



2020-21 MHSA FOOTBALL REQUIREMENTS / CONSIDERATIONS FOR COVID-19



The requirements / considerations 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.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS / CONSIDERATIONS

1. Workouts/practices should be conducted in “pods” / “bubbles” of participants with same players working out together to limit overall exposure.
2. Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, and administration should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
3. No out of state competition or teams traveling from out of state for competition, unless it is in a dual format and approved by the MHSA Executive Director.
4. Always maintain social distancing of 6 feet while on the field/court of play when possible.
5. Everyone must have their own beverage container that is not shared. Safe handling practices should be adhered during hydration, which includes refilling, retrieval and identification of water source.
6. Time-outs (if applicable) may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length for safe hydration practices. Social distancing requirements must always be followed.
7. Cloth facial coverings are allowed for players, coaches and officials. Facial coverings must be a single solid color and unadorned. Face coverings must be worn per the Governor’s directive.
8. Gloves are permissible for all players, coaches and officials.
9. The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest / event as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
10. Administrators must limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field/player surface area throughout the contest.
11. Attendance at MHSA events is dependent on host site and local health department guidelines and restrictions.
12. A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others is very important. Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home). Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.

CONTESTS

- No Jamborees or triangulars are allowed for football competition (no multi-team events).

PRE AND POST GAME REQUIREMENTS

- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions.
- Maintain social distancing requirements during all introduction
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.
- If available, dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social-distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival

PREGAME CONFERENCE, COIN TOSS AND OVERTIME PROCEDURES

- For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team.

- Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
- No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- For the overtime procedure, please use the same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.

GAME RULES

Team Box (Rule 1-2-3g)

- The team box **will** be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (**for players only**) in order for more social-distancing space for the teams.
- All must maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box.

Ball (Rule 1-3-2)

- The ball must be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer. (See Wilson Ball Cleaning Recommendations)
- The ball holders should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.

Face Masks [Rules 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c(4)]

- Cloth face coverings are permissible. They must be single solid color and unadorned. Face coverings must be worn per the Governor's directive.
- Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest.

Gloves (Rule 1-5-2b)

- Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.

Charged Time-Outs and Authorized Conferences (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)

- A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length.
- The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)

Intermission Between Periods and After Scoring (Rule 3-5-7I)

- The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick.

FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL REQUIREMENTS

- BY MOA Rule, Electronic whistles are permissible. Officials must choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside. Recommended:
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic – (3 tone) -
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone)
- Cloth facial coverings are allowed. Facial coverings must be a single solid color and unadorned. Face coverings must be worn per the Governor's directive.
- Gloves are permissible.
- Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.