



2020 NSAA Fall Season Guidelines

Circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic are constantly changing and the circumstances vary from community to community. Difficult decisions will have to be made from week to week or even day to day. The safety and well-being of the participants and spectators is and always will be the primary consideration as we provide opportunities to participate in the fall sports season.

Each school has the authority to determine if it will participate in the 2020 Fall Season. During the season it will be the responsibility of the host school to provide administrative oversight in compliance with established COVID-19 guidelines in accordance with their local health departments and facilities. **Prior to any contest, the host school administration will be required to notify the visiting school administration of their established protocols.** The visiting team and spectators will be expected to adhere to all protocols established by the host school.

The host school should make every effort to mitigate risk and provide adequate opportunities for physical distancing procedures for the opposing team, officials, and all spectators.

This may include but is not limited to:

- Restricting attendance / seating areas
- Separate points of entry for home and visitor teams / spectators
- No concession stands or separate/multiple concession stands for home and visitor spectators
- Separate / multiple restrooms for home and visitor spectators
- Adequate locker room space / outdoor space for the opposing team
- Adequate locker room space / outdoor space for the officials
- Encouraging / requiring spectators to wear face coverings
- Implementing diligent and effective cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces

If a school has a player test positive for COVID-19, they will contact their County Health Department regarding a course of action.

It is recommended that players, coaches, and spectators have their temperatures checked at home or at the school prior to participating in or attending practices and games. Any individual with a temperature of 100.4 or above should not participate in or attend practices or games.

During practice, coaches should make accommodations for physical distancing whenever possible. Provide adequate spacing when participating in stretching, instructional time and drills. Conduct workouts in small groups whenever possible.

During competition, the sideline/bench/team areas should be restricted to essential personnel only. This includes players, coaches, team trainers, team managers, game officials, statisticians, and media.

Coaches, officials, and players should be cognizant of physical distancing guidelines when interacting during the game.

Pregame and postgame interactions between opposing coaches and players should adhere to physical distancing guidelines.

Schools are encouraged to play their regularly scheduled competitions unless a COVID-19 issue prevents them from playing. Member schools shall be solely responsible for determining whether a scheduled game, match, contest, or other activity is cancelled or postponed due to a COVID-19 related issue in consultation with their local health departments. Member schools shall notify the NSAA of any cancellation or postponement.



2020 NSAA Football COVID-19 MODIFICATIONS

NSAA APPROVED RULINGS

- Practice may begin on Monday, August 10th
 - First contests may begin on Thursday, August 27th
- Schools with week zero games may begin practice on Wednesday, August 5th
 - Games will be played on Friday, August 21st
- Adjustments to the regular season and post season will be considered and implemented if deemed necessary.
- Schools will notify the NSAA of any game cancellations within twenty-four hours of the decision.
- Schools are solely responsible for determining whether a scheduled game is cancelled due to a COVID-19 related issue in consultation with their local health departments.
- The NSAA will maintain an up-to-date list of schools with open dates and replacement games on the NSAA website.
- Regularly scheduled games cancelled due to COVID-19 related issues will be counted as a “No-Contest”
 - Forfeits will not be issued
 - Wildcard points will not be awarded
- Schools have the authority to schedule a replacement game if another school is available
 - Only the results of regularly scheduled games scheduled prior to the start of the season will be used to calculate wildcard points

NFHS GAME PROTOCOLS

- Schools are encouraged to use 5-man officiating crews whenever possible at regularly scheduled varsity games. If a 5-man crew is not available, the game may be played with any number of officials upon mutual agreement of the opposing coaches. All regularly scheduled varsity games must use NSAA registered officials.
- If a replacement game is scheduled, any number of officials may be used upon mutual agreement of the opposing coaches. The use of NSAA registered officials is recommended. The use of non-registered officials is permitted.
- Players, coaches, officials, and all game administration should sanitize their hands before, during and after the game
- Face coverings are permissible for officials, coaches, players, staff, and game administration
- Team box may be extended to the 10-yard line (PLAYERS ONLY)
- Players should maintain physical distancing on the sideline whenever possible
- Players should not share towels, water bottles or other equipment
- The ball should be cleaned/sanitized periodically throughout the contest
- Plastic shields covering the entire face are prohibited
- “Splash Guards” that are integrated into the face mask, attached to the helmet and are completely clear are permitted
- A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes
- The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for physical distancing purposes. More than one coach is allowed in the conference and technology can be used.
- Intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes:
 - Between the first and second periods
 - Between the third and fourth periods
 - Following a PAT, successful field goal or safety prior to the succeeding free kick
- Electronic whistles are permitted but not mandatory
- Pregame Responsibilities and Coin Toss
 - Coin Toss
 - Limit participants to the Referee, Umpire and one designee from each team
 - Move to an area to maintain physical distance
 - Maintain physical distance while performing all pregame duties and when communicating with crew members, coaches, players, game administration, chain crew, clock operators and ball holders
- Postgame
 - No shaking hands