

## **IGHSAU/IHSAA Fall Sports Return to Competition Webinar for Athletic Directors Consolidated Q&A Transcript**

*August 6, 2020*

Below is a consolidated transcript of questions and answers from the IGHSAU/IHSAA Fall Sports Return to Competition Webinar for Athletic Directors.

**Q. What is the status of concession stands and serving food at games? Can we use the existing food service license to cover our concessions?**

- A. Concession stands that are located on school property are allowed to operate, effective August 24, 2020. This includes concessions operated by an entity which independently holds a food establishment license separate from the school's food license (for example, booster club). Yes, the food service license works.

**Q. What are the expectations for spectators? Should we be limiting the number of spectators we allow to attend?**

- A. Schools should implement spectator protocols by following CDC and local department of health guidelines regarding size of gatherings and social distancing. Families may sit/stand together but should social distance from others. Schools may require spectators to wear masks.

**Q. IHSAA and IGHSAU guidelines indicate that a temperature of 100.4 or higher would keep an athlete or coach out of team activities. However, guidance from Dept. of Ed and IDPH last week list a fever as a low risk symptom and needs to be paired with at least one other low risk symptom before being excluded from team activities. Do we follow IDPH?**

- A. Yes. Follow IDPH guidelines.

**Q. Please explain transfers from out of state.**

- A. The same guidelines that have been in place in the past are still in effect for all transfers, whether in state or out of state.

**Q. If a student lives in Illinois and wants to move to an Iowa district because Illinois has either moved their sport or will cancel it, would they be eligible?**

- A. If they meet one of the exceptions under the transfer rule, they could be ruled eligible at the varsity level. In addition, the same guidelines that have been in place in the past are still in effect for all transfers, whether in state or out of state.

**Q. I assume all new to sports students and incoming 7th graders will need to have a physical?**

- A. As per the amendment issue by Governor Reynolds on June 25, all physicals signed on or after July 1, 2019 are good through December of 2020. Otherwise, the participant will need a physical.

**Q. Any idea when we should expect to hear from the Dept. of Ed on transportation for fall sports?**

- A. Staff at the IGHSAU/IHSAA will contact the Department of Education to get an update which will be communicated as soon as received.

**Q. What are the expectations for face coverings for Fans, Coaches, and Athletes?**

- A. Fans, coaches, and non-players - face coverings are strongly recommended; for the athletes when playing - face coverings are permitted

**Q. Will the COVID-19 guidance be shared by the IDPH prior to August 17th?**

- A. IDPH has indicated that they will be providing COVID-19 guidance - no set date has been given.

**Q. Is there going to be discussion about Volleyball Tournaments and the number of teams that can attend?**

- A. VB tourney and scheduling decisions are being left to each local district. Since hosting facilities and capabilities vary, we feel each school can determine what is best for their program.

**Q. When can we expect transportation guidance and are there major changes from the summer?**

- A. Staff at the IGHSAU/IHSAA will contact the Department of Education to get an update which will be communicated as soon as received.

**Q. Unlike baseball/softball season (where they could check temp right before practice/game), students would not have checked their temps since morning...before school. When asking athletes to self monitor, is going by that morning temp good enough or do we need to check temps since it is 8 hours later?**

- A. If the student has been in school all day without leaving, the temperature prior to the start of the school day is sufficient. If the student is coming to practice (and not in school all day), the student will need to check temperature prior to practice or competition.

**Q. What are your opinions on community/non-school related programs on using school facilities for practices/events?**

- A. Local decision. Please refer to the guidelines set for by the Department of Education related to Use of School Facilities.

**Q. ISU has developed a prototype for a face covering on football facemasks. They plan on giving that information to the public to produce. Would those be allowed in Iowa HS football?**

- A. We will need to see what it looks like before it can be approved. Helmet manufacturers are particular regarding what can be attached to the helmet and if it will void the warranty.

**Q. Will there be signage available to post around our facilities like there was in SB & BB?**

- A. Yes, it will be the plan of both organizations to create signage similar to that of baseball and softball.

**Q. If we require masks, does that take us out of hosting postseason events since the mandate is not coming from the state and is above what is recommended?**

- A. No - local decision on whether to require masks by spectators. Local schools can only require masks for their players - not visiting players.

**Q. Parent section may be easier to monitor and social distance. What are your thoughts about the student sections?**

- A. Develop a plan to allow for social distancing for the students.

**Q. Will the associations be sending out suggested readings for before and during events similar to what was sent out for baseball/softball? Also, will signage for these events be sent out like in baseball/softball?**

- A. Yes, similar to the summer sports, announcements will be created by both organizations to be read before, during and after contests.

**Q. Can teams have team suppers and/or post-game meals provided by parents/boosters?**

- A. Not encouraged unless meals are prepared by food service in individual meals or by outside restaurants in individual meals.

**Q. Please clarify concession stands again? Can the booster club use our school facility without a separate license?**

- A. Concession stands that are located on school property are allowed to operate, effective August 24, 2020. This includes concessions operated by an entity which independently holds a food establishment license separate from the school's food license (for example, booster club). Yes, the food service license works.

**Q. Regarding concession stands, DIA guidelines. Where do we find those?**

- A. DIA on the Department of Education website

**Q. When will weight room guidelines change? Are we still expected to keep our kids in pods of no more than 10, or can we begin to lift as teams?**

- A. Same guidelines in place for the fall as was allowed beginning July 1.

**Q. In the link to the Iowa Dept. of Inspections and Appeals sent from the IHSAA and the IGHSAU on July 29 it states that concession stands are still not allowed, but the presentation mentioned they are legal. Please clarify these differences.**

- A. As of August 24, concession stands will be allowed per guidelines.

**Q. If a student coming from a different state (Minn.) has a home in both the previous district in that state as well as our district, are they eligible to play football in our district if they are enrolled in our district for school?**

- A. Normal transfer guidelines - one location for the purpose of making a home - contemporaneous move

**Q. Curious for the 1st and 2nd round of FB playoffs will the host schools get the gates or at least a better percentage of the gate than we normally do.**

- A. Those questions have not yet been determined.

**Q. Please explain further the situation of one school that does not have a particular sport (i.e. football) and desiring to play at another school. Is a coop agreement needed, do they need to transfer, are they immediately eligible?**

- A. 2 options - The District not offering the sport may have a cooperative sharing agreement with another school noting that the classification will be the combined BEDS. 2nd option - Students in a district not offering the sport may open enroll to another district (providing the open enrollment is accepted) and would be immediately eligible in that sport.

**Q. Can we have volleyball teams sit on opposite sides of court to help social distance?**

- A. If this is the option desired, please contact Lisa Brinkmeyer at the IGHSAU. Other options would be recommended for social distancing.

**Q. Curtain raisers in football? Like side courts in volleyball is not recommended? Or can we sanitize the sidelines before the Varsity game after the first game? We were ok letting a JV game before a Varsity game in baseball and softball. Not sure what the difference would be here.**

- A. That information will be deleted. Curtain raiser contests in football are permitted.

**Q. If spectators are required to wear masks, does the social distancing of 6 feet still have to be recognized?**

- A. Social distancing should always be adhered to. Masks are strongly encouraged when social distancing is not possible.

**Q. How will the transfer rule be interpreted in light of athletes moving from other states that are not having Fall seasons, as the policy states the move cannot solely be for school or athletic purposes.**

- A. Normal transfer guidelines whether in the state or outside the state.

**Q. Is there any way that we as AD's can get notification before a big information release? Example, notification to check your email at 10:00, the day before the football schedule change was released to the public.**

- A. Management will discuss the possibility of this occurring when possible.

**Q. With everyone making the playoffs, have you all decided how the seeding will work for this?**

- A. Not at this time.

**Q. Can a school group run the concession stand? It is not a booster club. A person in our building manages it and we get volunteers to help. Please clarify**

- A. The concession stand would need appropriate licensing - ok for the school to manage and get volunteers as long as meet the DIA guidelines.

**Q. So if the school runs the concession stand, do they have to be inspected in order to operate?**

- A. Unless the food service license is used as the licensure.

**Q. Are there any guidelines for proper sanitizing of athletic balls like footballs, volleyballs, etc that are leather?**

- A. We are gathering information from various ball manufacturers regarding proper sanitizing of balls.

**Q. So, the Booster Club does not have to have a license in order to operate a concession stand on school district property?**

- A. If licensed as part of the food service license, the Booster Club would not need a separate license.

**Q. Clarify pregame meals sold by the school at the school, yes or no?**

- A. Not recommended unless individually prepared by the food service or restaurant

**Q. Can concessions prepare food or does it all have to be prepackaged?**

- A. Same as in the past related to what foods are allowed - as long as meet the guidelines of the DIA

**Q. Please explain the reasoning to not have a rule that applies to everyone about a positive COVID-19 test and how that impacts if the team is shut down or not. Baseball and softball proved leaving it up to local public health was not fair across the board.**

- A. Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines indicate that each counties Department of Public Health should be contacted; IDPH will be developing some guidelines for each county to help in a common process

**Q. Not a sport, but are marching bands able to perform at games?**

- A. That is a local school district decision.

**Q. For Volleyball: Are we allowed to have dual net matches in a single gym?**

- A. Yes, recommendations were given - local schools can make that decision based upon their own facilities.

**Q. So if you own two homes you are ineligible? How about vacation homes?**

- A. One home for the purposes of making a home - temporary vacation homes or locations are allowed

**Q. What if the move into the district has to do with COVID-19 concerns? Is this a transfer exemption?**

- A. At this time there is not an exemption for a transfer due to COVID-19 concerns.

**Q. Is there, or can there be, a travel limitation when an athlete goes on vacation, etc and have to quarantine when they get back before they are back with the team?? Can we limit mileage travelled? I believe a city in NE limited travel with athletes and if they travel a certain distance, they are quarantined before rejoining their team.**

- A. No set travel limits as set for by the guidelines

**Q. Can you clarify the stance of 2 volleyball games occurring simultaneously on courts side by side?**

- A. Recommendation would be to not have volleyball games side by side if possible - this is not mandated but just a recommendation if possible. School facilities and format will dictate.

**Q. August 24th is the date we open concessions correct?**

- A. Yes. Correct date.

**Q. If the school team gets Subway sandwiches for players, is that OK? Subs are packaged at Subway restaurants. Please clarify**

- A. Those are allowed, packaged individually

**Q. We have pregame meals on Thursday nights and are planning to have a “walk-thru” line for athletes with meals prepared and put into individual containers and then eat together but socially distance. Parents will be preparing this meal. Is this permissible?**

- A. Not recommended - options would be to have the food service department or restaurant prepare individually-packaged meals

**Q. The Department of Inspections and Appeals guidance released on July 29 says that concessions are not allowed. This is why we are confused.**

A. As noted in other answers - August 24 allowed as long as meeting stated guidelines.

**Q. What will determine a team shutting down for a period of time and creating and no contest? Will it be a percentage of the team or will it be up to each individual district?**

A. If case develops, have a contact person in your district who would communicate with the County Department of Public Health; they would then gather information related to the specific situation which may include contact tracings; they would then inform the school and/or team of the result

**Q. If we have games affected by COVID-19, are we required to report those instances to the IHSAA/IGHSAU for data collection?**

A. Yes, IGHSAU for the girls sports; IHSAA for the boys sports

**Q. With people being able to work from anywhere, does employment outside of the area matter? Just the fact that they live in the district as a family.**

A. Employment is not a consideration

**Q. A link or documentation on concession stand guidance from the Iowa Department of Education Food Services would be great.**

A. Posted on the Department of Education website regarding the DIA information

**Q. Is it local control, just like marching band, to have dance team performances at games?**

A. Local control

**Q. For football, the players box has been extended to the 10 yard line but for coaches they can only go to the 25. Can the "get back" coach go between the 10 and 25 in order to supervise players and make sure they are not outside of the player's box and too close to the field?**

A. Yes, that is permissible.

**Q. Does a dropdown curtain between Volleyball courts equate to social distancing?**



- A. Possibly depending upon the structure - always consider social distancing with or without a curtain or divider

**Q. If a team cancels their season, students from that school are allowed eligibility if they open enroll to an area district, correct? They just have to abide by the 90-day rule after the season?**

- A. Schools would need to notify the Executive Directors if they are not participating in one or more of the fall sports (deadline is August 17). If a school cancels the sport after this date, if a student would open-enroll following that date, they would be subject to the 90-school day of ineligibility from varsity sports.

**Q. The “guidance” on concessions for D of I&A says specifically that concession stands on school property are NOT ALLOWED to operate at this time. This is changing on August 24 with the expiration of the governor's proclamation? Will this proclamation be extended past August 24.**

- A. Yes - as you know these are fluid - changes could occur, but as of this time, August 24 would be the date concession stands would be available.

**Q. Less of a question & more of a request. Can officials be talked to about the importance of away football teams staying back to not intermingle with the chain gang? I'm guessing many of us have at risk folks who typically run the chain gang and the 'get back' should be taken seriously.**

- A. Will share that information.

**Q. Football....What are your thoughts about limiting a number of people on the roster?**

- A. It was discussed, but no recommendation on roster size limitations was reached.

**Q. If public health shuts down a football team for 14 days, what is the number of practices that need to take place before school is allowed to compete?**

- A. Guidance from the IATS states 3-4 of practice prior to their next contest. Since programs would have been shut down for 14 days, it is important that lost conditioning by the players be gained back before competition.

**Q. If a kid or coach tests positive, does the team have to shut down or just that individual? And How long would that be? Please clarify**

- A. Communicate with the county's Department of Public Health. They will gather information from you including possible contact tracing and then inform you of the result - case by case.

**Q. Can our chain gangs be set up on the home side not to intermingle with the opponents?**

- A. At this time, we are not looking into that option. This would mean a change in officials switching sides of fields and also a change in the rules. Will discuss with officials during their clinics and see the pros and cons of this option.

**Q. I'm talking about that August 17th date, if they cancel before that, they still can open enroll?**

- A. Yes, the deadline to notify the Executive Directors is August 17. If notification occurs by that date, if an open enrollment is accepted the student would be able to participate at another school.

**Q. What makes a transfer student eligible in a private school immediately, is it establishing residence in a public district in which the private school lies?**

- A. If a student transfers from a public school to a private school, the family must move into the resident district of the private school to be eligible at the varsity level providing all other information is consistent with the General Transfer rules. If a student transfers from a private school to another private school, the family doesn't have to move into the resident district of the private school and be eligible for varsity.

**Q. I did not see in any of the guidelines for the fall sports that temperature must be taken before a game or practice. Is this required as it was in baseball and softball?**

- A. It is recommended that each sport assign a COVID-19 coach that asks a certain number of questions each day. Temperature is one of those questions

**Q. If a school decides to start on Aug. 17, JH sports must still start on Aug. 24?**

- A. You can start on the first day of school or August 24 whichever occurs first.

**Q. You had mentioned that JH sports can't begin until the 24th. We start school on the 14th. Is it up to the district to start early for sports, since it is up to the district to start school early?**

- A. You can start on August 24 or the first day of school whichever is first.