APPENDIX III



**2020-21 Officials Considerations for Returning to Officiating**

In support of the Guidance for State Associations to Consider in Re-opening High School Athletics and Other Activities document released last month by the NFHS, the NFHS Officials Advisory Committee offers these considerations for state associations for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. These considerations are meant to cover officials in all sports while keeping in mind that protocols are different in each sport and adjustments may need to be made.

**Return to Competition   
1. Uniform**

***a. LEGAL UNIFORM***

1. Long sleeves are permissible.
2. Long pants are permissible.
3. Undergarments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team.

***b. OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT***

i. Air horns are permissible.

ii. Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).

1. Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.

1. Fox 40 Mini
2. Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
3. Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
4. Windsor - (3 tone) grey

2. Check the market for other choices.

iii. Cloth face coverings are permissible.

iv. Gloves are permissible.

**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.**

**2. Rules Considerations**

***a. PREGAME CONFERENCE***

i. Limit attendees to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team; or speak with the team representatives in a separate meeting.

1. Use of headsets with other crew members (if applicable).
2. Script the conference to ensure consistency with both teams.

ii. Coin Toss – Head Referee and 2 captains.

iii. Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the court/field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet.

iv. Suspend handshakes prior to and following the pregame conference.

v. Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.

vi. Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.

vii. Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the area designated for substituting.

***b. OFFICIALS TABLE***

i. Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space available at the table is a variable in determining the number allowed at the officials table.

**3. Pregame and Postgame Ceremony**

1. Suspend pregame protocol of shaking during introductions.
2. Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.

**4. Personal Responsibilities**

***a. TRAINING***

1. Attend online meetings to review the rules for the coming year.
2. Start physical training using online video or complete skills alone. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should be cleared by your medical provider prior to initiating an exercise program.

*b. COMPETITION*

1. If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your crew members, your assigner and stay at home. 1. Take temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving home/work for a contest.

a. Notify site administrator immediately if temperature is elevated above 100.3 or a level recommended by your

local or state health department.

1. “Vulnerable individuals” are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.
2. Communicate with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.
3. Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
4. Travel – considerations should be given to travel policies.
5. Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel and equipment.
6. Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet while in the locker room and/or on the court/field.
7. Bring your own beverages.

APPENDIX IV



SOCCER CONTINGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

**The NFHS has determined that Soccer is a moderate risk.** Sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports OR sports that use equipment that can’t be cleaned between participants. Soccer could potentially be considered “Lower Risk” with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants.

Considering all recommendations by the General IHSAA guidelines and the NFHS and IHSAA SMAC guidelines, the following are the specific guidelines for Soccer:

* The season will start on August 10th. Any changes to the calendar will be made on a week to week basis.
* The decision to cancel a game must be related to and backed by the COVID-19 guidelines. The decision to cancel must be made by the district superintendent.
* If the cancellation of a game is due to COVID-19 concerns, it would not be considered a forfeit and there would be no fines issued.
* Fans will be limited as needed based on school district plans.
* Conferences and schools should develop representation protocols in case the tournament bracket changes. If no protocols are made, the IHSAA will develop it using MaxPreps.
* Modify district tournaments if needed.
* Have contingency plans for the playoffs in place prior to the beginning of the season.

Points of Emphasis: Physical distancing must be followed and hygiene basics adhered to in all situations.

**Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment**

* Soccer Balls
* Nets/Goals
* Goalie Gloves
* Cones
* Pennies

**Special Considerations for the use of the following components of the facility**

* Goals
* Corner Flags
* Bleachers
* Sidelines/Team Bench
* Bathrooms
* Warm up areas
* Ticket Booths
* Entry Gates
* Concessions
* Locker Rooms

**Special Considerations for game support staff components**

* Officials
* Media
* Administration
* Ticket and Gate Workers
* Scorers
* Announcers
* Custodial Workers
* Concession Workers



**2020-21 Soccer Rules Considerations**

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

**Return to Competition**

**1. Soccer Rules 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 center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
* Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
* **Ball Holders (6-1)**
* Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
* ***Team Benches (1-5-1)***
* Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.
* ***Substitution Procedures (3-4)***
* Maintain social distancing of 6 feet 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 a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

***2. Pre and Post Match Ceremony***

1. Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (3-6 feet apart) for introductions.
2. Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

**3. Soccer Rules Interpretations**

* ***Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES***
* Cloth face coverings are permissible.
* Gloves are permissible.
* ***Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM***
* 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)
* ***Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT***
* By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1­3)
* Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
* 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
* Check the market for other choices
* Cloth face coverings are permissible.
* Gloves are permissible.