required to be turned in by the first official day of Practice.

Do incoming freshmen who received a pre-participation physical on an 2019-20 IHSAA form in 8th grade require a new physical for 2020-21 school year? No, only a 2020-21 Health History update is required.

What about changes to the 2020-21 physical form? Will any be made to the packet? (i.e. consent and release changes, you've mentioned?) The most recent version of the Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form can be located on myIHSAA.

Can any one student athlete go to basketball conditioning and football conditioning on the same day? Only one 2-hour conditioning session is permitted per day. It would be permissible to split this time between two different sports.

If a student is a 2-sport student athlete (volleyball and basketball) can they attend a contact session/practice in the morning with basketball and then another contact session/practice that afternoon with volleyball or are they limited to only one activity per day? [A student athlete could attend two different sport specific activities in the same day. However, a student athlete is still limited to a total of 15 hours for the week.](#)

May teams schedule multiple activity sessions of 3 hours per day or is offering multiple sessions only for conditioning? (i.e. on the same day, may a basketball coach offer activity sessions for 9-10 graders between 9:00-12:00, and 11-12 graders between 1:00-4:00). [Yes, you can offer multiple activity sessions for the same sport in the same day. The 15 hour limit applies to the student athlete not the program.](#)

How does classroom ("chalk talk") time for a particular sport figure into the formula during Phase 1? (Would probably mostly apply to football). I assume any sport-specific classroom time would come out of the 15 total hours for the week. Would it also come out of the sport activity time? We will almost certainly do any classroom time virtually but are curious just in case. [Classroom activity should be included in the allotted 15 hours.](#)

Can an athlete have a conditioning day and an activity day on the same day? Example: Weights in the morning, then a basketball open gym in the evening. [Yes](#)

If you have 2 groups for volleyball, then those groups would have to be separated by cleaning processes? [Yes](#)

Phase I says non-consecutive days for sport activity. Is that the same for conditioning days? [No, 2-hour conditioning sessions could take place 4 consecutive days.](#)

Can a multi-sport athlete attend more than 2 activity days a week? [Yes, 15 hours per week limit.](#)

If a coach has 2 sport-specific activities and then works 1 on 1 with another player another day, is that allowed? [Yes, the activity days are applied to the student athlete not the program.](#)

Is Cross Country okay to workout 4 days a week in Phase I? [Yes, running is considered a conditioning activity.](#)

Are schools allowed to have athletes in their facilities July 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Since Moratorium is waved and schools are allowed to reopen, we were planning on coming back then. Phase 1 from the IDOE says July 6th. [The new information changes the original published start date of July 1st to July 6th.](#)

Does Phase II end on August 14th? It says it is from July 20th to August 15th, but then it says Phase III begins on August 15th in Appendix C. [Phase II ends August 14th and Phase III begins on August 15th](#)

During Phase 1, it says there is no contact for contact sports. What about basketball and soccer? For example, in basketball, can student athletes play 3 on 3? Does that count as contact? [According to the NFHS return to play guidance Football is the only defined contact sport Indiana participates in. Therefore, all other sports can participate as they have in the past \(Yes, basketball could play 3 on 3\)](#)

Can the basketball team do 5 on 5 activities during Phase I? [Yes, according to the in NFHS basketball is not listed as a contact sport.](#)

In Phase I can basketball engage in drills that would require contact, block out drills, 1 on 1, 3 on 3 etc.? [Yes](#)

Can soccer and basketball teams have intersquad scrimmages in Phase I? [Yes](#)

During Phase II, contact is allowed, and it can be "normal summer". Does that mean football could do 11 on 11 in addition to 7 on 7 as long as no parents are there? [Yes, in Phase II schools can return to normal summer activities. However, The Indiana Football Coaches Association is recommending that no off-campus activities take place with other schools.](#)

The NFHS guidelines stipulated a max number of athletes in Phase I and II at any one team practice with smaller cohort groups; is this number now a local decision? [Small group size should be defined at a local level in accordance with the size of the facility being used.](#)

How do we determine "capacity" of a locker room? Square Footage? # of Lockers? [The capacity of a facility is a local decision.](#)

Is there a set small group number for indoor/outdoor sports? [Small group size should be defined at a local level in accordance with the size of the facility being used.](#)

Can golf parents attend matches during Phase 2? [Yes, current social distancing guidelines should be followed.](#)

Our Football Scrimmage is set for Aug 14th? Does it need to be moved? [A Football scrimmage can be held on August 14th \(Phase II\) with only essential personnel present. Scrimmage on August 15th \(Phase III\) could be held with fans in attendance.](#)

Our Girls Basketball coach and our team are registered for the D1 Team Camp scheduled for July 20-22 at St. Francis College in Ft. Wayne. Is this an allowable activity during Phase II or is it considered a formal competition? [Yes, your student athletes can attend a team camp during Phase II.](#)

Are there any restrictions for schools to run a team camp after July 20th other than what has been sent out? [There are no additional restrictions.](#)

Is holding a Football dummy while another student athlete blocks it considered a personal contact? [No, this would be a permitted activity in Phase I.](#)

Disinfecting of equipment/balls done in between each touch or each session? [At a minimum cleaning/disinfecting should be done at the beginning and end of each session.](#)

Is the staff wearing face masks after Phase III starts a requirement or recommendation? In other words, will penalties be assessed to coaches not wearing them during contests? [Appendix C states that face](#)

coverings should be worn by Non-Students, Coaches, Medical-Related Staff, Directors, Security Staff, Supervisors, etc.. No penalty will be assessed by the IHSAA or a contest official if a mask is not worn.

What is COVID-19 impacted attendance? Coaches need to track it. District/School Administration must be informed if a student athlete is excluded from participation by a coach because of a suspected COVID-19 infection.

Are screening questions required on a daily basis or can it be done weekly? Screenings should take place daily and attendance should be kept.

My trainer says that they are not taking temps, on his day job. Unless we are told differently, we are not going to take temps. Taking temperatures of student athletes is a local decision.

Does the return to practice rule (9-14) get added on if we are shut down for x# days because a confirmed case? Yes, the practice requirement listed in by-law 9-14 will not be waived.

If we are hosting youth organizations on our facilities after July 6, do we need to enforce on them those rules? Or should they not be on our facilities since we cannot even have a contest until 8/15? The decision to open facilities for youth activities on a school's campus is a local decision. Many times, the only youth baseball field in a community is located on school grounds.

Suggestions to help guide us with concession sales after 8/15. States only pre-packaged. Can we get more of a definition? Thinking about fountain drinks/popcorn/etc.. Additional information has been requested on the definition of pre-packaged. Updated information will be sent out once received.

Our insurance carrier will not cover outside groups using our facility and they like AAU groups are having trouble finding coverage. Insurance information and/or requirements should be disseminated from central office administration or your school's carrier of record.

Any word if Marion and possibly other counties may be delayed as has been the case throughout re-opening guidelines? At this time, we have no information about any counties being delayed past the July 6th Phase I opening.

Would a summer advanced PE class time count towards the 15 hours for the week? No, IHSAA summertime limits during Phase I would not supersede educational requirements for a class.

If a neighboring state stays virtual, can students transfer to IHSAA school with full eligibility? No exceptions will be granted for this scenario. Transferring students must follow all current by-laws and transfer processes.

If our school offers the option of virtual education this fall and a student chooses to participate in that, is he eligible to play athletics at our school? If so, what are the stipulations for doing so? Student Athletes would still need to comply with IHSAA By-Law 12-6. A student would not gain eligibility until they complete at least one (1) full semester of virtual education and would need to be enrolled in at least one (1) full credit subject offered at the school.

12-6 - Enrollment in a Virtual Education School

If a student attends a Virtual Education School, the student may have eligibility to participate in the athletic program at the Public School Serving the Student's Residence, provided that:

a. the student is accepted into the athletic program of the Public School Serving the Student's Residence,

b. the Virtual Education School and the student provide evidence to the Public School Serving the Student's Residence that:

(1.) the student first began high school as a freshman at the Virtual Education School as a freshman, or the student has already attended the Virtual Education School for at least One (1) full semester, trimester, or the equivalent, and during that semester, trimester, or the equivalent, the student was Enrolled in, and successfully passed, the necessary number of courses at the Virtual Education School, under the requirements of rule 18-1, (2.) the student is currently Enrolled Full-time at the Virtual Education School and is taking the necessary number of courses at the Virtual Education School, under the requirements of rule 18-1,

(2.) during the time period between the end of the Virtual Public School's designated Grading Period(s) and the Eligibility Certification Date(s) of the Public School Serving the Student's Residence, the student passed the minimum number of full credit courses required under rule 18-1,

(3.) the student regularly attends the courses.

c. The student is Enrolled at and is attending a minimum of One (1) full credit subject offered within the Public School Serving the Student's Residence.