

3-17-2021

SOCCER CONSIDERATIONS

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

Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment:

- Soccer Balls
- Ball Bags/Carts
- Pennies
- Goals
- Goal Padding
- 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:

- Sidelines/Team Areas
- Officials Table
- 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.

- Workouts/practices should be conducted in “pods” of participants with same players working out together to limit overall exposure.
- Practices should be limited to team members only. No outside groups or individuals should be used during practice. (This would include no alumni scrimmages)
- Detailed, timed practice plans should be utilized to assist in contact tracing should it be needed.
- Participants should maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals when possible.
- Limit sharing of equipment (except soccer balls)
- All activities (including meetings) occur outdoors when possible.

- Face coverings are optional while participating but are **recommended** before and after practice for all athletes.
- Face coverings are always **recommended** for coaches during practice.

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

- Regular season contests will be individual contests only. Each level will be allowed 14 contests.
- Each school may suit up as many players as they deem necessary during the season. No more than 22 players may be suited up for Regionals or State.
- It is **recommended** a designated area be assigned for those participants that are not participating during the current contest.
- Introductions may take place the same as in the past.
- No post game handshakes will take place.
- Face coverings are optional while participating but are **recommended** before and after meets for all athletes.
- Face coverings are always **recommended** for coaches during meets.
- While in team camps, it is **recommended** that athletes utilize face coverings and maintain social distancing.
- It is **recommended** that all event workers utilize face coverings, and gloves when appropriate.
- There should be **no team dinners** during the season to assist in limiting exposures.
- No pre or post game gatherings should take place to assist in limiting exposure. (i.e. Tailgating, BBQ's, etc.)

Post Season:

- Per current State Health Orders and Directives, Regional Tournament will take place as scheduled.
- However, depending on the State Health Order restrictions, each classification may have to determine their qualifying procedures into the State Tournament.
- Per current State Health Orders and Directives, the State Tournament will take place as scheduled.



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

- a. 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.
- b. 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. (5-1-3)
 - 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.