



Face Coverings and Contest Officials

10/21/20

This is a brief summary of the expectations for MHSAA officials in regards to facial covering mandates found in executive orders issued by the governor of the state of Michigan.

- All officials shall wear facial coverings upon arrival at a facility, before the contest, during intermission away from the field/court/area of play and following the contest until departure from the facility. The MHSAA are subject to orders of the MDHHS. This order requires all officials at *indoor* contests to wear a facial covering, and for officials at outdoor contests to wear a facial covering when unable to consistently maintain six feet of distance from others except for occasional and fleeting moments. In other words, indoor contest officials shall wear a face covering (unless one of the included exceptions applies), while it remains optional for outdoor contest officials.
- Individual schools or leagues/conferences may require MHSAA officials to take additional precautions (such as requiring a facial covering be worn while officiating) above and beyond the minimum requirements of the MHSAA. If this is the case, the school must notify the officials in advance of the contest date.
- Permitted facial coverings include traditional cloth masks, gaiters, affixed helmet plastic shields that are 100% clear - no tint (full- or half-face shields) and cloth/fabric helmet attachments located inside the face mask (all of which must cover the nose and mouth).
- MHSAA officials, at the request of a team or on their own initiative, may bring to the attention of the coach or site administrator when a team is not wearing facial coverings, or not wearing them properly.
- If an MHSAA official does not feel safe because a team refuses to wear facial coverings when required, or to wear them properly, after brought to the attention of the coach or site administrator, the official may leave the contest without penalty.
- If a team refuses to play against another team that is refusing to wear facial coverings when required, or to wear them properly, the official will provide a short time for the issue to be resolved between teams. If not resolved in a reasonable amount of time, the official may leave the contest without penalty. The official should complete an incident report online, and the determination of the results of the contest will be made by the MHSAA office.
- MHSAA officials shall not be the enforcers of the facial covering mandate for players, coaches or spectators, and facial coverings are not to be treated as jewelry or illegal equipment.

Especially during this pandemic, we ask that all involved in school sports try to be as flexible and accommodating as possible, while complying with the mandates issued through executive order or by the MHSAA. We are excited to have a return to school sports, and we ask that everyone work together to continue on this path toward a safe, healthy and successful season. Thank you for all that you do for the Officials Program and the MHSAA.

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