



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 spring 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 recommended 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.

Portions of these requirements and recommendations could be used for state championship events. Just like the spring 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.

2020-21 Baseball Recommendations

- Media will be required to stay outside the fenced areas of the field unless given permission to be in the media box on the field. Media can only be on the field with permission from the host administrator ahead of time. Media should be allowed on the field for interviews after the conclusion of the event.
- The dugout and press box 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 either outside the press box or on the field following the conclusion of the event.
- An area just outside each team's dugout would be ideal to conduct interviews. Host administrators have the right to keep media off the field at all times and allow interviews to be conducted outside the fenced areas.
 - Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches nearby for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed outside the press box, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, 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 Golf (Spring) Recommendations

- Identify an area by the awards station/mix zone at the clubhouse for interviews. Schools should put up signs or school/team banners to indicate where the interviews can take place
 - Interviews should not be conducted in the immediate proximity of the last hole.
- Please follow golfers from a safe distance. If setting up at a certain vantage point along the course, make sure you are not encroaching on spectators or coaches, and that others may be able to view the action.
- 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 Softball Recommendations

- Media will be required to stay outside the fenced areas of the field at all times until the conclusion of the event. This is not just an AIA rule, but also a National Federation rule.
- The dugout and press box 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 either outside the press box or on the field following the conclusion of the event.
- An area just outside each team's dugout would be ideal to conduct interviews. Host administrators have the right to keep media off the field at all times and allow interviews to be conducted outside the fenced areas.
 - Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches nearby for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed outside the press box, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, 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 Tennis Recommendations

- Media will be required to stay outside the fenced areas of the courts at all times.
- An area just outside the fence close to the entry/exit gate would be ideal to conduct interviews.
 - Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches nearby for a few minutes allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- 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 Track & Field Recommendations

- Team areas around venue (tents, etc.) will be off limits to media at all times. Arrangements must be made for interviews and other items in a separate location.
- The allowance of media within competition zones will be at the discretion of the host administrator. Below are suggestions:
 - For running events, media needing photographs should be allowed on the track at a safe distance past the finish line.
 - For field events, media should be able to collect what they need from the traditional areas around the events while not interfering with the competition. Local administration and officials have the right to move personnel as needed.
- It is recommended that videographers not be on the track unless operating a hand-held camera or gimble (no attached monopod, tripod, etc.). If videographers are allowed on the track, it is recommended that they stay behind the photographers for the conclusion of running events.
- Media allowed inside the track area should stay away from teams and personnel at all times and find areas of coverage that are not encroaching on coaches, athletes or officials, and that others may be able to view the action.
- Host administrator, in conjunction with a team's coach, will have the final determination whether interviews may be conducted after an athlete's competition and before the conclusion of the meet. An area just outside the fence close to the entry/exit gate or in the middle of the infield away from team groupings would be ideal to conduct interviews.
 - Schools will be asked to keep all their athletes and coaches nearby for a few minutes after a meet allowing media to identify potential interviews if necessary.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed outside the press box, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, 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 Volleyball (Beach) Recommendations

- Media will be required to stay off the courts at all times. Host administrator may designate safe seating areas dependent on the facility being used.
- The team area 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 team area following the event.
- Schools will be asked to keep all their players and coaches nearby for a few minutes after the match allowing media to identify potential interviews.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed in a safe area designated by the host administrator, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, 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 Volleyball (Boys) Recommendations

- Schools should identify a section for media to sit at the event. Preferably the far corner away from the gym entrance on floor level across from the team benches. Allow media to sit in every third seat per row while blocking off every other row.
 - Photographers and videographers should be able to collect what they need from the traditional areas behind the endlines while not interfering with the course of play.
 - School and student media covering the event for a story should be located with their team manager/videographer at the top of the stands. If school or student media members need photographs or video, they can be situated in the same location behind the endlines as other media but should return to the area at the top of the stands when possible.
- 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.
- Media should not encroach a team near its bench until after the event has ended. This includes time outs, team huddles or dead periods in between competition.
- Broadcasts of the event are recommended to be placed in a safe area designated by the host administrator, at a safe distance from other broadcasts, working media and fans, 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>.