



NJSIAA 2021 Fencing Season Modifications

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the following modifications will be applied to the Fencing Season. The NJSIAA is working with our member schools to offer our student athletes a worthwhile Fencing experience for the 2021 Season.

The NJSIAA reserves the right to adjust, change or cancel dates, for all 2021 Fencing Schedules.

General Information

Season Dates:

Virtual Contact Start Date – Monday, December 14, 2020

First Indoor Practice – Monday, January 11, 2021

Scrimmage – Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage with a neighboring school.

First Game – Tuesday, January 26, 2021

End of Regular Season – Saturday, March 6, 2021

Maximum Number of dual meets allowed for the 2021 Season will be 15 which will include all Cup or Conference Championships. Boys and girls dual meets may be conducted at a single location and in the same gym provided that all CDC regulations and social distancing regulations are followed.

Out of State Opponents – No out of state competition will be permitted by the NJSIAA.

As a reminder, competition cannot start until a team has completed six days of practice and one day of rest. School's may participate in one scrimmage after six days of practice and one day of rest at their discretion. Please be reminded that virtual practices do not count towards the six days of practice and one day of rest requirement.

Fencing Season

Season Limitations:

Competition will be limited to three events per week. The total maximum events will be 15 dual meets during the season, which includes league or conference championships. Teams may only compete in one dual meet per day.

NJSIAA Post-Season:

There will be no NJSIAA sponsored post-season.

Multi-Team/Invitational Events:

Multi-team/invitational events are prohibited.

Scrimmages:

Schools will have the opportunity to participate in one pre-season scrimmage, preferably with a neighboring school. When possible, fencing teams are encouraged to participate in intra-squad scrimmages and utilize officials for additional preseason preparation.

Out-of-State Competition:

On November 10, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 196 which prohibits member schools from hosting interstate competition in all indoor sports. Therefore, no member school may host an out-of-state opponent or host an event out of state. Moreover, NJSIAA is prohibiting member schools from traveling out of state to compete.

Transfers:

Any student-athlete that is subject to a transfer sit period will be eligible for participation on Monday, February 8, 2021. As a reminder, those student-athletes that transferred between March 16, 2020 and November 1, 2020 are not subject to the transfer sit-period. If a student-athlete transfers after November 1, 2020, the student-athlete shall be ineligible to participate for a period of 30 calendar days, or one half of the maximum number of matches being played, whichever is less.

Mask Mandates:

All student-athletes, coaches and officials will be required to wear a mask at all times during the interscholastic competition. Face coverings for athletes must be two-layer cloth masks or surgical face coverings. Single-layer gaiters, bandanas, masks with vents and the Leon Paul mask or shield are not permitted. Athletes who do not comply with this policy will not be allowed to compete. Coaches and meet officials are required to wear a face covering at all times during an interscholastic competition.

Screaming:

Research has shown that virus transmission occurs at a higher rates when individuals scream or yell due to increased propulsion of droplets through the air. Accordingly, yelling after a touch, or at any time during a bout, will be prohibited. As this is significant change to a habit for many fencers, referees are advised to verbally warn fencers than issuing an immediate penalty. If, after warnings, the referee determines an athlete is deliberately violating the reminder not to scream, the referee can award a Group 1 penalty for refusal to obey the referee resulting in a yellow card for the first infraction and red cards for subsequent infractions. The referee also has the authority to award a Group 3 penalty for disturbing order on the strip which results in a red card for the first infraction and a black card and exclusion from the tournament for subsequent infractions.

Handshakes:

Athletes are to salute at the conclusion of a bout in lieu of shaking hands with each other, the referee or coaches.

General Fencing Considerations:

- 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.
- Suspend pregame protocol of shaking hands during introductions/pregame meeting.
- Suspend postgame protocol of shaking hands.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet or greater on the bench when possible.
- Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared.
- Cloth face coverings are required for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.
- Gloves are permissible for all coaches and team staff and for all game administration officials.