



SPORT: Football

WIAA STAFF LEAD: Andy Barnes

Committee: Football Contingency Planning Committee Recommendations

Considering all recommendations by the General WIAA guidelines and the SMAC guidelines, the following are the specific guidelines for Football:

The NFHS has determined that Football is high risk. Sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants.

Points of Emphasis: Physical distancing must be followed and hygiene basics adhered to in all situations.

Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment:	Special Considerations for the use of the following components of the facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Footballs ● Mouthguards ● Kicking Tees ● Ball Bags ● Gloves ● Towels ● Pennies/Helmet Covers ● Water Bottles ● Shields ● Any item that is held or that makes contact with the body (ie. Blocking pads/dummies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goal Post Pads ● End Zone Pylons ● Down and Distance Markers ● Bleachers ● Sidelines/Team Areas ● Bathrooms ● Warm-Up Areas ● Locker Rooms ● Weight Training Facilities ● Ticket Booths ● Entry Gates ● Concessions

Washington's Phase 2

- Locker rooms should not be utilized. Students should report to workouts in proper gear and immediately return home to shower at the end of the workout.
- Workouts should be conducted in "pods" of students with the same students always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection. Coaches can rotate between groups with a buffer zone of 30 feet between pods; no physical contact allowed. A gym with a dividing solid curtain will be considered two separate facilities; Recommended 30 feet distance between pods
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times.
- There should be no shared athletic equipment (towels, clothing, shoes, or specific equipment) between students.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing.) Individual clothing/towels/knee pads should be washed and cleaned after every workout.

- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual (weight equipment.)
- Balls – A player should not use a ball that others touch any manner. The same balls in each pod of 5 (the pod of 5 will use the same balls through the entire practice and not be shared with another pod); sanitize the balls if the pod rotates to a different coach, after each session and following the completion of the practice
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual.

Washington's Phase 3

- Workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together. This ensures more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- There must be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times. Appropriate physical distancing will need to be maintained on sidelines and benches during practices. Consider using tape or paint as a guide for students and coaches.
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual (weight equipment.)
- Balls – A player should not use a ball that others touch any manner. The same balls in each pod of 5 (the pod of 5 will use the same balls through the entire practice and not be shared with another pod); sanitize the balls if the pod rotates to a different coach, after each session and following the completion of the practice
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual.

Washington's Phase 4

- When not directly participating in practices or contests, care should be taken to maintain a minimum distance of 3 to 6 feet between each individual. Consider using tape or paint as a guide for students and coaches.
- Hydration stations may be utilized but must be cleaned after every practice or competition.
- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- All field equipment should be cleaned and sanitized after set up and before contest.
- Each school is responsible to bring towels (if necessary).
- Recommend face coverings be worn during the captains meeting.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Sanitized back up balls should be available (someone needs to be designated to sanitize the ball.)

Considerations for Judges, Coaches, Other Personnel

- Schools should have officials' information in order to track contacts (may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Coaches, officials and other contest personnel must wear cloth face coverings at all times (artificial noisemakers such as an air horn or a timer system with an alarm can be used to signal in place of a traditional whistle).
- Officials must come dressed to officiate; a locker room will not be provided.
- A separate bathroom should be provided for officials when possible.
- Officials are recommended to bring their own food and water.
- Electronic whistles are preferred.
- Officials must be spaced 3-6 feet apart.
- Officials will not be expected to monitor the physical distancing; each person is responsible.
- Cleaning supplies should be available on site with devices sanitized between uses.

1. FOOTBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS

- **TEAM BOX (Rule 1-2-3g)**
 - The team box may be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (for players only) in order for more social-distancing space for the teams.
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while in the team box.
 - Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.
- **BALL (Rule 1-3-2)**
 - The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
 - The ball holders should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.
- **FACE MASKS [Rules 1-5-1a, 1-5-3c(4)]**
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Plastic shields covering the entire face (unless integrated into the face mask and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint) shall not be allowed during the contest.
- **TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS [Rule 1-5-1d(5)]**
 - ***Still being determined at this time on how to best handle the tooth and mouth protector during the contest. The NFHS SMAC will update the membership as soon as guidance is developed for all sports that require a tooth and mouth protector.*
- **GLOVES (Rule 1-5-2b)**
 - Gloves are permissible but still must comply with Rule 1-5-2b by meeting either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.
- **STATE ASSOCIATION ADOPTIONS (Rule 1-7)**
 - Each state association may adopt other playing/administrative rules for football for the 2020 season that would decrease exposure to respiratory droplets and COVID-19.
- **CHARGED TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES (Rules 2-6-2, 3-5-3, 3-5-8)**
 - A single charged time-out may be extended to a maximum of two minutes in length.
 - The authorized conference for the charged time-out should take place between the 9-yard marks and not at the sideline for social-distancing purposes. (It would be permissible for more than one coach to be involved in this conference and for technology to be used.)
 - Each game official and player should have their own beverage container brought out to them on the field.
- **INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING (Rule 3-5-7I)**
 - The intermission may be extended to a maximum of two minutes between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety, and prior to the succeeding free kick.

2. FOOTBALL GAME OFFICIALS MANUAL CONSIDERATIONS

○ GAME OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

- Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic – (3 tone) -
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone)
 - Check the market for other choices
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.
- Do not share uniforms, towels and other apparel and equipment.

○ PREGAME CONFERENCE, COIN TOSS AND OVERTIME PROCEDURES

- For the coin toss, limit attendees to the referee, umpire and one designated representative from each team.
- Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
- No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while performing all pregame responsibilities with all officiating crew members, game administration staff, line-to-gain crew, clock operators, individuals handling the balls during the game and team personnel.
- For the overtime procedure, please use the same procedure as used at the start of the contest for the coin toss.

3. PRE AND POST GAME CONSIDERATIONS

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

4. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FOOTBALL

- 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.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play when possible.
- Everyone should have their own beverage container that is not shared.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible 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.
- Try and limit the number of non-essential personnel who are on the field level throughout the contest.

If available, 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.

NFHS Football Rules Interpretation on the New Schutt Sports “Splash Shield”

<https://www.schuttsports.com/splash-shield.html>

The NFHS was just notified of this new football product that is being manufactured by Schutt Sports for their football face mask. The product was reviewed by the NFHS today. The Schutt Sports “Splash Shield” as shown will be permissible for competition and is compliant with current 2020 NFHS Football Rule 1-5-3c(4) as long as it is clear and has no tint. **The NFHS is not endorsing or mandating this product!**

Football Equipment Reconditioning Update

The National Athletic Equipment Reconditioners Association (NAERA) updated the NFHS today on the current status of football equipment reconditioning across the country. NAERA noted that all football equipment reconditioning centers are all now open and up and running at full speed. All are a bit behind right now from being shut down because of COVID-19 but still anticipate on returning all reconditioned football equipment as close to on schedule as possible. NAERA did request that your member schools should contact the person/company who is handling their football reconditioning order to check on the status of it and do not contact NAERA.