



OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT RETURN-TO-PLAY TOPICS

***This document was updated on May 15, 2021.** Over time, this document will change. Please check back frequently for updates. The first four pages of this document feature easy-to-understand overviews of Spring 2020-21 COVID document-related guidelines. For more detailed answers, read this entire packet. Spring athletics will not be risk-free, but by following the guidance in this document, we all can help mitigate those risks. You should also consider your interactions outside of sports during this season in order to limit the potential for exposure in other portions of your daily routine.*

PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE CASES: A detailed and more complete version of these protocols can be found on page 4 of this document (“What to Do When Someone Gets Sick”).

1. Contact health department and follow guidance.
2. Close contacts MAY have to quarantine for 14 days; follow health department guidance. “Close contact” is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset.
3. Notify all schools, families and officials involved without identifying the person involved.
4. Students, coaches, officials and others at the event but NOT in close contact should be closely monitored for symptoms and may not need testing. Follow health department guidance.
5. Clean the area.

FACE MASKS: The **May 15, 2021** order issued by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) states that masks are no longer required for any outdoor activity. Individuals may opt to wear a face mask but there is no longer a requirement that face masks be worn outdoors by any player, coach, team personnel, official or spectators. Contact sport athletes in boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and girls soccer are no longer required to wear a face mask while participating.

REGULAR-SEASON TOURNAMENTS, INVATIONALS, MULTI-TEAM COMPETITIONS: The following limitations are in place for regular season spring tournaments and invitationals, both home and away. Regular-season dual/head-to-head matchups, between multiple levels of two different schools, are not affected.

- Baseball – four schools/teams at a site
- Golf – traditional contest limits apply
- Lacrosse – four schools/teams at a site
- Soccer – four schools/teams at a site
- Softball – four schools/teams at a site
- Tennis – traditional contest limits apply
- Track & Field – 16 single-gender teams at a site

When determining the number of teams present at a tournament, count the school’s varsity team as one team, and its JV team as a second team. The goal is to achieve physical distancing at all possible times; teams not in competition should be provided adequate space, and spectator limitations must be followed. Consider staggered contest and team arrival times to maintain physical distancing.

Where two sites and/or facilities are used, there should not be any crossover competition between the two tournaments.

SCRIMMAGES: There are no scrimmages allowed for any sports this spring.

SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS: The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that outdoor entertainment and recreation facilities must not allow more than 1,000 patrons to gather. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type. If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

Sideline cheerleaders, dance team members and pompon squads would be considered participants if a school allows. If a non-athletic support organization such as a pep band is allowed at a facility, all those individuals must be counted in the total number of spectators.

ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES: Event organizers and venues must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.

PRE-WORKOUT AND PRE-GAME SCREENING: All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including with a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature of greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential. Any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate, should self-isolate and contact his or her primary care provider or other healthcare professional. Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adult individuals should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.

COVID GAME CANCELLATIONS: Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials' payment purposes, this is considered an act of God.

TICKETS: Schools should strongly consider using a digital ticket or cashless system. Schools must work together to develop a distribution plan for the limited amount of tickets available per game. If a physical ticket is used, each school should consider conducting a pre-sale, with no onsite ticket sales – only tickets, not money, is collected at the event site.

TRANSPORTATION: The use of buses is a local school district decision. Cleaning and ability to physically distance should be part of the decision. Schools should also consider length of trips when determining the season schedule. When feasible, consider having parents drive athletes to and from games.

LOCKER ROOMS: Home teams are not required to offer locker room access. Visiting teams should arrive dressed and ready to play. Locker room restrooms should be available, and a cleaning schedule should be created.

FACILITY CLEANING: Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities. Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (bleachers, chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.). Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds before participating in workouts. Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.

CONCESSIONS: The current MDHHS order states that consumption of food or beverages is permitted only where patrons are seated and those groups of patrons are separated by at least six feet. The order also states that no more than six patrons may be seated at a table and those groups of patrons cannot intermingle.

BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ATHLETES – THIS IS NOT SPORT-SPECIFIC

Administrators/Host Management

- Administrators are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Obtain officials' information in order to trace contacts if necessary. (This information may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- At larger spectator events, consider providing volunteers to monitor entrances and spectator seating areas who can promote physical distancing.
- Schools should restrict spectators on both sides of the gym from sitting in the first two rows of bleachers closest to the gymnasium floor to allow for adequate spacing between the spectators and contest participants, permit a

scorer's table/judge's table and benches to be moved back or use the first row of bleachers for team bench seating if needed.

- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available onsite with devices sanitized between uses.

Coaches

- Coaches are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Provide and review NFHS Playing Rule modifications with players and parents.

Spectators

- Spectators are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Entrance and exit protocols and posted signs by host management must be obeyed.

Media Personnel

- Media are not required to wear face masks but may opt to do so at outdoor events. Proper physical distancing should be practiced.
- Press box/table accommodations should allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Promote to local media the need to call in advance of the event to secure accommodations.
- Designate locations where photographers may shoot from and enforce it. Make sure photographers are aware of restrictions when they arrive. Photographers must be kept out of team box and bench areas.
- Limit postgame interviews to open-air areas. No locker room access.
- Establish times when the venue will become available to the media and when it will close.



SPORT: Boys Golf

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Considering all recommendations by the [MISafeSchools Return to School Roadmap](#), [MHSAA Re-Opening Guidelines](#) and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committees, the following are the specific guidelines for Golf:

The MHSAA/NFHS Guidance for Re-Opening School Sports lists Golf as a low risk sport.

Low risk sports can be done with physical distancing or individually with no sharing of equipment or the ability to clean the equipment between use by competitors.

Competition and Spectator Limitations

- There are no participation limits on golf matches, tournaments or invitationals as long as proper health and safety guidelines can be followed.
- No scrimmages allowed.
- The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that outdoor entertainment and recreation facilities must not allow more than 1,000 patrons to gather. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type.

Special Equipment and Facility Considerations for Girls Golf

Sports Equipment	Facilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golf Balls• Clubs• Tees• Ball Markers• Bags• Towels• Water Bottles• Scorecards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flags, Pins• Bunker Rakes• Ball Cleaning Devices• Carts• Bathrooms• Warm-Up Areas (Driving Range, Chipping/Putting Green, Practice Bunker)• Clubhouse

BOYS GOLF – Return to Play Guidelines

PRACTICE

- Team Meetings prior to Practice- Observe social distancing/ wearing of face masks recommended.
- Handouts/Rule Books- use of online materials, emails and other electronic communication is recommended
- Hydration/Food, Snacks- All players must provide their own water bottles or drinks and snacks. There is to be no sharing of food or drink. Also, public drinking facilities should not be used. Coaches should only provide prepackaged or commercially produced food or drink to players.
- Workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone becomes ill.
- When engaging in multiple drills or stations, ensure that players are properly spaced out and there is no congregating of players while waiting to hit or perform drills.
- There should be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times.
- There should be no shared athletic equipment (towels, clothing, shoes, rangefinders or specific equipment) between students.
- Players should use their own golf ball and not touch other players golf balls or equipment.
- Players licking fingers – If a golfer touches their mouth, practice is stopped and the player must sanitize their hands.
- Students should wear their own appropriate clothing (do not share clothing.)
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual. Cleaning/ sanitizing supplies should be readily available on site.
- Coach Modeling- Coaches should be great role models for their players and observe all of the stay safe, stay healthy guidelines.
- Player habits – Coaches should work to continue to reinforce safe and healthy habits. This includes staying away from touching their face, physical distancing between individuals, and constant hand washing.
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes – Players, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes.
- Face masks are optional for athletes while in active participation in golf and recommended at all other times when not involved in active participation. This includes but is not limited to pre-match meetings, players meetings, scoring areas, award ceremonies, post-match team meetings. IF meetings are done inside, masks should be worn.

COMPETITION

- Face masks are optional for athletes while in active participation in golf and recommended at all other times when not involved in active participation. This includes but is not limited to pre-match meetings, players meetings, scoring areas, award ceremonies, post-match team meetings. IF meetings are done inside, masks should be worn.
- Field size is not limited in boys golf, but it is recommended to keep the size of events consistent with limiting interactions of teams, of playing groups and the potential close exposures of different teams and schools. Player groupings are recommended to be limited to three.
- Team issued uniforms, umbrellas, golf bags, competition golf balls, towels, etc. can be used but players would be advised to use their own equipment or keep it for the duration of the season.
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- Provide clear instruction regarding suggested arrival time and protocols for clubhouse, restrooms and practice facilities. When using the restroom, maintain physical distancing while waiting and avoid congregating in the rest room.
- Arrivals of participants is recommended to be limited to no sooner than 60 minutes before tee time (which may limit practice time).
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- All players are encouraged to have their own hand sanitizer in addition to what coach has available.

- Consideration should be given to limiting or restricting access to driving ranges and putting greens or having set times and schedules for teams and players to use.
- Warm-up facilities-Coaches are responsible for ensuring physical distancing is maintained. Host school should set up practice facilities to ensure physical distancing.
- Coaches carts should be sanitized prior to use and their use may be restricted.
- No gathering points for registration.
- It is recommended that spectators use masks but it is not required.
- It is recommended, but not required that coaches, officials, administrators, media and all staff wear facial coverings at all golf matches and while on the course. Meetings held inside may require masks be worn.
- Coaches meeting- If the meeting is held inside - it is required that coaches wear a mask and social distancing is set up. If the meeting is done outside masks are recommended but not required.
- Coaches coffee and donuts during coaches meeting should not be shared and may have to be eliminated.
- Handouts/Tournament information/ Local rules given to coaches via electronic communication or verbally at the coaches meeting. Team packets may have to be eliminated or reduced.
- Players meetings should be changed to outside only and/or cancelled instead relying upon each coach to share tournament information to their players in a physically distanced manner.
- If players meetings are necessary, masks are recommended but not required. Meetings should be conducted outdoors.
- Limit, reduce or eliminate pre-match and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- Consideration should be given to reducing the amount of shuttling between and to holes.
- Consideration should be given to not exchanging scorecards but instead using electronic scoring via cell phone if available. This includes programs like iWanamaker, BirdieFire and Golf Genius to score events. A process for verifying, collecting player and team scores should be determined prior to competition by administration and/or coaches.
- Consideration should be given to alternative end of round procedures to ensure golfers do not congregate. This includes changing or eliminating award ceremonies.
- Golf equipment – Players should use their own equipment and golf balls. Players should not touch other players equipment or golf balls.
- All players shall bring their own water bottle or drinks. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Public water facilities should NOT be utilized. Bottled water or individual water bottles should be used.
- Use of team coolers is not recommended. Instead prepacked, bagged or commercially produced food should be done for teams and players.

ON COURSE PLAY

- Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others, i.e., managers, video people, media, photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery remaining by the cart path (when present) or remaining at least 25 yards from the players.
- Shotgun starts are allowed with strict social distancing and staging that eliminates the potential for large gatherings. Tee time starts are recommended.
- Gatherings are not recommended but are not limited, except by total spectator limits, and tournaments may be held, though it is recommended to keep these gatherings to a minimum. (ex. scoreboard area, clubhouse, registration, etc.).
- Award ceremonies may have to be modified or eliminated. No gathering points for awards ceremony. Functions may be held following physical distancing protocol and local guidelines.
- Players need to practice physical distancing while on the course and playing a match, even with other members of their three or foursome.

BOYS GOLF – USGA/PGA Playing Rule Modifications

- Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines:
 - USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook - <https://www.usga.org/course-care/covid-19-resource-center.html>
 - PGA Jr. League Guidelines - https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ1oEw931iYxsVIBfmUtqcrOSTvIq2LX3ECgOyTSYADFFtEF0RATa5segvSi_zf4MchVfVpFxFxNx51D/pub **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING GIRLS GOLF RETURN TO PLAY GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS**

Updated 5/15/21

How many spectators are allowed at a Golf match?

The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that outdoor entertainment and recreation facilities must not allow more than 1,000 patrons to gather. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type.

If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

Do you have any other information on iWanamaker and how do I get my team registered?

Registering as a golf coach, AD, golfer or spectator is done with the MHSAA Golf (not the iWanamaker) app from the app store. ADs, Coaches and Golfers are added automatically to their respective schools when they get the MHSAA Golf app from the app store. During the registration process you will be added with the appropriate permissions based on your user type.

After you register using the MHSAA Golf App you will go to <https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c2fb22ee/DOMCuxqWPESH-nQIKCDEng?u=https://iwanamaker.com/> to manage your schedule and roster. To navigate to your school, you can click on LEAGUES then Michigan High School Athletic Association then find your school. You can also click on your school under the heading labeled "Your Teams". We highly recommend you watch the first 4 video tutorials by clicking on HELP to learn how to navigate and use the platform.

Please refer to the documents below for additional information and feel free to forward these links to all those involved with golf at your school and email us with any questions. If you have already installed the MHSAA Golf app and are still having difficulties please contact iWanamaker support.

[MHSAA iWanamaker Top 10 for Coaches](#)

[MHSAA iWanamaker Coaches manual](#)

[MHSAA iWanamaker Ticket Information](#)

[MHSAA iWanamaker Golf Follower Script](#)

Can we have a Golf invitational AND conduct it the same way that we have done it in the past? Yes, but.....is the answer we would give. Start with a **DUAL MATCH** first and build from there. What has helped in answering this question is a mindset switch that needs to occur. We need to operate from the standpoint that we do not have school sponsored boys golf at this time. We want to build on a successful regular season to get to the postseason using common sense, care and caution. Just doing what you have always done is the quickest way to have quarantines, outbreaks or community spread. The spirit and intent of the rule is important to consider when planning. There is not a restriction on numbers of participants or invitationals, but the recommendation is to start with a dual match, not an invite. Consider using no more than threesomes when you start matches as a way to responsibly get back into golf and keep numbers of participants manageable in your groupings. Start small, grow from there.

There is not a mention of the MHSAA Boys Golf Regional or Finals in the document. What is the plan for those events?

MHSAA tournaments including Regionals and Finals for Boys Golf was purposefully left out of this initial document and plan. By design, the focus of these documents is on the start of the regular season for schools, administrators, coaches and athletes. MHSAA Boys Golf Regionals and Finals are being planned. The plan is to have MHSAA Boys Golf Regionals and Finals be played the same way that they have in the past, if we can show caution and care to get us through the regular season of high school boys golf. The strong desire of the MHSAA is to have these events as a culmination of the season.

If we can get outside to compete in match on March 26 can we compete in this?

Yes – the first day of practice is no earlier than March 22nd with the first competition no earlier than March 26th. Competition is an individual school and team decision made in the best interests of the students involved by the school district. As with all other aspects of our lives during this time, this is contingent on the plan being followed and subject to change. Stay tuned to MHSAA.com for further updates.

How do we handle food for players during a match? The guidance states that team coolers should not be used and the sharing of food or drink is not be allowed. This guidance needs to be followed. The traditional team coolers or food bags that are shared need to be discontinued in golf this fall. Some suggestions include to individually place a player specific food bag for each player at spots on the course or at the turn or have a player bring their own cooler to keep drinks and food cold for their own consumption. Pre-packaged individual food packages or commercially prepared food could also be an alternative if done individually.

How many spectators can come to events and matches, and does that number include participants, coaches, workers and officials?

The current MDHHS epidemic order indicates that outdoor entertainment and recreation facilities, like golf courses, must not allow more than 1,000 patrons to gather. Schools may limit spectators further (two per participant, as suggested by MDHHS) but the order defines the maximum number of spectators based on facility size and type. This means that participants, coaches, workers and officials are not counted towards the 1,000 number. As you know, it is rare that more than 1,000 spectators attend a golf match so the belief is that all spectators will be allowed to attend matches throughout the season. If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

Do coaches need to wear masks at all times while on the course at a match? Do spectators need to wear mask as well? As of May 15, 2021, Face masks are no longer required for any outdoor activity, including golf. While individuals (coaches, officials, spectators) may opt to wear a face mask, there is no longer a requirement that face masks be worn outdoors by any player, coach, team personnel, official or spectators.



Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Precautionary Measures (in addition to other protocols and precautions)

- Anyone attending or participating in an MHSAA regular season or tournament event should check his/her temperature before arriving. Spectators, participants or personnel displaying COVID-19 symptoms (*e.g., fever, cough or shortness of breath*), or with temperatures of 100.3F or greater, should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms persist.
- Prior to participation, the COVID-19 athlete/coach monitoring form should be used, which includes five questions plus a temperature check. **NOTE: Athletic Directors should consider requiring similar precautions for game officials.**

Protocol for Suspected Cases of COVID-19

- All schools should have an emergency action plan in place for each site. If a student, coach or official is or becomes sick on site with symptoms of COVID-19, they should be placed in a clearly identified and designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they can be picked up. Staff who are identified to care for students must wear a mask.
- A symptomatic student should be sent home with a parent or designated adult until they have tested negative or have been released from isolation according to the local health department's protocols.
- Students, coaches, and/or officials should be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact or ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being brought to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19. If a student, coach or official becomes sick, they must not use group transportation to return home.

Protocol for Positive Cases of COVID-19

- The local health department should be contacted by the school for further direction. They likely will initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practices.
- All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and collect the contact information for any close contacts (*i.e., individuals less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes*) of the infected individual from two days before he or she showed symptoms to the time when he or she was last at the event. Close contacts should be quarantined for 14 days at home. Local health officials may identify other contacts who require quarantine.
- Administrators of the schools involved, as well as students/families/officials in attendance, should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 so there continues to be awareness and close observation of any symptoms. **NOTE: Student communicable disease related information is protected health information. The individual with COVID-19 should not be identified by name to non-family or non-health department officials. Even if a family/student acknowledges and publicly discloses a positive test, school staff and officials must not participate in discussion or acknowledgement of a positive test by identifying a specific student.**
- Students, coaches or officials who were at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, should continue to be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, these individuals are not required to receive testing unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Areas that were used by the sick person should be closed off and should not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting them (this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area). If possible, cleaning and disinfecting of the area should not occur until at least 24 hours has elapsed. If 24 hours is not feasible, as much time possible should be allowed to pass before cleaning or disinfection occurs.

COVID-19 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form DATE: _____



Name	Time	Circle Yes/No below										Temp (if higher than 100.3°F)
		Fever		Cough		Sore Throat		Shortness of Breath		Close contact, or cared for someone with COVID-19		
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
		Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	