

Game Guidelines & Imperatives for Winter Sports

Purpose: To provide clear and explicit expectations of the mitigation strategies and procedures we will adhere to as a district athletic department.

In addition to applicable practice guidelines and imperatives and in accordance with the OCSD department of student services, the South Carolina High School League, the CDC, and DHEC, our athletic department will adhere to the following guidelines and imperatives for winter sports games and matches. Failure to adhere to these guidelines could result in the interruption and suspension of athletics.

2020-21 Basketball Imperatives

Signs must be posted at all building entrances advising the public that they may wish to refrain from entering if they are 65 years of age or older or have underlying health conditions including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, severe obesity, asthma or weakened immunity.

Pre-Game Considerations:

- If an administrator's meeting is required, social distancing should be used at all times and face coverings should be worn.
- The area where the team(s) and officials come onto the floor from their locker room(s) should have a minimum of 6ft separation from spectators.
- Pre-game Protocol – Limit participants to 1 captain from each team with each captain standing on the center circle on each side of the division line.
- Suspend handshakes before and following the pre-game conference.
- Pre-Game Ceremonies – Officials should stand at the division line across from team benches during pre-game ceremonies and player introductions.
- Player introductions – As the players are introduced, they should refrain from shaking hands with the officials and go to the area directly in front of their team bench.
- Officials should not wear jackets onto the gym floor during warm-ups or any other pre-game activity.

Playing Modifications for Officials Mechanics:

- Officials may stand 6ft or greater away from the player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on a frontcourt throw-in.
- The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.

Officials Table:

- The host should sanitize the table before the game and at the half.
- Hand sanitizer should be available at the table before during and after a contest.
- Limit seats at the table to the following: home scorer, timer, and announcer. (Visiting scorer can sit on visiting bench or in a designated area behind the scorer's table that allows for 6ft social distancing)
- Coaches should maintain 6ft separation from the officials' table. When this is not possible, coaches should wear a face covering when coming to the officials' table for any reason.

- Minimum of 6ft separation between spectator seating and the officials' table.
- Face coverings are required at all times for table personnel.
- Announcer script for mitigation and safety expectations should be read 3 times or more.

Team Benches:

- Limit the number of bench personnel.
- Only coaches, players in uniform, and medical personnel are allowed on the bench.
- Minimum of 6ft separation between the team bench and spectators seating behind the bench.

Fans:

- Mark areas for fans/spectators to socially distance.
- There is to be no congregating.
- Concession stands operations should involve 6 feet social distancing in lines and face coverings by fans and concession stand workers. Mark the spaces.
- Restroom lines should involve 6 feet social distancing. Mark the spaces.

Post Game:

- Suspend post-game protocol of shaking hands with the opposing teams.
- Players and coaches should leave the floor when the contest is over.
- The area for teams and officials to exit the floor should have a minimum of 6ft of separation from spectators.
- If teams are both exiting the same door, consider staggering the exit times to allow for 6ft separation.
- Spectators are to remain off the playing area once the event is over.

Dressing Rooms for Officials and Teams

- 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 and between use.
- If dressing facilities do not provide adequate space for social distancing, host schools need to make their opponents and the officials aware of this as early in the game week as possible so they can make the necessary adjustments for arrival time, dress and pre-game meetings.
- Visiting teams should consider coming dressed for the contest when possible.

Other Considerations

- The ball should be sanitized frequently throughout the contest.
- Consider using multiple game balls throughout the contest.
- Visiting schools should bring their own basketballs for warm-ups.
- Coaches, players, officials and table personnel should wash and sanitize their hands as frequently as possible before, during and after a game.

- Players, coaches, and game officials should wear face coverings at all times when they are not actively on the basketball court.
- Players, coaches, and game officials are not required to wear face coverings while actively on the basketball court.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible during active play. (Solid Color or contains school or manufacturers logo.)
- Officials may wear protective gloves during the contest.
- Each game official and player should have their own beverage container for use during the contest.
- Coaches should maintain social distancing of 6 feet when seeking clarification from an official.
- If megaphones are used by cheerleaders, the opening (large end) should be covered with cloth like material to mitigate the exposure of droplets/vapors projected from the device.
- Before, during and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration officials should wash and sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- Personal contact should be avoided amongst student-athletes, when possible. This includes but not limited to: handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, elbow bumps, chest-bumps, etc.

Other important general mitigation imperatives:

- Wash hands frequently (20 seconds with soap and water or use of a sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects (e.g., keyboards, phones) and surfaces (e.g., handrails, workstations, sinks) or remove unnecessary frequently touched surfaces (e.g., trash can lid).
- Avoid touching of eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.