



NJSIAA/NFHS 2020-21 Boys and Girls Golf Considerations

In support of the Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities, the NJSIAA staff offers this document as reasonable modifications to the golf rules for the 2020-21 season. The considerations outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and state to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in New Jersey.

Return to Competition

General Considerations:

- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should always be maintained. No hugging, shaking hands, or fist bumps for support/encouragement.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment including balls.
- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth in public settings unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Stay at home if you are sick.
- Local school protocols must be communicated effectively with all parties.
- Spectators will not be allowed on the course.

Media personnel are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.

- **Pre and Post Game Ceremony:** Establish golf specific social distancing protocols including the elimination of handshakes before and after the match.
Move the location of the pre match conference to center of the practice green and maintain a social distance of 6 feet between players.
Players should socially distance 6 feet apart.

Considerations for Coaches:

- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in "pods" of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Coach your team and limit interaction with officials to key questions at the appropriate time. This season is all about participation and an opportunity for the students to engage in educational athletics.
- Coaches are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the coach's health.
- Please review the NJSIAA Golf Tournament Modifications including regular season recommendations and rules.

Considerations for Students/Players:

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- If protective equipment is used, it must be labeled and not shared (goggles, masks if permitted).
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Cloth face coverings are required when meeting with officials, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. (Pre-game meetings)
- All players and anyone at the scorer's table must wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health.
- Long sleeve shirts and long pants are permitted to be worn.
- Undergarments are permitted to be worn but must be of similar length for the individual and a solid like color for the team.
- Bring your own water bottle.
- Students are expected to handle only their own equipment. Recommendation is to avoid hand contact if possible.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home. Be a role model and a selfless teammate.
- Do not congregate in groups on the tee box or the green.
- Do not remove the Flag while putting on the green.

- Only pick up and handle the ball that you are using.
- Do not handle the rakes (if available) in the trap areas. Players are to smooth the trap area using their club, hand, or shoe after hitting their shot.
- At the end of the round do not shake hands with your opponents, tip your hat or give some other form of recognition while remaining socially distanced.
- While waiting for all the players to finish the round maintain your social distanced from the other players.

Considerations for Course and/or Group Monitors:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer, tissues, towels etc. Wash hands frequently.
- Don't share equipment.
- Bring your own water bottle (filled).
- Players should always handle their equipment.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Consider six feet minimum distance when discussing scores or talking to others (players, coaches, other officials) including interaction with the scorer's table.
- The NJSIAA Sportsmanship Statement must be read to all players, maintaining social distancing.
- Meeting with coaches and captains should be conducted maintaining social distancing and face masks should be worn by all at the meeting.
- Do not shake hands and follow pre- and post-game ceremony guidelines established by state associations.
- Use of radios to communicate with partner is permissible and encouraged.
- Officials are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the official's health, or the official is in extreme heat outdoors, or the official is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- Officials are permitted to wear long sleeve shirts or jackets.
- Officials are permitted to wear gloves.
- School/Course protocols will dictate temperature checks, questionnaires, and the like.
- Bathrooms will be at the discretion of the site, again following all protocols in place by that school.
- Officials not feeling well should not be on the course at any time.

Considerations for Parents

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your student's personal equipment after each game or practice.

- Reminder to all this season is about participation so let the players play, let the coaches' coach and let the officials officiate while you enjoy watching your child's team participate in educational athletics.