

Updated 9-15-2020

BASKETBALL CONSIDERATIONS

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

Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment:

- Basketballs
- Backboards and Rims
- Scorer's table
- Ball Bags
- Ball Cart(s)
- Individual Student Equipment / Personal Items
- Any item that is held or contacts the body (i.e. blocking shield/ dummies)
- Shooting, rebounding and/or passing machines
- Medicine Balls
- 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 Bench
- Warm-up areas
- Ticket Booths
- Entry/Exit Gates
- Concessions
- PA Systems
- Bleachers
- Bathrooms
- Locker Rooms
- Weight Training Facilities
- 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 the same players working out together to limit overall exposure (post players, wings, guards, etc.). It is recommended that the “pods” stay with the same level of competitors when possible (ex. 9th JV, Varsity, Middle School A & B Teams).
- When in a scrimmaging situation, keep the same groups of players together as much as possible.

- 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
- No sharing of equipment (except basketballs)
- Sanitizing of hands and equipment as necessary
- Encourage players to not lick their hands and then wipe their shoes
- Face coverings are optional during practice and are strongly encouraged before and after practice for everyone (athletes and coaches)

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

- Regular season contests will be individual contests only. No multiple day invitational tournaments will be allowed.
- Teams may have more than one contest in a day but must keep teams separated to meet social distancing guidelines. Contests must be scheduled to allow for appropriate cleaning and sanitizing when new teams come to the facility.
- Teams may have three days in which they play two games in a day that would count as one contest toward the 18-game limit. The recommendation is that the two games played in a day be on a non-school day.
- It is recommended to limit bench personnel. (No more than 12 players suited up)
- For contact tracing purposes, it is also recommended there be assigned seating for bench personnel.
- Cheerleaders must maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals
- Teams should go directly to their end of the court for warm-ups. Social distancing from the opponent should always be maintained during the warm-up periods.
- Each team should bring their own warm-up balls. Host school could supply a cart for each team that has been sanitized.
- Each game and overtime will begin with a coin toss. One coach and one captain from each team will meet with the Referee and maintain social distancing. Pre-game instructions will also be given at this time.
- At the end of the contest, each team will line up on the free throw line extended on their bench side. Announcement will be read, and teams will wave acknowledging a good game.
- 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:

Regionals and State Tournament formats will be determined later.



2020-21 Basketball Rules Considerations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee offers this document as guidance on how state associations can consider modifications to the NFHS Basketball Rules Book. The modifications 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. Basketball Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Protocol (2019-2021 NFHS Officials Manual, page 16, 1.8)***
 - 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 6 feet or greater at the center circle.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.

- ***Team Benches (1-13-1)***
 - ***Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions.***
 - Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
 - Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
 - Limit contact between players when substituting.
 - Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

- ***Officials Table (2-1-3)***
 - The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
 - Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
 - Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media,

etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel and consider an alternate location for them.

- Table personnel should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

2. Pre and Post Game Ceremony

- Suspend the pregame introduction handshakes.
- Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Basketball Rules Interpretations

○ EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES

- Basketball
 - The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters.
 - Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible for players.
- Consider requiring coaching staff and other bench personnel to wear face coverings while on the bench.

○ Officials Uniform and Equipment

- Long-sleeved shirts are permissible.
- Officials should not be required to wear jackets during pre-game court/player observation.
- Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
 - Check the market for choices
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.

4. Other Considerations

○ Throw-in

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

○ Free Throw Administration

- The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.

○ Jump Ball

- To start the game and overtime period, a coin toss will be used to determine which team is awarded the ball. Alternating possession will be utilized the remainder of the game.