



COVID-19 Winter Protocols for Officials

The following protocols are meant to cover officials in all sports while keeping in mind that additional modifications may be needed for each sport. Sports specific modifications can be found on the NJSIAA website under each sport.

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

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- Communicate with school athletic administrators frequently during the days leading up to your contest about school expectations.
- If you feel sick – STAY HOME. Notify the contracted schools, your partner(s), and the assignor to let them know.
- Maintain distance from players when possible and minimize the times you are within six feet of others.
- Limit the exchanging of documents between yourself and others.
- Avoid all conversations within six feet of coaches & players
- Electronic whistles are permissible.
- Gloves may be worn by officials.
- Bring your own towels and hygiene materials. Do not share them with others.
- Bring your own water bottle or rehydration beverages.
- Be prepared to have extended time outs for water breaks because all players will need to use their own water bottles
- Upon arrival at the host site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
- When traveling to contests, considerations should be given to limiting carpooling or traveling with other individuals.

CONTACT HOST SCHOOL BEFORE THE GAME:

- Contact should be made with school athletic administration leading up to the contest about the school's COVID-19 screening protocols.
- Confirm with the host school before arriving on whether the school district requires game officials to sign a liability waiver. If so, you may request an opportunity to review the document in advance. If you are unwilling to sign it, you should decline the assignment. You should not wait until arriving on site to ask to see the waiver or to inform the school that you will not sign it.
- Request separate and secured parking areas, if available, away from other participants.

- Request that hand sanitizer be available at the scorer's table, if applicable, and use it between periods and during time outs. (Officials are encouraged to bring their own in the event none is available.)
- Officials should be prepared to come to the contests fully dressed. There is no guarantee that a place for you to change will be available (see locker rooms below).
- Conversations should occur with the host school administration regarding restroom access.

FACE COVERINGS:

- The CDC affirmed that face coverings are a critical tool in the fight against COVID-19 that reduces the spread of the disease, particularly when used universally within communities.
- Officials are required to wear face coverings at all times, except when doing so would inhibit the official's health, for example:
 - o The official is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity.
 - o If an official's medical condition precludes the use of a face covering.
 - o When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to execute a task.
 - o If an official is experiencing trouble breathing.
 - o When an official is in extreme heat outdoors.
- There are no color restrictions on face coverings, however, all other uniform restrictions do apply.
- It is the responsibility of the school district to ensure all players, coaches, and fans are wearing face coverings. Officials should not question anyone regarding face coverings.

LOCKER ROOMS:

Schools are not required to have locker rooms and or meeting rooms for you. Please do not expect that upon arrival. However, if a school with district approval can safely accommodate you while adhering to all safety protocols, they will let you know. Otherwise, be prepared to officiate once you arrive on site.

PREGAME CONFERENCE:

- Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.
- Pre-contest official crew meetings should be held outside where social distancing is more easily accomplished.
- For this year the sportsmanship statement is limited to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team while wearing masks and maintaining social distance.
- Reminders should be issued for situations that involve hygiene (spitting, etc.) and no post-game handshakes.
- Reminders should be issued for all coaches and players on the sidelines/benches that masks must be worn.

GAME DAY:

- Be prepared to have your temperature taken and a health screening conducted upon arrival at the host site.
- You may also be asked to sign a liability waiver by the school. While not an NJSIAA requirement, it may be a host site requirement.
- In the event a school district does not have any screening procedures for officials upon arrival, it is recommended that you complete the attached daily screening form and give it to the site personnel or the host school's coach. If possible, keep a copy for yourself or take a picture of it.

- Upon conclusion of the contest, leave the contest area and do not interact with others.
- In an effort to maintain social distancing, officiating positions may need to be altered in a manner that is not necessarily in conformance with standard officiating mechanics.

SCORER'S TABLE:

- Limit the scorer's table to essential personnel only. All personnel must be in masks while keeping six feet apart. Visiting team personnel may need to find an alternative location or an additional table could be set up for the visiting team personnel.

PREGAME AND POSTGAME CEREMONY:

- No shaking hands during introductions.
- Traditional pre-game introductions should be altered to ensure social distancing occurs.
- No postgame shaking hands.

CONTACT TRACING:

If a student-athlete has tested positive and played in a game that you officiated, you may be contacted by a member of a local health department's contact tracing team. NJSIAA does not have any additional protocols that are above and beyond those of the local health department.

COVID-19 SCENARIOS:

The following scenarios are provided to assist the official in the decision-making process regarding COVID-19 exposures.

- **Scenario - 1:** An official has had close contact with a **suspected** COVID-19-positive individual.
 - Official should quarantine immediately until test results of the other individual are known.
 - If test is positive, refer to the next scenario below.
 - Official should be vigilant and check for symptoms multiple times a day.
- **Scenario - 2:** An official has had close contact with a **positive** COVID-19 individual.
 - Individual should quarantine immediately for 14 days and follow all close contact & quarantine guidelines within this document.

CLOSE CONTACT:

CDC guidance notes that the risk of COVID-19 transmission increases when an individual has had close contact with an infected person, regardless of whether the infected person has symptoms. The CDC defines close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

QUARANTINE:

Quarantine keeps those who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others. Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine procedures for their jurisdictions. If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19:

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact.
- Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Stay away from people who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.
- Check your local health department's website for information about options in your area to possibly shorten this quarantine period.

ISOLATION:

Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 without symptoms away from others, even in their own home. Infected persons should contact their doctor and school Pandemic Response Team ASAP.

- If you are sick and think or know you have COVID-19, stay home until after:
 - At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared; and
 - At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication; and
 - Symptoms have improved.
- If you tested positive for COVID-19 but do not have symptoms, stay home until after:
 - 10 days have passed since your positive test.
 - If you live with others, stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people.
 - Use a separate bathroom, if available.

REPORTING OF POSITIVE TEST:

Contact tracing is the responsibility of the local health department. However, the NJSIAA and its Medical Advisory Task Force believe the contact tracing process can be helped, and outbreaks limited if officials communicate with their chapter regarding a positive test. It is recommended that any official testing positive for COVID-19 follow the procedure below:

- Follow all protocols by your doctor and your local health department.
- Contact your chapter and assignor ASAP.
- We encourage the chapter or the official to reach out to any officiating partner the official may have been in close contact with two days prior to symptoms and/or positive test.
- We also encourage the chapter or the official to contact all the schools that the official worked at two days prior to symptoms and/or positive test.
- All contact to schools regarding COVID-19 should be made to the Athletic Director or the school’s Pandemic Response Team.

THIRD-PARTY FACILITIES (ice hockey, swimming, etc.)

- Officials working at third party facilities must follow the guidelines set forth by the facility and Department of Health.
- All locker room guidelines remain in effect along with the facility-specific guidelines.
- Officials working at these facilities should have a plan in place if the locker rooms are closed.
- Showers may only be utilized at pool facilities in accordance with the NJ public bathing code.



COVID-19 Daily Screening

In the event a school district does not have any screening procedures for officials upon arrival, it is recommended that you complete this form and give it to the site personnel or the host school's coach. If possible, keep a copy for yourself or take a picture of it.

Name _____

Date _____

Section 1: Symptoms

Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms with COVID-19 and you may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

Column A

<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever (measured or subjective)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigors (shivers)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Myalgia (muscle aches)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea or Vomiting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion or runny nose

Column B

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulty Breathing
<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of smell
<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of taste

If **TWO OR MORE** of the fields in Column A are checked off **OR AT LEAST ONE** field in column B is checked off, please stay home and notify your doctor for further instructions.

Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Please verify if:

<input type="checkbox"/>	You have had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	You have traveled to an area of high community transmission.

If **ANY of the fields in Section 2 are checked off**, you should remain home for 14 days from the last date of exposure (if a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case) or date of return to New Jersey. Contact your local health department for further guidance.