



## **FHSAA 2020-2021 Officials Winter Sports Officials Considerations**

September 14, 2020

In line with the NFHS Officials Advisory Committee's recommendations, the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee along with FHSAA staff are providing these considerations for all Winter Florida High School officials. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social/physical distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment. These considerations are meant to assist officials in all winter sports, while keeping in mind that protocols are different in each sport and adjustments may need to be made.

### **Return to Competition**

#### **1. Uniform**

##### **a. LEGAL UNIFORM FOR OFFICIALS**

- i. Long sleeves are permissible.
- ii. Long pants are permissible.
- iii. Other accommodations will be considered. Associations are asked to reach out to the FHSAA staff to present accommodations.

##### **b. OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**

- i. Air horns are permissible.
- ii. Electronic whistles are encouraged. (Supplies are limited.)  
Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
- iii. Face coverings are strongly recommended by the FHSAA SMAC to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the officials themselves.
- iv. Gloves are permissible. If officials choose to wear gloves, they are asked to bring their own to the site to limit contact and interaction.
- v. Personal hand sanitizer bottles are recommended.

**Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.**

#### **2. Rules Considerations and Game Management**

##### **a. PREGAME CONFERENCE**

- i. Limit attendees to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team; or speak with the team representatives in a separate meeting.
  1. Use of headsets with other crew members (if applicable).
  2. Script the conference to ensure consistency with both teams.
- ii. Coin Toss – Head Referee and 2 captains.
- iii. Move the location of the pregame conference to the center of the court/field. All individuals maintain a physical distance (6 feet) that is based on local health department and CDC guidelines.
- iv. Maintain physical distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.
- v. Maintain physical distancing that is based on local health department and CDC guidelines between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the area designated for substituting.

**b. OFFICIALS TABLE/PRESS BOX**

- i. Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance that is based on local health department and CDC guidelines between individuals and are expected to follow local health department and CDC guidelines, i.e. make requirements, etc. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space available at the table is a variable in determining the number allowed at the officials table.

**c. SIDELINES**

- i. Court sports benches may be moved back to allow physical distancing based on the setup of the gym giving way to officials.
- ii. Auxiliary volunteers (ball boy/girl, tappers etc.) are expected to follow local health department and CDC guidelines.

**3. Pregame and Postgame Ceremony**

- a. Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions.
- b. Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.

**4. Personal Responsibilities for Officials**

**a. TRAINING**

- i. Attend online meetings to review the rules for the coming year.
- ii. Start physical training using online video or complete skills alone. If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you should be cleared by your medical provider prior to initiating an exercise program.

**b. COMPETITION**

- i. If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your crew members and your assigner and stay at home. Please follow CDC guidelines regarding possible exposure from contacts including those at home regarding need for self-quarantine and/or self-monitoring. Please be mindful of symptoms of COVID-19 which may include cough, chills, respiratory symptoms, potentially GI symptoms, and fever above 100.3. Notify site administrator immediately of any concerns of possible exposure or symptoms.
- ii. "Vulnerable individuals" are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.
- iii. Constant communication throughout the season with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.
- iv. Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- v. Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel, and equipment during the game.
- vi. Maintain physical distancing that is based on local health department and CDC guidelines while in the locker room and/or on the court/field.
- vii. Bring your own beverages and snacks to limit contact and interaction.
- viii. In Spirit, if judges are unable to be 6 feet apart they must wear a mask, cloth face covering or plastic face shield that wraps around the forehead or hang around the neck.

**5. Host School/Game Management**

**a. SANITIZATION**

- i. Press box/scorers' tables should be sanitized prior to game start, including clock/timer.
- ii. Locker rooms or official's pregame facility should be sanitized prior to official's arrival. (See FHSAA for specific guidelines)

## **OFFICIALS FAQ's**

### **If the winter season gets canceled, what is the refund policy?**

The FHSAA staff will work accordingly depending on when/if the season gets canceled. Considerations will be given based on when/if the season is canceled.

### **Will there be a registration & exam deadline extension?**

The FHSAA will work closely with our officials regarding any deadline extensions or adjustments that need to be made to deadlines. If the season dates shift, we will shift the registration and exam dates accordingly.

### **Will there be any extension(s) for the JLA background screening?**

The State of Florida has not changed their current policy with regards to any extension(s) of the JLA background screening. Officials should contact their local school districts or schools to see if any policies have been modified.

### **Does the insurance provided through Arbiter cover COVID testing?**

As an official, you will need to contact the insurance provider to ask how to proceed with a claim. You may contact American Specialty Insurance & Risk Services Inc. at 260-969-5203 for any further questions.

### **Will it be a requirement to wear a mask?**

Face coverings are strongly recommended by the FHSAA SMAC to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the officials themselves. Officials are expected to follow local health department and CDC guidelines.

### **Can I use an electronic whistle?**

Yes. Officials may use an electronic whistle.

### **If the season gets canceled, how will that affect my ranking?**

The FHSAA office will work with all associations. Current policy permits local associations to apply for a waiver of ranking requirements when it comes to State Series recommendations.