

Officials Considerations for COVID-19 Boys Lacrosse 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.

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.
- Cloth or surgical face coverings, which cover the mouth and nose are recommended for individuals that can wear them without significant impact upon breathing.
- Officials should sanitize their hands after inspecting any equipment and throughout the contest.
- Early in the season, it may be necessary to have a brief meeting with faceoff players, but officials should eliminate this practice later on during the year.

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.
- Officials shall not engage in pregame/postgame handshakes or fist bumps with players, coaches or administrators.
- The coin toss will be conducted with only one referee and a single captain from each team, maintaining physical distancing and without handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- Officials will not maintain the lineup. Coaches will relay that information to their players.
- 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.
- When providing an explanation of a ruling to a head coach, the referee will meet the coach near the sideline but on the field and away from others located on the sideline. One other official may be present, but physical distancing should be practiced by all involved.

Rules Modifications (Boys Lacrosse)

- **SCORER'S TABLE (Rule 1-2-7)**
 - The scorer's table should be extended/large enough to provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between individuals. Minimize table personnel – official scorer and timekeeper only; visiting team personnel should be at their team bench and not at the table.

- **LINEUPS (Rule 1-2-7)**
 - The scorer's table should be extended/large enough to provide adequate spacing for 6-foot social distancing between

- **EQUIPMENT INSPECTION (Rules 4-27)**
 - Players will not directly hand officials sticks for inspection. Players will place the stick on the field and walk away, and the official will inspect the stick, and then alert the player to retrieve the stick and of the results of the stick check.
 - Effective January 2021, coaches must ensure that goalkeepers are to wear chest protectors designed for lacrosse that comply with the NOCSAE ND200 standard. There is no need to inspect this equipment. The pregame equipment certification by the head coach attesting all players are properly equipped will suffice.

- **COACHES' AND PLAYERS' BOXES (Rules 1-2-8, 1-2-9)**
 - Both the coaches' area and the players' area will be extended to the end line to ensure proper social distancing. Make sure this extended area is used for its intended purpose; teams must spread out on the sideline. Coaches using the extended box to abuse officials will not be tolerated.

- **FACE MASKS (Rules 1-9)**
 - All players are required to wear a face covering at all times during competition.
 - Surgical masks, traditional cloth/fabric masks, and gaiters are allowed and acceptable face coverings under the face covering requirement, provided the face coverings are unaltered as produced by the manufacturer in the nose and/or mouth area, and completely cover the nose and mouth.
 - Clear, molded, and non-rigid face shields designed to attach to the helmet and approved by the helmet manufacturer, such as the products by Cascade, Schutte, and Tektor, are acceptable. Cloth face shield products that are designed to attach to the face mask, such as the product by Helmet Barrier, are also acceptable.
 - It is recommended *but not required* that cloth face coverings be worn in addition to plastic helmet shields.
 - All players taking a faceoff will be required to wear two layers of face covering during the faceoff, and one layer must be a tightly woven cloth or other multi-layer absorbent material mask (e.g., traditional cloth mask, surgical mask, etc.) that closely and completely covers an individual's mouth and nose, and the portions that cover the nose and mouth unaltered as produced by the manufacturer. The second layer may be a second cloth mask, a non-rigid plastic face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet, or a cloth face shield covering the mouth and nose designed to attached to the helmet. A faceoff player may remove one of the two required face coverings when they de-part from the field of play or at a stoppage of play by the officials
 - Players that do not comply with the face covering requirements are subject to removal. See [Face Coverings and Contest Officials](#) for further guidance.



Updated 3/15/21

- **FACEOFF MECHANIC (Rule 4-3-3)**

- Faceoffs Procedure – Officials should conduct quick and efficient faceoffs. In an effort to limit contact with shared equipment and allow officials to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from players as much as possible, players will be responsible for all ball handling and placing the ball on faceoffs.
 - a. Following a goal, the defensive team that was just scored on will be responsible for retrieving the ball from their own goal, and then placing the ball for the faceoff. A player puts the ball on the faceoff X and the official will give verbal instructions on any adjustments that need to be made regarding the placement of the ball.
 - b. Official will instruct the players to go Down for the faceoff.
 - c. Official will give quick instructions to make sure players are correctly aligned.
 - d. Once both players are aligned, the official will give the Set command and then blow the whistle to start play. Once the whistle is blown and the faceoff is initiated, the aim will be to make sure

the ball is out quickly. If the ball is not out quickly, the official shall stop play and award the ball following a technical foul for withholding (i.e., if a player's cross is clamped down on the ball, resulting in a scrum) – or, if there is no technical foul, the ball will be awarded by alternate position.