

**Updated 8-17-2020**

## **FOOTBALL CONSIDERATIONS**

Each school should develop a plan with their local health officials to successfully complete the fall season. Below are considerations to include in your plan.

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

- Footballs
- Mouthguards
- Kicking Tees
- Ball Bags
- Pennies/Helmet Covers
- Shields
- Any item that is held or that contacts the body (i.e. Blocking pads/dummies)
- Individual Student Equipment / Personal Items
- Water Bottles
- Gloves are permissible for all players, coaches and officials.
- Each team is responsible for its own towels, hand sanitizer and med kit

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

- Goal Post Pads
- End Zone Pylons
- Down and Distance Markers
- Sidelines/Team Areas
- Warm-Up Areas
- Weight Training Facilities
- Ticket Booths
- Entry/Exit Gates
- Concessions
- PA Systems
- Bleachers
- Bathrooms/Portable restrooms
- Locker Rooms
- Hydration stations

**Practices** – Screenings, face coverings and individual hygiene of all participants should be followed in accordance with WHSAA Smart Start Guidelines and the WHSAA Screening/Monitoring form should be utilized.

- Workouts/practices should be conducted in “pods” of participants with same players working out together to limit overall exposure
- Participants should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals
- Limit sharing of equipment (i.e. Blocking pads/dummies, footballs)
- All activities (including meetings) occur outdoors when possible
- Face coverings are optional while playing but are strongly encouraged before and after practice for everyone (athletes and coaches)

**Events** – WHSAA Smart Start Guidelines must be utilized for all events.

- There will be no more than 50 total players, in uniform or not, for each contest. Extra players must be in the stands.
- Face coverings are optional while playing but are strongly encouraged before and after contests for everyone (coaches and athletes).
- All event workers should utilize face coverings, and gloves when appropriate
- No pre or post game gatherings should take place to assist in limiting exposure. (i.e. Tailgating, BBQ's, etc.)

**Post Season:**

Depending on State Health Orders, the season may be shortened, and playoffs would begin earlier or reduced based on information provided to the WHSAA.

The five State Championships will be hosted at the highest seeds site. This is a one-year plan with the hopes of returning to the University of Wyoming the following year.

For the upcoming year, if the seeds are the same and have not played during the season, the following will be the host site:

- 1A-6man      The East will host
- 1A-9man      The West will host
- 2A              The West will host
- 3A              The East will host
- 4A              Will be determined by coaches seeding

**All NFHS Rules Considerations for Football should be utilized as appropriate.**



**2020 Football Rules Considerations**

In support of the NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Football Editorial Committee offers this document for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020 football 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. FOOTBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS**

- **TEAM BOX (Rule 1-2-3g)**
  - The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (for players only) in order for more social-distancing space for the teams.
  - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box.
  - Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.

- **BALL (Rule 1-3-2)**
  - The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
  - The ball holders should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.
- **FACE MASKS [Rules 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c(4)]**
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest.
- **TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS [Rule 1-5-1d(5)]**
  - *\*\*Still being determined at this time on how to best handle the tooth and mouth protector during the contest. The NFHS SMAC will update the membership as soon as guidance is developed for all sports that require a tooth and mouth protector.*
- **GLOVES (Rule 1-5-2b)**
  - Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.
- **STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS (Rule 1-7)**
  - Each state association may adopt other playing/administrative rule for football for the 2020 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19.
- **CHARGED TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)**
  - A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length.
  - The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)
  - Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.
- **INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING (Ruling 3-5-7I)**
  - The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick.

## 2. FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **GAME OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
  - 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)
    - Check the market for other choices
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
  - Gloves are permissible.
  - Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.

○ **PREGAME CONFERENCE, COIN TOSS AND OVERTIME PROCEDURES**

- For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team.
- Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
- No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- For the overtime procedure, please use the same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.

**3. PRE AND POST GAME CONSIDERATIONS**

- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions.
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.

**4. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOOTBALL**

- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared

Cloth face coverings are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.

- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.
- If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.