



OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT RETURN-TO-PLAY TOPICS

***This document was updated on February 15, 2021.** 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 Winter 2020-21 COVID-document-related guidelines. For more detailed answers, read this entire packet. Winter athletics will not be risk-free, but by following the guidance in this document, we all can help mitigate those risks. You should also 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 4 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 someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset.
3. Notify all schools, families and officials involved without identifying the person involved.
4. Students, 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 MASKS: The December 18, 2020 order issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), as amended, mandates that masks are to be worn during practice and competition. In general, face masks are required for athletes in basketball, bowling, competitive cheer and ice hockey at all times. In wrestling, all participants must have a negative rapid antigen test on either the day before or day of a meet or a negative PCR test within 72 hours of competition. All tested wrestlers would be able to compete without wearing a mask during the match; masks would be required of all individuals at all other times during meets and practices. Face masks are optional for athletes in active participation in gymnastics and skiing but are required at all other times when not involved in active participation. Bench personnel are required to wear face masks at all times. This includes athletes not currently in the game, coaches, managers, trainers, statisticians, media and anyone else on the sideline. If a student has a disability or medical situation that would not permit a mask to be worn, the student would need to obtain documentation of such disability or medical situation from a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP) and complete a negative COVID test within 24 hours (rapid antigen test) or 72 hours (PCR test) for each day of competition and practice. Both items must be documented and paper copies shall be made available to all officials and opponents prior to each contest. Management, school administrators, table personnel, announcers, media, broadcasters and all staff are required to wear face masks. Spectators are required to wear face masks.

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

- Bowling – 72 individual competitors at a site
- Competitive Cheer – four schools/teams at a site
- Gymnastics – four schools/teams at a site
- Skiing – 72 individual competitors at a site
- Swimming & Diving – four schools/teams at a site
- Wrestling – four schools/teams at a site
- Basketball & Ice Hockey – one game permitted for a team in a day. Host sites must strictly enforce spectator capacity limits on a game-by-game basis and actively sanitize between games. Event organizers must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate sanitizing and physical distancing.

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.

Where two sites and/or facilities are used, there should not be any crossover competition between the two tournaments.

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

SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS: The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that in facilities with fixed seating of more than 10,000, the maximum number of spectators is 500. In facilities with fixed seating of less than 10,000, the maximum number of spectators is 250. If a facility has no fixed seating such as an ice rink with no bleachers, the maximum number of spectators is 100. For smaller gyms or other school facilities (under a seating capacity of 1250), the spectator capacity limit would be 20% of the facility's seating capacity. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type.

Bowling and swimming & diving spectators limits are 25% of the bowling center or bather limit capacities.

If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

Sideline cheerleaders, dance team members and pompon squads would be considered participants if a school allows. If a non-athletic support organization such as a pep band is allowed in a facility, all those individuals must be counted in the total number of spectators.

ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES: Event organizers and venues must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.

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 healthcare 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: Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials' 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 onsite 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 physically 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.

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: The current MDHHS order states that consumption of food or beverages is permitted only where patrons are seated and those groups of patrons are separated by at least six feet. The order also states that no more than six patrons may be seated at a table and those groups of patrons cannot intermingle.

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

Administrators/Host Management

- Administrators must wear face masks 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 masks.
- Schools should restrict spectators on both sides of the gym from sitting in the first two rows of bleachers closest to the gymnasium floor to allow for adequate spacing between the spectators and contest participants, permit a scorer's table/judge's table and benches to be moved back or use the first row of bleachers for team bench seating if needed.
- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available onsite with devices sanitized between uses.

Coaches

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

Spectators

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

Media Personnel

- Media must wear face masks 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 and bench areas.
- 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.

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 100.3°F 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., someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period*) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Close contacts should stay at home for up to 14 days after last contact with a person who has COVID-19. Follow the recommendations of the local health department. Options they may consider include stopping quarantine after day 10 without testing and after day 7 after receiving a negative test.
- 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: Basketball
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Considering all recommendations by the [MISafeSchools Return to School Roadmap](#), [MHSAA Re-Opening Guidelines](#), [MDHHS](#) and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committees, the following are the specific guidelines for Basketball:

The MHSAA/NFHS Guidance For Re-Opening School Sports lists Basketball as a moderate risk sport.
Moderate risk sports involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that 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.

Competition and Spectator Limitations

- First Allowed Contact Practice Date: Girls & Boys – February 8, 2021
 - Basketball – one game permitted for a team in a day and no more than THREE contest per week Monday through Sunday.
 - 2020-21 Winter regular-season tournament competition limit – no more than 4 teams at a site.
 - No scrimmages allowed.
1. **Face Coverings:** All participants must wear masks at all times. Even if an individual receives a negative rapid test, a mask must still be worn during competition. . If a student has a disability or medical situation that would not permit a mask to be worn, the student would need to obtain documentation of such disability or medical situation from a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP) AND complete a negative COVID test within 24 hours (rapid antigen test) or 72 hours (PCR test) for each day of competition. Both items must be documented and paper copies shall be made available to all officials and opponents prior to each contest. Face coverings continue to be required of all players (bench and competition) and coaches. The face covering requirement for everyone else present, including coaches, trainers, managers, media members, game administration and spectators, also remains unchanged. Remember that social distancing MUST be followed at all times for everyone except athletes and officials involved in active participation during the contest. Athletes may use neck gaiters. Competitors may find that it is easier for them to mask-up and pull down without it dropping to the floor.
 2. **Crowds/Gathering Sizes: SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS:** The current MDHHS epidemic order limits spectators in three ways. In facilities with fixed seating of more than 10,000, the maximum number of spectators is 500. In facilities with fixed seating of less than 10,000, the maximum number of spectators is 250. If a facility has no fixed seating such as an ice rink with no bleachers, the maximum number of spectators is 100. Schools may wish to limit spectators further (two-per-participant as suggested by MDHHS) but the order clearly defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type of 500, 250 and 100 individuals. If a support organization such as a pep band is allowed in a facility, all those individuals must be counted in the total number of spectators.

More updates on spectator policies will be forthcoming as MDHHS guidance changes and is updated. If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

- **Special Equipment and Facility Considerations for Basketball**

Sports Equipment	Facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basketballs • Team bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bleachers • Sidelines / Team Bench

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warmups • Scorer's table • Ball carts/bags • Water bottles • Towels • Disposable gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathrooms • Locker rooms • Warmup areas • Ticket Booths • Entry Gates • Concessions • Weight training facilities
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REGULAR-SEASON TOURNAMENTS, INVITATIONALS, MULTI-TEAM COMPETITIONS: The following limitations are in place for regular season winter tournaments and invitationals, both home and away. Regular-season dual/head-to-head matchups, between multiple levels of two different schools, are not affected.

Basketball – one game permitted for a team in a day and no more than THREE contest per week Monday through Sunday. Host sites must strictly enforce spectator capacity limits on a game-by-game basis and actively sanitize between games. Event organizers must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate sanitizing and physical distancing.

ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES: Event organizers and venues must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.

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 healthcare 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: Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials' 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 onsite 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 physically 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.

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.

3. **CONCESSIONS:** The current MDHHS order states that consumption of food or beverages is permitted only where patrons are seated and those groups of patrons are separated by at least 6 feet. The order goes on to state that no more than six patrons may be seated at a table and those groups of patrons cannot intermingle.

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

Administrators/Host Management

- Administrators must wear face masks 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 masks.
- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available onsite with devices sanitized between uses.

Coaches

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

Spectators

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

Media Personnel

- Media must wear face masks 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 and bench areas.
- 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.

BASKETBALL – Return to Play Guidelines

PRACTICE

- Balls may be passed/shared, provided students wash their hands before and after practice.
- Reinforce bloodborne pathogen protocols.
- Sanitize balls often.
- Towels: Athletes should bring their own towels and wash after each practice or game.

COMPETITION

- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.

- Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel, and consider an alternate location for them.
- Modify team bench areas to allow for physical distancing.
- Players need to use hand sanitizer before entering and when exiting the court during substitutions; no hand touching allowed during substitutions (sanitizer could be set up on a chair at end of bench).
- Each school is responsible to bring towels to wipe up sweat off the floor; host schools are recommended to provide a roll of paper towels at the scorer's table.
- Sanitize balls often.
- Reinforce bloodborne pathogen protocols.

BASKETBALL – NFHS Playing Rule Modifications

Officials: MHSAA officials in all winter sports are required to wear masks at all times, unless a medical exception applies. Under the current MDHHS order, officials must have documentation from a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP) and provide that to the host school administrator upon arrival. Local school districts may require that game officials wear masks at all times regardless of any exception claimed. If this is the case, schools must inform officials in advance of the contest in compliance with the non-act of God cancellation policy.

1. Basketball Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Protocol (2019-2020 NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8; NFHS Basketball Rule Book – 3-4-5)***
 - Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team with each coach standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
 - All individuals maintain physical distance of 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Team Benches (1-13-1)***
 - ***Physical distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions.***
 - Limit the number of bench personnel to observe physical distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
 - Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe physical distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
 - Limit contact between players when substituting.
 - Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.
- ***Officials Table (2-1-3)***
 - The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
 - Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
 - Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel, and consider an alternate location for them.
 - Table personnel should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

2. Pre and Post Game Ceremony

- Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Basketball Rules Interpretations

- ***Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES***
 - Basketball
 - The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters.
 - Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
 - Cloth face coverings are REQUIRED for players.
 - Coaching staff and other bench personnel are REQUIRED to wear face coverings while on the bench.

- **Rule 5-3 Officials Uniform and Equipment**

- By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirts are permissible. (5-1-3)
- Officials should not be required to wear jackets during pregame court/player observation.
- Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
 - Check the market for choices.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.

4. **Other Considerations**

- **Throw-in**

- Official may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on a front court throw-in.

- **Free Throw Administration**

- The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.

- **Jump Ball**

- Eliminate the jump ball and award the ball to the visiting team the first alternating possession for the throw in.
- To start an overtime period, use a coin toss to determine which team is awarded the ball.

Officials Considerations for COVID-19 Basketball Guidelines

Included below are considerations for contest officials within the guidelines for returning to school sports. They have been developed in consultation with health professionals, government officials, the National Federation and officials from around the state of Michigan. They include general expectations for schools in relation to officials, provisions specific to officials in the sport, rules and mechanics modifications and protocols for when a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified.

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

General Expectations for Schools

- School athletic directors and officials should communicate with one another well in advance of the contest so that there is a clear understanding as to what is expected from each. Failure to discuss the details may create greater conflicts at the date/time of the contest.
- Officials should be provided a designated parking area apart from the general public.
- An adult host should meet the officials at a single, designated location and time for arrival. They should be escorted all together to a *private open and/or ventilated locker room or meeting area* before the start of the contest, to and from the contest during any intermissions and to the parking areas following the conclusion of the contest.
- Officials should be provided cold beverages either (1) in a sealed, disposable bottle or (2) in a newly washed, reusable bottle. Each shall be designated for a single official and should be marked to indicate to which official the beverage is assigned.
- If offered, snacks or meals provided to officials should be individually packaged separately for each official.
- It is recommended that officials' fees are paid using an electronic payment method.

Protocols for Suspected and Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Suspected Cases at Contest

- If an official becomes symptomatic at a contest, he or she should be moved to a designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they are transported from the facility. If the symptoms are severe, the official should be picked up by an emergency contact or by ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being transported to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19.

Confirmed Cases

- If an official has a laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19, he or she should immediately contact the local health department for further instructions, and inform the athletic director(s) of any host school he or she visited within the previous two days before displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Officials must inform any host school for which they are scheduled to officiate for (at least) 14 days following confirmation that they are unable to work those contests. They will remain ineligible to officiate any MHSAA contests until they are medically cleared by their personal healthcare provider.

- All officials considered close contacts (*i.e.*, someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) will be informed when a positive case of COVID-19 is identified from a contest they officiated within two days of when the infected individual first displayed symptoms. If identified as a close contact, an official should quarantine and must return assignments scheduled for the next 14 days.
- If an official was at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, he or she 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.

Cancellations/Failure-to-Fulfills

- Games that are cancelled because of COVID-19 are considered cancelled as a result of an act of God and are not subject to a 10-day minimum advanced notice by the school.
- Officials are not subject to a failure-to-fulfill penalty if they break a contract for an assignment when (1) they have been diagnosed with, or display symptoms of, COVID-19 or (2) if a confirmed case of COVID-19 has been identified with a team or facility which/where he or she is scheduled to officiate.

Officials' Sport-Specific Provisions

It is incumbent of MHSAA officials to take necessary precautions to ensure a safe working/playing environment. This is especially important for those considered “vulnerable individuals” – people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Individual circumstances, proximity to others while officiating and overall risk level will determine for many the extent of precautions taken.

Provisions are listed in categories described below. As independent contractors, MHSAA officials have the ability to choose or decline assignments as they see fit. Likewise, because officials are hired by the schools, districts and their administrators may require additional precautions be taken by officials that work their contests beyond those mandated in this document. Officials should check with the schools as to any additional precautions or requirements before accepting an assignment and/or arriving to contest.

Provision Categories

- Permitted** – Precautions and safety measures which officials are allowed to take during MHSAA contests. This list is not exhaustive and officials should contact the host school for guidance if they wish to take further precautions not listed in this document.
- Suggested** – Best practices for MHSAA officials based on the recommendations of health professionals. Not required, but should be followed if possible.
- Mandated** – Required practice in order to officiate MHSAA contests. If an official is unwilling or unable to follow these requirements, he or she is not permitted to officiate the contest.

NOTE: “Physical distancing” refers to a separation of individuals of at least six feet, except for momentary interactions.

Permitted Provisions:

- Officials may use electronic whistles.

- Officials may wear gloves – including medical latex gloves, work gloves or gloves designed specifically for officiating.
- Officials may wear plastic face shields which connect to a hat, wrap around the forehead or that hang around the neck.
- An officiating crew has the option to utilize the following mechanics deviation regarding throw-ins and free throws. If utilized, the referee **must** discuss with the head coach of each team what will be required of their players for handling the ball. **NOTE: For the 2020-21 MHSAA Postseason Tournament, officials will be expected to utilize traditional ball-handling mechanics to provide consistency in the expectations from teams and officiating partners.**
 - Officials will not be responsible for handling basketballs during the course of the game. Teams will be required to bring the ball to the in-bound spot or free throw line, as the case may be. If possession of the ball is turned over, the player of the offending team should provide the ball to the opposing team to administer the throw-in or free throw at the official's direction.
 - For a throw-ins, the official administering the throw-in will indicate with his/her foot where the thrower should stand and instruct him/her that the count will begin as the official backs away. All officials will then take their normal throw-in positions.
 - For free throws, the official administering the free throw (lead) will stand under the basket at the end line and instruct the free thrower that the count will begin as the official backs away. All officials will then take their normal free throw positions.
 - See Rules Modifications below for jump ball mechanics deviations.

Suggested Provisions:

- Each official should check his/her temperature on game days. Officials 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.
- Officials should consider bringing their own marked beverage(s).
- Upon arrival at the site/facility and throughout the contest, officials should wash and sanitize their hands frequently.
- Officials should not share uniforms, towels apparel or equipment.
- Officials should sanitize their hands after inspecting basketballs and other player, team and playing equipment.

Mandated Provisions:

- Officials will arrange to arrive to the site/facility at a single location and time. Unless unavoidable, officials will enter the facility as a group, maintaining proper physical distancing.
- Officials' pregame meetings shall be conducted while practicing proper physical distancing.



Updated 2/24/21

- **Face masks which cover the mouth and nose are required to be worn by officials at all times as required by the MDHHS order, unless a medical exception applies to the individual. Under the current MDHHS order, officials must have documentation from a medical provider (MD, DO, PA, NP) and provide that to the host school administrator upon arrival.**
- Officials shall not engage in pregame/postgame handshakes or fist bumps with players, coaches or administrators.
- Officials shall not physically contact players during the contest, including players that appear to be injured or ill.
- Officials will maintain physical distancing with each other unless conferencing about a call or ruling. In those cases, the officials should avoid speaking face-to-face.
- Only the referee and the head coach from each team will attend the pregame meeting. This will take place at the center circle, with each head coach standing opposite one another on each side of the division line and maintaining at least six feet of physical distance.
- Only the referee will conduct the pregame meeting with the scorer and timer.
- Officials will limit the handling of basketballs as much as possible. Players will retrieve balls that get away from the immediate court area. During timeouts, the player should be instructed to leave the basketball on the floor at the position of the next possession.

Rules Modifications (Basketball)

- **UNIFORMS and ACCESSORIES (Rules 4-1, 5-3, 5-3-1)**
 - Players are permitted to use cloth face coverings with no restrictions on color or logo.
 - Players may wear gloves.
 - Players may wear long-sleeved undershirts (not everyone on the team must wear the same) as long as they meet color requirements/restrictions.
- **OFFICIALS TABLE (Rule 2-1-3)**
 - Only essential personnel (*i.e., home scorer and timer*) are permitted at the officials table. Visiting team personnel are not deemed “essential” and will need to find an alternative location.
- **JUMP BALLS**
 - Jump balls will be eliminated for all MHSAA contests.
 - To start the game, the visiting team will be awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line.
 - To start the third period, the home team will be awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line, regardless of the alternating possession arrow at the end of the second period.
 - **OVERTIME:** A coin toss will take place during the intermission between the fourth period and first overtime period to determine the team that will be awarded the ball to begin the extra period. The coin toss will be called by the visiting team head coach. Teams will then alternate being awarded the ball for a throw-in at the division line for any additional overtime period. There will be no additional coin flips.
 - **ALTERNATING POSSESSION (A-P) ARROW:** The A-P arrow will be set at the beginning of the game, the start of the third period and any overtime period as in normal course of the game based on a team establishing control when the ball is placed at the disposal of the thrower, including after free throws for a technical foul. Additionally, the A-P arrow may be lost if the throw-in team violates under rule 6-4-5.
- **TIMING and INTERVALS**
 - There will be no 30-second timeouts. Each team will be provided up to five (5) 60-second charged timeouts during regulation. Overtime timeout provisions remain the same.
 - Intermissions after the first and third quarters, and before any overtime period, may be extended up to two minutes if mutually agreed upon by both coaches before the start of the game. Otherwise, they will remain one minute.
- **SPECTATOR SEATING**
 - **Schools should restrict spectators on both sides of the gym from sitting in the first two rows of bleachers closest to the gymnasium floor** to allow for adequate spacing between the spectators and contest participants, permit a scorer’s table and benches to be moved back or use the first row of bleachers for team bench seating if needed.

