



January 29, 2021

Dear Athletes, Families and Communities of the South Central Conference,

As you are aware, announcements last week have now made it possible to begin various athletic seasons both at the Middle/Jr. High levels and High School levels. Although everyone is thrilled to be able to allow our student athletes opportunities to play and compete, there are logistical limitations and mitigation measures that all teams and schools will be following. Please understand that this seems to change daily in some cases. Although these may be the guidelines we are implementing as seasons begin, they are subject to change by IDPH and IHSA.

In a collaborative effort to navigate these unusual times related to athletics/activities and COVID-19, the South Central Conference members have developed some general guidelines all schools in the conference will be following. We appreciate your help in advance and know that although this is not ideal, everyone's focus is on providing our students safe opportunities to participate in activities and athletic events.

Rescheduling games

- I. Currently, winter athletics will have shortened seasons. The limited number of games and limited number of weeks will make rescheduling games cancelled due to quarantine or other reasons difficult. Please understand that some events may not be rescheduled.

Broadcasting

- I. Games will be broadcast and information on how to view a streaming video of the event will be provided for both home and visiting spectators.

Spectators

- I. There are specific guidelines related to numbers of spectators allowed. The following are spectator limits:
 - a. When located in a region not facing specific mitigation efforts outlined in the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. Gatherings of up to 50 spectators, indoors or outdoors, are allowed.
 - b. When located in a region under Tier 1 mitigation efforts per the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. Gatherings of up to 25 spectators, indoors or outdoors, are allowed.
 - c. When located in a region under Tier 2 or more restrictive mitigation efforts per the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. No spectators are allowed, whether indoors or outdoors.
- II. If spectators are allowed in your region, the conference will only allow home spectators. Tickets will not be distributed to visiting spectators. In an effort to allow all students participating to have at least one parent/guardian an opportunity to attend a limited season of sporting events, no visiting spectators will be allowed. This will also allow home schools to contact trace and ensure families are socially distant.

- III. Based on the number of athletes participating and the number of spectators allowed, each home school will determine tickets distributed to each player/family. Obviously, priority will be given to the immediate families of athletes.

Location of Games

- I. In order to accommodate the requirements related to teammates being distanced on the bench and the spectators being socially distant, games may be scheduled in larger venues than originally planned/scheduled.
- II. For many schools in the conference, one gym may be used for all events during this time. In order to accommodate the Middle School/Jr. High and High School athletic seasons, games may need to be played earlier than normal. For example, volleyball may begin at 4:00p.m. to be followed at 6:30 by high school basketball.
- III. We understand getting to those events may be difficult but due to the space challenges related to allowing spectators, high school gymnasiums may be the only option for all 6 different sports during the same few weeks. We appreciate your understanding as we work to not only provide these opportunities for our students but also provide an opportunity for spectators.

Cheerleaders/band/dance teams

- I. We are waiting to get further guidance related to those activities during competitions. At this point, the guidance states:
 - a. Sports organizers should direct all individuals to refrain from shouting, singing, or chanting.

In addition, school officials will conduct temperature checks prior to the games. Visiting teams will have to certify the health of all players and coaching staff prior to leaving for the game. Home teams will also certify prior to players and coaches interacting with others. Spectators will also be required to wear a mask throughout the event and may be temperature checked prior to entry into the event. Anyone that does not meet the health certification requirements will not be allowed to participate in the event. Please remember that the games will be streamed and that information will be made available to everyone.

We want our student-athletes to have this opportunity to participate and compete. In order to continue to do that, we will follow guidelines as outlined by IDPH. Thank you in advance for supporting our student athletes by following the guidelines and understanding that changes may be made based on tier mitigations and IDPH changes. Putting children first and working through this very unusual time is everyone's focus.

Your specific school district will provide additional information regarding tickets, schedules and other district specific information.

Respectfully,

The Superintendents of the South Central Conference