

Rules for Spectators at Athletic Contests and Activities

Background:

A major concern for upcoming sports seasons are the crowds that gather to watch our contests. The Iowa boys' athletic association

Spectators

- Schools should implement spectator protocols by following CDC and local department of health guidelines regarding size of gatherings and social distancing.
- Spectators should use six feet social distancing. Families may sit or stand together but should social distance from others. Frequent reminders should be made via public address.
- Just as businesses may require customers to wear masks, schools may require spectators to wear masks.

Of course, the fall sports of football and cross country for the boys are held outdoors where the dangers of the virus are slightly reduced.

The stakes are even higher for volleyball contests as they take place indoors. The Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union recommends

“The use of cloth face coverings is strongly encouraged. In addition, social distancing is strongly encouraged as much as possible for non-participants, parents, coaches, officials, and other event volunteers.”

Review of Research:

Guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is limited. Generally, the CDC advises people not attend large events and join large crowds. Regarding advice for spectators in attendance at athletic contests, the CDC recommends

“Limit nonessential visitors, spectators, and volunteers. Ensure they wear masks and maintain social distancing.” (Space out spectators by six feet.)

Recommended Action:

I recommend the board move to strongly encourage face coverings for all spectators at all outdoor events such as football games and cross country meets.

I further recommend the board move to require face coverings for all spectators at all indoor events such as volleyball matches.