

Section IX Contest Guidelines Winter 2020 - 2021

In an effort to bring consistency throughout our member districts, Section IX has developed a “Framework for Success” of best practices for interscholastic athletic contests for the winter season of 2020 - 2021.

1. The Host School shall abide by the district’s building plan for COVID-19 screening. Prior to entering the athletic venue, all athletes and support personnel (coaches, administrators, officials) will be subject to additional temperature check by site personnel.
2. The Visiting School will provide a roster to the Host School of all in attendance with contact information including current phone and email for purposes of contact tracing. The roster will include a box confirming each individual student has answered the Section IX health screening questionnaire and has been temperature scanned prior to departure from their campus (they will be temperature checked again by the Host School before attending the athletic venue).
3. Officials will arrive dressed with their completed printed Section IX health screening form to be handed in upon arrival. They will be subject to temperature scan prior to entering the venue.
4. Section IX’s Mask Policy is as follows:
 - A. Any Section IX contest played at a member school facility will follow that districts mask policy.
 - B. Any Section IX contest played at a neutral venue will follow the venues mask policy or NYSPHSAA mask policy whichever is more restrictive.
 - C. Sport specific policy: As of right now 11/16/20 only low and moderate risk winter sports are allowed. They include bowling, alpine and nordic skiing, boys swimming, winter track and gymnastics. The only sport specific mask policy is boys swimming which states: Swimmers will not wear a mask from the time they enter the starting block until the race is over and they exit the pool.
 - D. When high risk sports are allowed by the State those sports mask policy will be reviewed, as necessary.
5. Sanitizing stations will be placed by entry, exits, benches and bathrooms. Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gloves, etc....) will be made available by the host school.

6. Separate entrances and exits will be established (enter one way, exit another).
7. In an attempt to keep athletic events up and running, no spectators will be permitted until further notice.
8. When the Section determines it is safe to allow spectators, we will follow the guidelines established by the state and department of health. All spectators will be subject to temperature scans and health screening questionnaires will be mandatory of all spectators prior to entrance. Spectators will be seated socially distanced to separate bleachers (home - visitors). Family members will be permitted to sit next to each other. Masks will be required.
9. Athletes and coaches will arrive with their own water bottles clearly marked by individual names. Home schools will be required to provide water refilling stations. Each team is responsible for one designated person to refill the bottles and sanitize their team's refill station (one person only touching the surface of the refill station).
10. Isolation area will be established for anyone developing symptoms during the contest. In the event visiting coaches, athletes or game personnel develop a high temperature of 100 F or greater, that person will be directed to the predetermined isolation area of the home district until a ride home can be secured (parent/ guardian etc....)
11. Locker rooms will be used as changing rooms only; teams are encouraged to come dressed for the contest. Personal items will not be stored in the locker rooms. Department of Health capacity guidelines will be followed regarding student use of changing areas. Changing areas will be supervised by visiting team coaches and home personnel.
12. All shared equipment and spaces (benches) will be disinfected prior to and between contests.
13. Athletes should come taped and prepared. Injury to a visiting athlete is first evaluated by their coach. In consideration of social distancing guidelines, if additional medical care is needed, the coach will step away from the athlete to allow for the athletic trainer, doctor or site personnel to attend to the athlete.
14. Due to current Department of Health recommendations, athletes and coaches must refrain from pre- and post-game hugging, high fives, shaking hands or fist bumps.

