



This document is intended to provide guidance for schools for the 2020-21 Basketball season. This is not an exhaustive list and school officials may take additional measures based on requirements set forth by their school district and/or local health officials. Please understand that even with this guidance, there is still risk of transmitting illness at events such as basketball games. Additionally, with the changing nature of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines may change.

SEASON DATES – BOYS

- Practice may start: Immediately
- Contests may begin: February 1, 2021
- Regional Seeding: February 24, 2021
- Regional Tourneys: March 8-13, 2021

Regular Season games should be limited to:

1. Within Conference, OR
2. Schools within the same general EMS Region

SEASON DATES – GIRLS

- Practice may start: School's discretion
- Contests may begin: March 8, 2021
- Regional Seeding: March 31, 2021
- Regional Tourneys: April 12-17, 2021

ELIGIBILITY

- Students must be meeting all eligibility requirements (Grades, age, residency, etc.)
- Students must have a current physical on file **prior to practice**.
- E-learning students may be eligible provided the local district allows their participation.

TEAM LIMITATIONS

- The SIJHSAA suggests no more than 3 contests per week.

SPECTATORS

- Spectator and group gatherings are subject to IDPH guidelines in place at the time.
- Contest hosts should work with their local health departments to consider whether spectators will be allowed.
- Adherence to all CDC guidelines regarding hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

SPIRIT GROUPS (CHEERLEADERS, ETC.) [as of 2-2-21]:

- IDPH suggests that the attendance of spirit groups at basketball contests is at the discretion of local schools. IDPH also suggests that spirit groups and pep bands be part of a lower priority group when schools are making decisions about what groups are permitted to attend basketball contests safely.
- If you choose to permit sideline spirit groups, the 30 ft distance from other athletes per the spectator guidance would be waived as this group is no longer part of the spectator group. 6 ft social distancing with face coverings is an appropriate mitigation.

***MEDIA (as of 2-2-21):**

- Media attendance is also a local decision. The media are also in a lower priority group and schools may allow media coverage at contests when there are safe locations for them. Media members are not considered part of the spectator limit.

SAFETY:

- If an Illinois COVID Region or County is placed in Phase 3 or lower of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, all sports for schools in that Region or County will be suspended or cancelled.
- All equipment should be sanitized prior to the contest.
- Contest hosts should sanitize the scoring/reporting table prior to the game and between games. Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the scorer's table.

FACE COVERINGS

- Athletes: Face coverings must be worn at all times; Players should bring multiple masks to replace sweat-soaked masks.
- Coaches: Face coverings must be worn.
- Spectators: Face coverings must be worn.
- Game Personnel: Table personnel and officials are required to wear face coverings.

It is recommended that programs require physicians notes for individuals who have a medical contraindication to wearing a face covering. Face coverings must fully cover the mouth and nose, and that it must fit snugly against the sides of the face with no gaps. Reusable face coverings should be machine washed or washed by hand and allowed to dry following each use.

Face coverings may also be removed while eating or drinking but must be immediately replaced.

OFFICIALS:

- Officials are required to use regular whistles (with a cover) or electronic whistles.
- Officials are required to wear face coverings when they are not actively exercising.
- ***As of 2-2-21, sports officials are required to wear a face covering unless there is a medical exemption. The medical exemption for officials (different than student participants) is determined by the individual official and his/her physician**
- Officials are allowed to wear gloves and long sleeves.
- Upon arrival at the contest site and throughout the contest, officials should wash and sanitize hands frequently.
- Officials should maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.
- Officials should maintain social distancing of six (6) feet while in the locker room and/or on the court.
- Officials should not share uniforms, towels, apparel, and equipment.
- Officials should bring their own water bottles and/or sports drinks.
- Officials are not responsible for monitoring social distancing guidelines on the team benches, sidelines, in the bleachers, or anywhere outside the boundaries of the court.
- Coaches and school personnel are responsible for monitoring their own teams.

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EQUIPMENT – BASKETBALLS:

- Prior to a contest, it is recommended that two (2) game balls should be sanitized according to instructions from the ball manufacturer, set aside, and placed on top of the scorer's table. The game balls must not be used for warm-ups.
- The host school should switch balls during full time-outs and between quarters and sanitize the ball taken out of play. If only one (1) ball is available, the ball should be sanitized between quarters and during full time-outs.

EQUIPMENT – SCORER’S TABLE:

- Limit seats at the scorer’s table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of six (6) feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel that can be distanced at least six (6) feet apart (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) should be allowed at the official’s table. However, these other personnel are not considered essential personnel, and an alternate location for them should be considered if spacing cannot be met at the scorer’s table.
- Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the scorer’s table.

EQUIPMENT – TEAM BENCHES:

- If possible, place team benches opposite spectator seating.
- Consider limiting the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of six (6) feet or greater.
- Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel (coaches and players) to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater between bench personnel (coaches and players)
- Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
- Encourage substitutes to maintain social distancing from other substitutes after checking in with the official scorer.

RULE MODIFICATIONS:

TIME OUTS

- During full timeouts, players and coaches should maintain social distance.
- During 30 second timeouts, only those players in the game and coaches may stand and be involved in the huddle while maintaining social distance (NOTE: A manager distributing water bottles may also stand to fulfill his/her role. He/she must maintain social distance during this time.)
- Due to players wearing masks during contests, a media time-out will be taken each quarter at the first dead ball after the halfway mark to give players an opportunity to catch their breath.

JUMP BALL

- Eliminate the jump ball and award the ball to the visiting team for the first possession of the game. The Alternating possession arrow will then be set after the initial throw-in.
- To start an overtime period or for a game being played on a neutral site, use a coin toss to determine which team is awarded the ball to start the game (neutral site contest) or overtime. For overtime contests, the referee shall have the head coaches come to the center circle and allow the visiting team coach to make call on the flip. On the flip, the referee shall indicate both sides of the coin before flipping, ask for the visiting team’s choice before flipping, and catch the coin in the air and open the palm of the hand which caught the coin in the air to display which side is shown.

PRE-GAME

- Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team with each coach standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
- All individuals maintain a social distance of six feet or greater at the center circle.
- Officials and coaches should not shake hands or bump fists prior to or following the pre-game conference. Officials should demonstrate their electronic whistle sounds to coaches since the tones from different whistles might vary.

THROW-IN

- Official may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on the throw-in.

FREE THROW ADMINISTRATION

- The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the player making the try.

CONTEST LIMITATIONS - Tournaments at one site (If approved by the SIJHSAA and IDPH Guidelines)

- Time for cleaning and sanitization of all used spaces and equipment must occur between games.
- Participating teams must exit a facility before participating teams in a following game may enter a facility.
- Refer to IDPH Phase 4 Guidelines for Gathering Limitations (Players, coaches, bench personnel, and spectators)
- Team benches should be placed on the same side of the floor as the scorer's table, if possible. If fans will be allowed to attend any game, they should be seated opposite the bench area at least 30' from the playing floor. The 30 foot measurement opposite the bench is from the side out of bounds of the basketball court. If the of the layout of the facility prevents spectators to be seated opposite the bench area, they may sit on the bench side but must have 30 foot social distancing from the bench area. If the facility has 30 foot social distance as mentioned above, a maximum of 50 spectators are allowed.
- Team benches shall be spaced out to allow for appropriate distance between players and coaches (Minimum of 6'). This may require benches to extend into the bleachers. Benches may extend beyond the baseline if space allows.
- Any basketball used as a part of warm-ups or game play must be cleaned and sanitized between uses.
- Game balls shall not be used as a part of any warm-up.
- All balls should be cleaned and sanitized in a manner consistent with guidelines provided by the manufacturer.
- All spaces and equipment (gym, chairs, scorer's table, locker rooms, bleachers) must be cleaned and sanitized between games.
- Spaces should be cleaned and sanitized in a manner consistent with all local and national health guidelines.
- All individuals must wear masks.