



This document provides guidance and recommendations for school administrators, coaches and statewide media personnel to follow in an attempt to safely cover competition and student-athletes from a media standpoint. Game administrators are responsible for informing all participants of any local or school-based guidelines for coverage that might exist.

The following requirements are in place for winter events:

- All working media must have their AIA media credentials on their person and visible at all times. Media without an AIA credential will not be admitted into the event.
- Media looking to cover an event must contact the home/host athletic director and athletic secretary notifying that outlet is wanting to cover the event. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.
- Face coverings will be worn during the entirety of the event and during post-event interviews.
- Interviews will not take place until the competition has come to a definitive conclusion.
- School-based media credentials will be treated the same as AIA media credentials.

The AIA recommends the following items for media to follow for safe coverage of all events:

- If wearing a face covering becomes uncomfortable, find an area away from participants AND outside of the competition area to remove the covering for a few minutes before putting it back on and continuing coverage. It is also required that the student-athletes wear masks during the interview.
- Make sure all cell phones and laptops are charged fully before attending the event. This will prevent the need to find an outlet.
- Schools should create and identify post-event interview areas. AIA recommendations for interview areas per sport are listed in this document, however, event administration will have final say on placement and manner.

Approval of media at an event is contingent upon local and school allowances for the number of individuals permitted within a venue. Only pertinent game personnel, participants and no more than two parents/guardians are allowed to attend and will get first priority.

Portions of these requirements and recommendations could be used for state championship events. Just like the winter sports season itself and the guidelines set forth by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, this document may be adjusted as necessary.

If you have any questions please contact Seth Polansky, AIA Sports Information Coordinator, at [spolansky@aiaonline.org](mailto:spolansky@aiaonline.org).

## 2020-21 Basketball and Wrestling Recommendations

- Media will be required to sit in the stands on the opposite side of the team benches.
- The scorer's table and team benches will be off limits to all non-team personnel. Media should keep stats themselves to the best of their abilities. If stats are needed after an event, one member of the home team should be identified as the person to provide that information. This meeting should take place away from the scorer's table and team bench areas following the event.
- The area along the endlines should be used for post-event interviews. Home team members should use the endline closest to their bench, and the visitors the endline closest to their bench.
  - Interviews should not be conducted in the gym lobby/entryway or in a hallway adjacent to the gym.
  - If there are multiple teams inside the gym, the host administrator should designate safe areas in which interviews are to take place.
  - Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches in the gym for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- Schools may allow for traditional "in-house" broadcasts of their events. Non-school broadcasts approved by schools are recommended to be placed at a safe distance from other broadcasts and working media, and have access to power.
- Media looking to cover an event **must** contact the home/host athletic director and athletic secretary notifying that outlet is wanting to cover the event. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.



## 2020-21 Winter Soccer Recommendations

It is an industry standard for media to be on the field during games. If a member of the media requires a seat in the stands, arrangements should be made ahead of time with the school administrator or coach.

- Media is restricted to the sideline/touchline and out of bounds areas opposite of the team benches. The entire team bench side of the field will be off limits to anyone besides team and school personnel.
- Postgame interviews should take place along the center line on each team's side of the center circle
  - Each team should identify one individual who can share team and individual stats with members of the media conducting interviews. That individual should be around the center line where interviews are taking place. Members of the media should try to keep stats as best they can.
  - Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches on the field for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- The press box should be off limits to all non-school personnel.
- Schools may allow for traditional "in-house" broadcasts of their games should it require access within, on top or around the press box. Non-school broadcasts approved by schools should be placed outside the press box with access to power.
  - In-house broadcasts occurring within or on top of the press box should only be allowed if proper safety and health guidelines can be followed.
- Media looking to cover an event **must** contact the home/host athletic director and athletic secretary notifying that outlet is wanting to cover the event. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.