

Section IX Contest Guidelines Spring Season - 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 Spring season of 2020 - 2021.

1. The Host School shall abide by the district’s building plan for Covid-19 screening. The home school will be responsible for screening and temperature checks of their athletes and support personnel and the game officials.
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. Temperature checks of the visiting team will no longer be required upon arrival at the host school.
3. Officials will arrive dressed with 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 Mask Policy is as follows:
 - Any Section IX contest played at a member school facility will follow that districts mask policy.
 - Any Section IX contest played at a neutral venue will follow the venues mask policy or NYSPHSAA mask policy whichever is more restrictive.
 - Sport specific policy: The only sport specific mask policy is boys and girls 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.
 - Schools must provide a designated mask break area for athletes to use if they need to take off their masks.
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 and/or staggered entrances and exits for outdoor venues will be established (enter one-way, exit another when possible).
7. In an attempt to keep athletic events up and running, no spectators will be allowed at any indoor venue on or off school district property.

8. Outdoor events will allow spectators based on the recommendations of the NYS Department of Health. Spectators must maintain social distancing and are required to always wear a mask. Family members will be permitted to sit next to each other. Any Section IX School District has the right to be more restrictive with their spectator policy with the following exception: If a school is hosting a Section IX tournament contest the Section IX Spectator Policy Guidelines must be followed.

The guidelines as of March 22, 2021 are listed below:

Capacity Limitations:

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“B. Physical Distancing

Responsible Parties must ensure that for any indoor sport or recreational activity, capacity is limited to no more than 50% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area as set by the certificate of occupancy, inclusive of employees and patrons/players/spectators.

Responsible Parties must limit spectators to no more than two spectators per player or the State's social gathering limit, which is 100 or fewer people in indoor non-residential settings and 200 or fewer people in outdoor non-residential settings, as of March 22, 2021. Responsible Parties may determine which spectator limit – two per player or the social gathering limit – facilitates compliance with health and safety protocols for their specific sports and recreation event.”

9. Athletes and coaches will arrive with their own water bottles clearly marked by individual names. The visiting school will be responsible for bringing their own water with each team 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 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.
15. Visiting athletes arriving to a contest separate from the school bus must enter with their team. The visiting coach will be responsible for health screening questionnaire, timely arrival (entry) with full team and accurate record keeping for all visiting athletes (regardless of method of travel).
16. In extenuating circumstances where an athlete or coach does not enter with the full team, prior arrangements must be made by the visiting Athletic Director with the home Athletic Director to ensure the visiting athlete or coach can be temperature checked then escorted to the proper location.
17. It is recommended that for outdoor sports the home school have a plan in place for inclement weather and a place be provided to safely shelter in case of a thunderstorm. It is recommended that visiting school transportation always stay with the team to help mitigate sheltering requirements.