



UPDATED:  
3/2/2021

## SPRING SPORTS

SEASON OF SPORT BEGINS:  
MARCH 1, 2021

SEASON OF COMPETITION BEGINS:  
MARCH 12, 2021

- All students, coaches and sideline/dugout personnel will be required to wear a cloth mask, disposable non-surgical mask, or gaiter for the entirety of a game/contest. Mesh masks do not meet this requirement.
  - **Exception:** students while actively participating in the contest. *Example: BASE/SB players on the field, batting or on base may remove their mask. Masks must be worn by all while in the dugout.*
- Each school will complete the AIA COVID-19 Athlete/Coach Monitoring Form the day of all games/contests and provide a copy to the opposing school prior to the contest.
- Spectator attendance is at the discretion of the home school.
- Anyone who attends spring sports events is required to wear a face covering for the entirety of the contest.
  - **Exception:** students & officials actively participating in the game/contest.
- In team sports multi-team scrimmages, invitational tournaments, or Region tournaments are not permitted for the 2021 season. If permitted a scrimmage may be held the week of March 8th but must be prior to the first scheduled contest.
- Individual sports tournaments must begin after 3:00pm Monday - Friday. Saturday tournaments are permissible.
- AIA member schools are not permitted to play any out of state team, nor participate in an out of state tournament.
- Must have a minimum of 10 days of practice before any competition.
- For the 2020-21 school year, the Non-school Participation Rule for spring sports will take effect on March 12, 2021. The Season of Competition begins March 12th for all schools in all spring sports without exception.
- Testing is recommended if possible in your county.
- Conference Leadership will determine the minimum number of contests required to qualify for the state tournament.
- **Any school that violates any of the mandatory modifications, including the COVID-19 Return to Play Form, will lose access to AIA officiating.**
- **All sport modifications are required.**



## 2021 AIA Boys Volleyball Modifications

This document provides guidance and game modifications for schools, game administrators, coaches, players, and officials to follow in accordance with NFHS, state and local restrictions and recommendations. Game Administration is responsible for informing all participants of local guidelines for participation.

### ❖ **PREGAME, TRAVEL & FACILITIES**

#### • **DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES, TRAVEL & PREGAME**

- 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.
- Before, during, and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration should wash or sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the court during pregame when possible.
- Team personnel (including players) must wear face covering during travel, pregame, and postgame.

### ❖ **RULE MODIFICATIONS**

#### • **PREMATCH CONFERENCE**

- Suspend the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will have the option to serve/receive first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining of the non-deciding sets.
- Suspend roster submission at the pre-match conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials table prior to the 10-minute mark.
- No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.

#### • **TEAM BENCH**

- Suspend teams switching between sets, unless there is a distinct advantage as will be determined by the officials.
- If necessary, maintain social distancing of 6 feet while switching.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, water bottles, and other apparel or equipment.

#### • **DECIDING SET PROCEDURES**

- Coin toss should take place in the center of the court, with the team captains divided by the net while maintaining distancing with the second referee. A coin toss, called by the home team, will determine serve/receive.

#### • **BALL**

- The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
- The ball personnel should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.

#### • **SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES**

- Maintain distancing between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone and closer to the attack line.

#### • **OFFICIALS TABLE**

- Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer with a recommended 3-6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not considered essential personnel and may need to find an alternative location.
- Officials' table personnel must wear a face covering.

- **VOLLEYBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS**

- Cloth face coverings are permissible
- Gloves are permissible
- Long sleeves are permissible
- Long pants are permissible
- Undergarments are permissible but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom.

- **UTILIZE 5-BALL ROTATION**

- If possible, use a 5-ball rotation system. This permits the intermittent cleansing of game balls, allowing them to dry before game use, using disinfecting wipes during the match.

- **CHARGED TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES**

- Players, officials, and coaches should have their own beverage container that is not shared.
- A single charged time-out may be extended in length for hydration and to sanitize game equipment.

- **INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING**

- The intermission between sets may be extended for hydration and to sanitize game equipment.

- **BENCH PERSONNEL**

- Persons on the bench must be restricted to players and coaches.
- All coaches, players and other personnel on the bench must wear face coverings when not actively participating in a contest.
- Team benches may extend past the end line.

- ❖ **POSTGAME**

- **HANDSHAKE LINE**

- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs, etc. should occur pre or post-match.
- Maintain social distancing prior to and following the contest.

- ❖ **OFFICIALS**

- **PRIOR TO CONTEST & TRAVEL**

- Contact the AIA Office if you have a temperature or are not feeling well. Do NOT attempt to travel to or work a game sick.
- Officials should contact the Athletic Director prior to the day of the contest to discuss logistics and requirements for that particular school, district, or municipality. Officials must follow any additional requirements imposed by the school or municipality.
- Drive yourself to the contest when possible. If carpooling is necessary, wear face covering and limit the amount of people in a single vehicle.
- Bring your own equipment and towel. Do not share.
- Bring your own container of water.
- Arrive at the game site dressed if possible.

- **PREGAME**

- Social distance during pregame as best as possible.
- Consider holding pregame discussions outside if necessary.

- **FACE COVERINGS & GLOVES**

- Officials must wear a face covering while on campus (whenever not actively engaged in officiating a contest).
- The wearing of face covering and gloves while officiating is permissible.
- The use of electronic whistles is permissible.

*Please refer to the AIA Recommended Guidelines for Return to Activity; Recommendations for Facilities Management (Section IV, page 16)*

*Should the conditions warrant, these modifications will be adjusted. Any further update will be posted on [aiaonline.org](http://aiaonline.org).*