



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 Track & Field 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.

❖ PRE-MEET

- For transportation to a meet (on a school bus) coaches are to follow their district guidelines.
- Teams should bring enough shade tents for athletes to accommodate athletes, managers and coaches and are required to allow for social distancing of athletes.
- Masks are to be worn by athletes while sitting under the tent or when not warming up or racing.
- Coaches are to wear masks at all times; when in contact or proximity of participants or spectators.
- Spectators may attend at the discretion of the host school. Spectators must wear a mask at all times.
 - Spectators should be spaced 6 feet apart at the ticket gate.
 - Spectators should be encouraged to purchase online tickets.
 - Spectators should socially distance in the stand and not be allowed into the team camp area.

❖ MEET DIRECTORS SHOULD DESIGNATE AREAS FOR SPECTATORS AT FIELD EVENTS

- Athletes are to bring their own labeled water bottles and should also bring hand sanitizer.
- One team should enter the facility at a time. Others should wait in their bus or remain socially distanced until the other team enters. Multiple entry gates should be used if possible.
- Coaches should fill out the Covid-19 questionnaire for their team and coaches. This should be turned into the meet director prior to the first event.
- Coaches meetings can occur on site if they can socially distance and they must wear a face mask.

❖ DURING THE MEET AND PRE-EVENT

- When not competing, athletes should remain in their team camp area and not co-mingle with other teams.
- Only competing athletes may be on the infield or at competition areas.
- Designated warm up areas will be provided.
- In a team huddle there is to be no hand holding.
 - A team may still do a team chant.
 - Non racers should NOT be a part of the team huddle.
- Teams are expected to clean up their team camp area prior to departing the meet.
- Team camp areas must be large enough to allow for teams to spread out. The meet director can assign team camp areas
- Coaches' hospitality rooms should have designated servers who have masks and gloves, or should serve pre-packaged food only. Buffet type serving is discouraged.
- Rope off finish area to prevent spectators from crowding along the finish line.

❖ MEDICAL STAFFING AND TRAINERS

- Trainers and student trainers all need to wear a mask
- If an athlete is to interact with a medical personnel or trainer; they are to wear a mask.
- Check in and post-race water tables need to have single use cups.
- Personnel filling cups should remain constant and not change.
- Cups at check in and postrace (beyond the finish line) should be handed out by gloved individuals.

❖ **ATHLETE CHECK IN:**

- Shorten the time at check in to no longer than 15 minutes prior to race time. Announcements may need to be made.
- Chairs or cones should be set up at check in to socially distance runners in lanes and between heats.

❖ **INDIVIDUAL TRACK EVENTS:**

- Throwing events: Athletes are to retrieve their own implements.
 - Establish a rotation—
 - Throw
 - Exit ring, stand to side
 - Next thrower
 - Retrieve while next throw is being measured.
 - If throwers are sharing an implement with a teammate they should be wiped down in between throws.
- Vault and high jump
 - Mats should be sprayed with disinfectant regularly
 - USATF recommends vaulters and jumpers to land in a tarp. These tarps are to be changed out after every individual. I believe the safety factor outweighs the recommendation. The safety factors are how these tarps will be attached to the mats and will the jumper slide off while landing and therefore risk neck or head injury.
- Distance Runs:
 - Fields should be no more than 18 per heat for the 800
 - Fields should be no more than 24 per heat for the 1600
 - Fields should be no more than 28 for the 3200
- Sprints:
 - Blocks should be sprayed with disinfectant after races.
 - Disinfectants are sold by varying company
 - Waxie and Hilyards work with schools.
 - If lining up heats on the track behind the blocks leave ample space between heats
- Awards – eliminate award presentations
- Awards should be put in an envelope for pick up by the coach.
- Results should be posted online or emailed to participating schools.

❖ **OFFICIALS**

- All meet personnel must wear masks unless the official can socially distance from athletes and other workers (example: implement shaggers, umpires, starters, etc.).
- Finish line crew and anyone else who may touch an athlete should wear masks and gloves.
- All officials should come to the meet wearing a mask.
- Designate workers or athletic trainers to help fallen runners. These workers need to change gloves after each race or more frequently if time permits.