

Sports update as of 1/25/2021

With the recent news of the changing in what a team can do as far as competitions go, I would like to present you with some current information that we have moving forward. Below is the list of sports at the junior high and high school level and possible start dates for practices as well as first competitions. As I write this, IHSA and IESA will be coming out with a different schedule but it is better to have something in writing so that we are all on the same page and a common document to look at instead of looking on all of the different IDPH, IHSA, and IESA websites.

Middle School Sport	Covid Risk Level	Practice Start Date...	Competitions can start on...	Phase 4 Mitigations allowed...
Volleyball	Medium	Jan. 25	Feb. 2	Intra-conference or Intra-EMS0 region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Boys Basketball	High	Jan. 25	Feb. 2	Intra-conference or Intra-EMS0 region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Girls Basketball	High	Mar. 8	Mar. 17	Intra-conference or Intra-EMS0 region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Track and Field	Low	Mar. 1	Mar. 9	Non-conference contests, out-of-state contests, tournaments &

				State Series allowed
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High School Sport	Covid Risk Level	Practice Start Date...	Competitions can start on...	Phase 4 Mitigations allowed...
B/G Basketball	High	Feb. 15	<u>TBD</u>	Intra-conference or Intra-EMSO region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Bowling	Low	Jan. 25	Feb. 2	Non-conference contests, out-of-state contests, tournaments & State Series allowed
Football	High	Feb. 15	<u>TBD</u>	Intra-conference or Intra-EMSO region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Volleyball	Medium	Feb. 15	Feb. 23	Intra-conference or Intra-EMSO region or intra-league play/meets only; state- or league-championships allowed for low risk sports only
Baseball/Softball	Low	Apr. 19	Apr. 27	Non-conference contests, out-of-state contests, tournaments & State Series allowed
Boys Soccer	Medium	Feb. 15	Feb. 23	Tournaments, out-

				of-conference/league play, out-of-state play allowed; championship games allowed
Girls soccer	Medium	Apr. 19	Apr. 27	Tournaments, out-of-conference/league play, out-of-state play allowed; championship games allowed
Track and Field	Low	Apr. 19	Apr. 27	Non-conference contests, out-of-state contests, tournaments & State Series allowed

Where do we go from here?

I have contacted the coaches to set up gym usage times so that we will be able to accommodate as many sports as we can. As you can see, there are overlaps of seasons from the junior high to high school level and will be working with the coaches to make it work for their schedules.

Practices

Given our current situation of being a hybrid learning environment, all practices cannot start fall within the contractual obligations of the teachers. Meaning from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm, practices are not allowed. Even if the coach has a volunteer or assistant that is not a district employee, the time between 7:30 am and 3:30 pm is reserved for the education process to take place. Practices may be scheduled before or after that designated time slot.

All guidelines are currently still in place and must be followed: Masks worn at all times (even during competitions), players bring their own water bottles, no locker room usage at this time, temperature checks as well as related questions asked upon entry, etc.

Spectators

There has been some discrepancy in the number of individuals that can be in one place at a given time while still being able to maintain the social distancing aspect. In the different levels it can range from 10 up to 50. The IDPH leaves a little gray area in this regard as you can see from their quote listed below:

“The guidelines require sports organizers to set up their physical space to allow for at least 6 feet social distance for all participants not engaged in the sports activity (e.g., on the bench or sidelines). (See Physical Workspace minimum guidelines #3.) The guidelines also encourage organizers to configure the area of play to allow for at least 6 feet social distance between participants, whenever possible. (See Physical Workspace encouraged best practices #1.) Ultimately, the **team should only bring the personnel who can fit into the space while allowing appropriate distancing**. The guidelines also encourage organizers to consider prioritizing attendance for some groups (e.g., athletes, coaches, officials, medical staff, event staff, security) compared to others (e.g., spectators, media, vendors).”

Updated 1/22/21

-In Phase 4 Regions, you can have a maximum of 50 spectators.

-in Tier 1 Regions, you can have a maximum of 25 spectators.

-In Tier 2 Regions, you cannot have spectators.

Host schools may choose to be more restrictive in their spectator policies. We also realize that these guidelines may be in conflict with some educational guidance schools received from ISBE. We have pointed this out to our state contacts, and can only tell you that the guidance above is what we have been provided for spectators at sporting events. You will need to address any other conflicts directly with ISBE.

Many schools have now changed their stance on spectators given the current mitigations. Many schools as well as myself were originally pushing for no spectators and are now pushing to allow the 50 spectators. If we give each player 2 passes for family members to attend, there are some guidelines that must be put in place to allow for them to attend and stay within the limitations. The passes will be for home fans only as well as many other schools are not allowing visiting fans to enter their facilities.

1. All fans/players must follow guidelines and be properly screened before entering the building.
2. All fans/players must be socially distanced in the bleachers when not involved in competition.

3. At the conclusion of the first game, fans and players must exit the building to allow for sanitation of the facilities.
4. The next game's players/fan will be screened before entering the facilities.

Some things to consider when talking about attendance:

To make a paperless system, do we just give our players the laminated passes for free?

How will it be policed/enforced for following guidelines?

Concessions? (hard to do this with paperless system)

Supply water to home/away teams