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Sport Specific Protocols Face Coverings

Face coverings do not have to be worn while exercising or competing on the court, in the match. Face coverings must be worn by all team personnel (coaches, managers, players not in the match) while on the bench.

NFHS VB Considerations

In support of the guidance to opening up high school athletics the NFHS volleyball rules committee created considerations for state associations to consider whether any possible rules could be altered for the 2020 volleyball season. The following outline the considerations the UIL volleyball will make for this next season only.

Team Benches (5-4-4b, 9-1-2, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-3-3b)

- Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. Prior to warm-ups, the home team will select bench (1-6-1) to be at the entire match, for all matches played on a given night.
- Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets.
- Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.

Pre-match Conference (1-2-4a; 1-6-2; 1-6-3; 2-1-10; 5-4-1h, k; 5-6-1; 7-1-1; 7-1-1 PENALTIES 1; 9-1a; 12-2-3)

- Suspend roster submission at the pre-match conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- Limit the attendees to the head coach and one captain from each team and the R1 and R2
 - Hold the conference at center court with the head coach, one captain and a referee on each side of the net

Deciding Set Procedures [1-2-4b, 5-4-4c, 5-5-3b(26), 9-2-3c]

- Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 3 to 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive.
- Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set.

Substitution Procedures (2-1-7, 10-2-1, 10-2-3, 10-2-4)

- Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line.

Pre-match Ceremony

- Both teams (starting players and/or entire team) will line up on their respective end lines
- The R1 will whistle and motion for teams to advance to the attack line
- The R1 will whistle to release the players to line up in their starting positions

Post-match Ceremony

- The R1 will display the end of set signal (signal 21)
- Using both open hands with arms extended, the R2 will point toward the attack lines.
- The teams will line up on their respective attack lines facing their opponents

Performance Areas, Locker Rooms and Other Congregate Settings

- Schools should make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available in these areas.
- All congregate areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, lockers, and restrooms.
- Any equipment that will be kept in student lockers and/or in these areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day prior to students accessing these areas. Schools should develop a plan for managing the storage, cleaning and disinfecting, and redistribution of student equipment.
- Schools should consider identifying staff to monitor locker rooms and other areas where students may congregate to ensure effective use of school protocols. When possible, schools should open windows and/or doors or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in these areas.
- Schools must require staff and students to wear face coverings while inside locker rooms, meeting rooms, training rooms, band halls and other areas where students may congregate other than shower facilities.
- As part of their overall plan, schools should develop a plan for mitigating risk of spreading COVID-19 when disinfecting, cleaning, and laundering items such as towels, practice clothes, and uniforms. This plan should include protocols for redistributing these items to students. Involved staff should be trained specifically on these protocols.

Practice Activities

In addition to the above general guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to practice activities during the 2020-2021 school year.

1. All surfaces in practice areas should be thoroughly disinfected throughout and at the end of each day.
2. Any equipment should be regularly disinfected before, during, and after practice sessions.
3. Schools may provide food, water or other drinks. If they provide these items, schools should do so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items

Game, Contest, and Event Management

In addition to the above guidelines and rules in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules and UIL manuals and handbooks, the following applies to games, scrimmages, and events:

Teams and Participants

1. If the school is planning to offer transportation for students, schools should follow [TEA guidance](#) related to such transportation.
2. Teams and participants are required to wear face coverings as described in [Executive Order GA-29](#).
3. The host site should designate a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.

4. Visiting team /group locker rooms should be cleaned and sanitized by the host site before the visiting team arrives. Visiting teams/groups are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is unloaded. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.
5. Before each game, contest, or event, schools should follow the screening protocols described above to screen all staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event. These individuals should also self-screen as described in these screening protocols.
6. Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be at least six feet from team /group areas such as team benches or performance areas. Where distancing is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as face coverings, implementing engineered controls such as physical barriers, or other risk mitigation efforts the school deems appropriate.
7. As previously indicated, water or other drinks and/or food may be provided. Schools or host sites should consider doing so in a manner that ensures students are not sharing these items.
8. Other areas used by participants, such as press box areas, should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after use. Sites should develop plans for providing access to these areas that limit or remove potential contact between participants and non-participants.
9. The host site should provide sports and contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
10. Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
11. Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
12. All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans. Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events.
13. The pregame officials/head coach conference will take place on the field where social distancing of 6 feet can be maintained. This conference should be 1 hour to 1.5 hours before the scheduled game time
14. For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team (head coach or 1 captain). All remaining team members must remain in the team area. Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
15. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
16. There shall be NO postgame handshake between teams following the game

Student Groups not directly involved in the game or contest

Student groups such as marching bands, cheerleaders, drill teams, and other groups approved by the school district may attend and perform at games or contests in which they are not competing. Schools should consider limiting the number of participants to those essential to the performance.

1. These student groups should remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
2. Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in [Executive Order GA-29](#).
3. Schools should consider limiting the number of students and staff given access to the playing areas and ensure protocols for entering and exiting the playing areas are in place.
4. Fans and spectators should be located to provide at least 10 feet of distance from bands playing wind instruments from the stands.

5. These students should maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants at all times, including when on the sideline.