2021 Volleyball COVID Guidance

The recommendations in this document are from the IGHSAU for its member schools and should not supersede guidelines, mandates, requirements, and/or orders put into place by the Iowa Governor’s Office, Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Department of Education, Federal/local/county government entities, Federal/local/county health department or local school districts. Please note this guidance may be updated before and during the 2021 Volleyball season as conditions change.

Local policies are at the discretion of the host school and should be clearly communicated to all participants in advance of competition.

Participation Levels
This guidance is intended for all high school varsity, sub-varsity and junior high school volleyball as overseen by the IGHSAU.

Supervision
It is the responsibility of the home team to provide proper administrative supervision (not the coach) at matches to assure compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Governor’s office, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Health and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Possible/Positive COVID-19 Cases
The Iowa Department of Public Health has developed guidance for county health departments and schools regarding protocols when a student and/or student-athlete reports COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, result or contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result.

Each school should identify a point of contact for athletes, coaches, and other personnel to report to when he/she experiences COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test result or contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result. This identified person will be responsible to report such situations to local public health. Each school should develop a communication plan to notify relevant persons (players, coaches, spectators) when contact-tracing is needed.

Health Screening
Schools should implement health screening for practices and matches like methods used during last season, fall, winter and spring seasons. Self-screening and reporting to the school representative (AD/Coach/Trainer, etc.) is permissible.

People (players, coaches, officials, spectators, etc.) feeling sick or that have been exposed to someone sick, should not attend or participate in competitions or practices.

Volleyball Match Guidance

- Local school districts will be responsible for implementing guidance specific to their school policies.
- The use of pre- and/or postgame handshakes between teams will be mutually agreed upon by the home and visiting team coaches/administration.
- Per Iowa Adaptation, teams will not switch benches/sides between sets. Teams may switch benches/sides in the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present if coaches cannot come to agreement.
Player Equipment and Uniform Allowances

- Players and coaches are permitted to wear cloth face coverings during competition.
- Gloves are permissible.
- Long sleeves are permissible.
- Long pants are permissible.
- Under garments are permissible, but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom.

 Officials Equipment and Uniform Allowances

- Long-sleeved, all-white collared polo shirt/sweater are permissible.
- Electronic whistles are permissible. If using an electronic whistle, it must be communicated to players and coaches at the pre-match conference.
- Cloth face coverings are permissible.
- Gloves are permissible.

General Considerations for Volleyball

- School guidance should be communicated in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies (water bottle, hand sanitizer, face covering, towel, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- For additional COVID-19 guidance, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health at (515) 281-7689 or visit their website at idph.iowa.gov.