



OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT RETURN-TO-PLAY TOPICS

This document was updated on October 23, 2020. Over time, this document will change. Please check back frequently for updates. The first four pages of this document feature easy-to-understand overviews of Winter 2020-21 COVID-document-related guidelines. For more detailed answers, read this entire packet. Fall athletics will not be risk-free, but by following the guidance in this document, we all can help mitigate those risks. We also ask that you consider your interactions outside of sports during this season in order to limit the potential for exposure in other portions of your daily routine.

PROTOCOL FOR POSITIVE CASES: A detailed and more complete version of these protocols can be found on page 5 of this document (“What to Do When Someone Gets Sick”).

1. Contact health department and follow guidance.
2. Close contacts MAY have to quarantine for 14 days; follow health department guidance. “Close contact” is defined as someone who was within six feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, starting from two days before illness onset.
3. Notify all schools, families and officials involved without identifying the person involved.
4. Students, coaches, officials and others at the event but NOT in close contact should be closely monitored for symptoms and may not need testing. Follow health department guidance.
5. Clean the area.

FACE COVERINGS: [Facial coverings are covered in detail in the guidance released on Sept. 10](#), and [updated again on Oct. 6](#). In general, facial coverings are required for athletes in basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey and wrestling at all times. Face coverings are optional for athletes in active participation in bowling, gymnastics and skiing but are required at all other times when not involved in active participation. Bench personnel are required to wear face coverings at all times. This includes athletes not currently in the game, coaches, managers, trainers, statisticians, media and anyone else on the sideline. It is recommended that game officials wear face coverings, but it is not required when carrying out their duties. Management, school administrators, media and all staff are required to wear face coverings. Spectators are required to wear face coverings.

REGULAR-SEASON TOURNAMENTS, INVATIONALS, MULTI-TEAM COMPETITIONS: The following limitations are in place for regular season winter tournaments and invitationals, both home and away. Regular-season dual/head-to-head matchups, between multiple levels of two different schools, are not affected.

- Bowling – 72 individual competitors at a site
- Competitive Cheer – four schools/teams at a site
- Gymnastics – four schools/teams at a site
- Skiing – 72 individual competitors at a site
- Swimming & Diving – four schools/teams at a site
- Wrestling – four schools/teams at a site
- Basketball & Ice Hockey – one game permitted for a team in a day. Host sites must strictly enforce spectator capacity limits on a game-by-game basis and actively sanitize between games. Event organizers must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate sanitizing and physical distancing.

When determining the number of teams present at a tournament, count the school’s varsity team as one team, and its JV team as a second team. The goal is to achieve physical distancing at all possible times; teams not in competition should be provided adequate space, and spectator limitations must be followed. Consider staggered contest and team arrival times to maintain physical distancing. Where two sites/facilities are used, there should not be any crossover competition between the two tournaments.

SCRIMMAGES: There are no scrimmages allowed for any sports this winter.

SPECTATOR LIMITATIONS: For all winter sports, all competition will begin with the 2-spectator-per-participant limitation. Local schools will determine participants connected to athletic events (sideline cheer, dance, pompon, etc.) and in all cases, the maximum number of spectators must be within all MDHHS limitations. For participants who have parents/guardians in excess of two individuals, schools are encouraged to use common sense and flexibility in managing those situations.

Limitations on spectators are based on the MDHHS Emergency Order of Oct. 5. As of October 6, if an indoor event is in a fixed indoor seating venue (gymnasium or pool), 20% of seating capacity is allowed for up to 500 spectators (25% in Region 6). If your gymnasium seats 2,500 or more, you would be able to sell 500 spectator tickets. If your gymnasium seats less than 2,500, take 20% (or 25% in Region 6) of your maximum capacity to determine the number of allowed spectators. If an outdoor event is in a fixed outdoor seating facility (skiing), 30% of seating capacity is allowed for up to 1,000 spectators. If your facility seats 3,333 or more, you would be able to sell 1,000 spectator tickets. If your facility seats less than 3,333, take 30% of your maximum seating capacity to determine the number of allowed spectators. Note that if an outdoor event is NOT in a fixed outdoor seating venue, a site must maintain no more than 30 spectators per 1,000 square feet of the facility, up to a maximum of 1,000 spectators. Use every opportunity possible to announce and remind all involved to keep social distancing at all times. More updates on spectator policies will be forthcoming as MDHHS guidance changes and is updated. If local health department orders exist that are stricter than these updated MHSAA requirements, member schools and host venues are expected to follow those local orders.

ENTRANCE/EXIT STRATEGIES: Event organizers and venues must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.

PRE-WORKOUT AND PRE-GAME SCREENING: All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including with a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature of greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored so that there is a record of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential. Any person displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be allowed to participate, should self-isolate and contact his or her primary care provider or other healthcare professional. Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adult individuals should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.

COVID GAME CANCELLATIONS: Any game or contest cancelled because of COVID issues is not considered a forfeit. It is considered a no-play, provided the contest has not started. For officials' payment purposes, this is considered an act of God.

TICKETS: Schools should strongly consider using a digital ticket or cashless system. Schools must work together to develop a distribution plan for the limited amount of tickets available per game. If a physical ticket is used, each school should consider conducting a pre-sale, with no onsite ticket sales – only tickets, not money, is collected at the event site.

TRANSPORTATION: The use of buses is a local school district decision. Cleaning and ability to physically distance should be part of the decision. Schools should also consider length of trips when determining the season schedule. When feasible, consider having parents drive athletes to and from games.

LOCKER ROOMS: Home teams are not required to offer locker room access. Visiting teams should arrive dressed and ready to play. Locker room restrooms should be available, and a cleaning schedule should be created.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: Have an action plan ready for outdoor sports that go into a weather delay. Determine where teams should go in the case of lightning or thunder.

FACILITY CLEANING: Adequate cleaning schedules should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities. Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (bleachers, chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.). Individuals should wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds before participating in workouts. Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.

CONCESSIONS: Concession stands are not allowed at indoor venues. Concession stands may be open with appropriate physical distancing for outdoor venues.

BEST PRACTICES FOR NON-ATHLETES – THIS IS NOT SPORT-SPECIFIC

Administrators/Host Management

- Administrators must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Obtain officials' information in order to trace contacts if necessary. (This information may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the facility.
- At larger spectator events, consider providing volunteers to monitor entrances and spectator seating areas who can promote physical distancing and face coverings.
- When possible, officials and teams should be provided separate bathrooms and/or gathering areas.
- Scorer's Table/Press Box – essential personnel should be 6 feet apart when possible.
- A cordless microphone could be used.
- Cleaning supplies should be available onsite with devices sanitized between uses.

Coaches

- Coaches must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Provide and review NFHS Playing Rule modifications with players and parents.

Officials

- Officials indoors must wear facial coverings at all times, unless an exception applies (e.g., medical intolerance or while exercising).
 - An official only needs to notify the school that an exception applies; but do not have to inform them which exception, or give further explanation or proof.
- Officials outdoors are not mandated to wear facial coverings because they can maintain six feet of distance except for fleeting moments.
- All officials must wear facial coverings during downtimes (i.e., upon arrival to the facility, during intermissions, after the contest[s] until leaving the facility) unless an exception applies.
- Individual schools and/or districts may require officials to wear facial coverings at all times, but must notify officials of this policy at least 10 days in advance of the contest date.
- Electronic whistles are permitted.
- Officials must come dressed to officiate; a locker room will not be provided.
- Officials should bring their own food and water, and their own pen to sign lineup sheets, scorebooks, etc.
- Officials will not be expected to monitor physical distancing; each person is responsible.

Spectators

- Spectators must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Entrance and exit protocols, and posted signs by host management must be obeyed.

Media Personnel

- Media must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing.
- Press box/table accommodations should allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Promote to local media the need to call in advance of the event to secure accommodations.
- Designate locations where photographers may shoot from and enforce it. Make sure photographers are aware of restrictions when they arrive. Photographers must be kept out of team box and bench areas.
- Limit postgame interviews to open-air areas. No locker room access.
- Establish times when the venue will become available to the media and when it will close.



Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Precautionary Measures (in addition to other protocols and precautions)

- Anyone attending or participating in an MHSAA regular season or tournament event should check his/her temperature before arriving. Spectators, participants or personnel displaying COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., *fever, cough or shortness of breath*), or with temperatures of 100.3°F or greater, should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms persist.
- Prior to participation, the COVID-19 athlete/coach monitoring form should be used, which includes five questions plus a temperature check. **NOTE: Athletic directors should consider requiring similar precautions for game officials.**

Protocol for Suspected Cases of COVID-19

- All schools should have an emergency action plan in place for each site. If a student, coach or official is or becomes sick on site with symptoms of COVID-19, they should be placed in a clearly identified and designated quarantine area with a mask in place until they can be picked up. Staff who are identified to care for students must wear a mask.
- A symptomatic student should be sent home with a parent or designated adult until they have tested negative or have been released from isolation according to the local health department's protocols.
- Students, coaches, and/or officials should be transported by their parent or guardian, emergency contact or ambulance (if clinically unstable) for off-site testing. If an ambulance is called, or someone is being brought to the hospital, there should be an attempt to call the hospital first to alert them that the person may have COVID-19. If a student, coach or official becomes sick, they must not use group transportation to return home.

Protocol for Positive Cases of COVID-19

- The local health department should be contacted by the school for further direction. They likely will initiate contact tracing, following regular public health practices.
- All schools, public and private, must cooperate with the local public health department if a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified, and collect the contact information for any close contacts (*i.e., someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period*) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Close contacts should be quarantined for 14 days at home. Local health officials may identify other contacts who require quarantine.
- Administrators of the schools involved, as well as students/families/officials in attendance, should be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 so there continues to be awareness and close observation of any symptoms. **NOTE: Student communicable disease related information is protected health information. The individual with COVID-19 should not be identified by name to non-family or non-health department officials. Even if a family/student acknowledges and publicly discloses a positive test, school staff and officials must not participate in discussion or acknowledgement of a positive test by identifying a specific student.**
- Students, coaches or officials who were at the event, but not in close contact with a positive case, should continue to be closely monitored for any symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, these individuals are not required to receive testing unless they develop COVID-19 symptoms.
- Areas that were used by the sick person should be closed off and should not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting them (this includes surfaces or shared objects in the area). If possible, cleaning and disinfecting of the area should not occur until at least 24 hours has elapsed. If 24 hours is not feasible, as much time possible should be allowed to pass before cleaning or disinfection occurs.



SPORT: Bowling
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Cody Inglis

cody@mhsaa.com

This information is provided to schools to help conduct a high school bowling season. The intent of this information is to minimize and reduce risk as much as possible. As such, parents and athletes should discuss the risks and determine if these provisions allow participation for their child.

This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city and state to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams.

The situation with COVID-19 continues to change and these considerations may quickly become outdated. Continue to keep up with the latest from the CDC and your local health department. A coach and the athletic director within the program should be designated to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.

Requirements for Bowling to occur:

- Face coverings are currently REQUIRED for indoor activities where physical distancing is not possible. ***This is mandated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, which has been granted that authority by the state legislature: MCL 333.2253.***
- **Face coverings are required in bowling except when in active participation (on the approach).** This includes all times except when in active participation (on the approach) and all times during non-active participation.
- There are no provisions in the MDHHS mandate on facial coverings for medical intolerance reasons or medical waivers. This is not an MHSAA regulation, and thus the MHSAA has no legal authority to waive or modify this emergency order from HHS.
- In practice and training sessions in all regions of the state, this same guidance applies.
- Traditional cloth/fabric masks, buffs, gaiters are allowed facial coverings. The facial covering must cover the nose and mouth at all times.
- **Face coverings are required for all spectators, coaches and event workers.**
- All other USBC and MHSAA requirements, including uniform, are still in effect.
- All other USBC and MHSAA playing rules shall be enforced.
- No scrimmages (*other than within your own team*). The only occasions where students from different schools can be together is for official games.

Equipment:

- **Water Bottles** – Players should use their own, clearly marked water bottles; there should be no sharing of bottles during games or practices.
- **Bowling Balls** – USBC Rule 18 will allow isopropyl alcohol, aka rubbing alcohol, on the outer surface of the ball and any time during competition. This rule is also approved for MHSAA bowling competition.
- **Bowler’s Personal Equipment** – each competitor MUST use his or her own equipment; this includes towels, gloves, braces, balls, shoes, etc. No sharing of equipment is allowed.
- **Need to have shared equipment sanitized** – Coaches must sanitize equipment before and after each practice and competition.

Practice Guidelines/Protocols:

- Team meetings prior to Practice – Observe social distancing. Wearing of face masks required.
- Handouts/Rule Books – Use of online materials, emails, sport team apps and other electronic communication is recommended.

- Hydration/Food, Snacks – All players must provide their own water bottles or drinks and snacks. There is to be no sharing of food or drink. Also, public drinking facilities should not be used. Coaches/teams should not provide food or drink to players unless it is individualized to each player and/or commercially prepared or prepackaged.
- Ensure that players are properly spaced out and there is no congregating of players while waiting to bowl.
- There should be a minimum distance of 6 feet between each individual at all times when not in active participation.
- There should be no more than 6 bowlers from one team in the bowlers area at any one time.
- No more than one ball per participant in the ball return area.
- A bowler is allowed no more than 3 balls in the facility at any one time.
- There should be no shared athletic equipment (towels, clothing, masks or specific equipment) between student-athletes.
- Students should wear their own appropriate clothing (do not share clothing).
- Cleaning/sanitizing supplies should be readily available onsite.
- Player towels should remain in the competitor's bowling bag while not in use.
- Coach Modeling – Coaches should be great role models for their players and observe all of the stay safe, stay healthy guidelines. Coaches should promote physical distancing.
- Player habits – Coaches should work to continue to reinforce safe and healthy habits. This includes staying away from touching their face, social distancing of 6 feet between individuals, use of hand sanitizer and hand washing of at least 20 seconds before and after competition.
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes – Players, coaches and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. Coaches and other team officials should have this in the bowlers area.
- Players should have a separate and multiple face masks that they use for practice/competition, and one they wear when not training or competing. These face masks need to be washed regularly and often.
- Team-issued uniforms and equipment must be sanitized before handing out, and if possible, players would be advised to use their own equipment or keep it for the duration of the season.

Pre-Workout & Pre-Game Screening:

- All coaches and students should be screened daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to participating, including a temperature check. This check may take place onsite or be completed and verified prior to arrival onsite (at home, for example). Anyone with a temperature greater than 100.3 degrees should not participate and be sent home. Responses to screening questions for each person should be recorded and stored of everyone present in case a student develops COVID-19. These records must be kept confidential. Any person displaying symptoms of COVID:
 - Should not be allowed to participate.
 - Should self-isolate and contact his or her primary care provider or other health-care professional.
- Continue to remind and insist that coaches and students disclose symptoms so all schools can compete safely. Involve local health departments if positive cases of COVID are discovered. Vulnerable adult individuals should not coach, supervise or participate in any competitions or workouts. School districts will make the decision on vulnerable individuals.
- If onsite temperature checks are conducted, coaches should record temp checks with infrared thermometers prior to practice or games. Temperatures should be recorded on a log sheet or via software/applications.
- A link to the MHSAA COVID Tracking Form is provided: [COVID MONITORING FORM](#)
- Schools may also develop their own online survey (Google Forms, or other software/applications) used for contact tracing. Many schools currently are utilizing this system for daily attendance, with parents providing the information. This may be something you can develop through your school system. You may also consider developing a QR Code for players to access forms/applications without touching pens/paper.
- Below are typical questions to ask daily before participation:
 1. *Date (that day's date)*
 2. *Last Name*
 3. *First Name*
 4. *Have you been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past 14 days?*

5. *Are you experiencing symptoms typically associated with Covid-19 such as: rash, diarrhea, fever, coughing, fatigue, headache, chills, loss of taste/smell or respiratory distress?*
6. *Have you been in contact with anyone who has a suspected or confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19 in the past 14 days?*
7. *Have you taken medicine for a fever or body aches within the past 24 hours?*
8. *If you have answered "YES" or your temperature is 100.3 degrees or higher, you are not able to participate in today's activities. Please isolate and contact your primary care physician for direction.*
9. *By submitting, I am certifying that all information supplied is accurate and true.*

Competition/Game Guidelines:

- In bowling, onsite at any one time, there should be no more than 72 participants allowed onsite in any bowling competition. Seventy-two participants are by gender; you can have 72 boys and 72 girls at a site competing at any one time.
- Please remember that 72 participants is the maximum. To start the season, smaller dual matches between two schools are recommended.
- For larger leagues and conferences and invitationals when resumed, it is recommended that schools and centers have double shifts, an AM and a PM shift, each with no more than 72 participants per gender if the center can be cleared and cleaned between shifts. This could be done by geography, by average, by JV, by Varsity, etc.
- In the 2020-21 MHSAA bowling regular season, the school's bowling team roster size is limited to 6 student-athletes. Only 6 bowlers are allowed in the bowlers area at any one time for one team during competition.
- If there is space available in the bowling center, every other pair should be vacant during competition.
- Lane changes need to be minimized between teams. Two examples/options of how a match should be set up: Two teams could be on a pair, there would be NO cross lane – the team on the odd lane stays on the odd lane, while the team on the even lane stays on the even lane throughout the match. If there is space, then one team would bowl on one pair of lanes, while the opponent bowls on the next pair of lanes. Teams can switch lanes within their own pair.
- Depending on space available in the bowlers area, teams may have to be separated to the bowlers area for one team, while the opposing team is at a table in the concourse area behind the lanes. Remember that no more than 6 bowlers should be in the bowlers area at any one time from one school.
- Limited or NO SPECTATORS is strongly recommended, especially to start the season. This will need to be enforced by the high school and bowling center.
- Host facilities and bowling centers must strictly enforce spectator capacity limits. By MDHHS guidance and law, the bowling center attendance cannot exceed 25% of the total occupancy limit set by the Fire Marshal. This number includes all bowlers and coaches. Again, it may not be possible to have ANY spectators in the bowling center during a match because of this mandate.
- Host sites must actively manage sanitation and cleaning protocols during transition times between games/matches, such as during a JV-varsity bowling doubleheader or between shifts.
- Event administration and bowling centers must consider proper scheduling, seating areas, and crowd entry and exit to facilitate needed sanitizing and physical distancing protocols.
- It is recommended that teams awaiting play in a subsequent match should not enter the same bowling facility or center until the match that is going on is over. If crossover of teams does need to occur, separate entrances/exit doors should be considered. Congestion areas that commonly occur in bowling centers MUST be avoided.
- Provide clear instruction to teams in advance of contests about entrance and exit points of the bowling center.
- Provide clear instruction regarding suggested arrival time and protocols (including temperature screening, contact tracing, online forms or waivers) for center.
- It is strongly recommended that visiting schools/teams provide ahead of time a roster and list of players, coaches and team personnel who will be attending the match. This will assist the home school and center on the entrance protocols for that center and expedite visiting team arrival.
- When using the restroom facilities, maintain social distancing while waiting and avoid congregating in the restroom.

- Arrival of teams and players may be restricted to a time frame prior to match or practice time (for example , entry into bowling center no earlier than 15 minutes prior to lane time). This must be coordinated with your bowling center and athletic director.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- All players are encouraged to have their own hand sanitizer in addition to what the coach has available.
- Consideration should be given to limiting or restricting access to shared areas like paddocks, computer or tournament offices, coaches check-in rooms or arcades.
- During warmup time, coaches are responsible for ensuring physical distancing is maintained.
- No post-match handshakes. Bowlers should not fist bump or high-five teammates, opponents, coaches or spectators.
- All players shall bring their own water bottle or drinks. Water bottles must not be shared.
- Only two school coaches will be allowed in the bowlers area at any one time. It is also strongly encouraged to limit visits, only have one coach in the bowlers area at one time, and if possible, coach from outside the bowlers area while physically distanced from others.
- Only essential personnel are permitted in the bowlers area. These are defined as competitors and coaches. If medical attention is needed, a medical professional may also enter the bowlers area. Event staff (if necessary for event staff to enter competition area) may also enter the bowlers area for a limited time frame. All others, i.e., managers, video people, media, photographers, etc., are considered non-essential personnel and will need to watch the match from other areas physically distanced from the bowlers area.
- Award ceremonies may have to be modified or eliminated for tournaments and other awards. Functions may be held following physical distancing protocol and local guidelines.

Host School, Facility and Bowling Center recommendations:

- Inform the local health district when events are scheduled and establish a plan to handle those persons who fail a symptom assessment or temperature check or exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Limit personnel in the bowlers area to participants, coaches, medical staff and event staff (if necessary for event staff to enter competition area).
- Do not provide any congregation areas at the facility.
- If possible, provide designated space for bowler check-in, tournament operations and spectator seating.
- Minimize lane changes between competing teams.
- Sanitize ball return area and participant seating area prior to competition. Continuously disinfect doorknobs and bathrooms.
- Six feet social distancing must be maintained between individual spectators/family groups.
- Develop a spectator pathway that allows for physical distancing as spectators move from parking lot, through ticket scanning (entrance to facility), to their seats.
- Clearly review prior to any contests with bowling coaches, athletic directors and teams the mandates, best practices and facility policies as they relate to, but are not limited to, parking; entrances and exits; medical care; spectators; ticketing; ball storage areas; restrooms; water; towels; and equipment.
- Total number of people in a center shall be not exceed 25% of a center's total occupancy capacity, by MDHHS emergency order.
- Keep three operational thermometers (no-touch recommended) onsite as backup.
- Maintain an adequate number of portable hand sanitizing machines.
- Follow all restaurant and dining rules and regulations for the safe opening and service at such facilities.
- Consider multiple points of entry to help ensure there is six-foot social distancing.
- Use contactless payments where possible.
- Participants should bring their own water bottles or purchase from facility.
- Appoint an individual(s) who may be responsible for assisting the host facility manager(s) in logging all incidents and action plans when mandates and guidelines have not been followed and/or incidents occur.
- If the venue is large enough to allow for extra room, first space teams to use all lanes available. If there are remaining extra lanes, consider leaving lanes between competing teams.

General Considerations:

- Focus on one single match first and build from there. There is a mindset switch that needs to occur. We need to operate from the standpoint that we do not have bowling at this time. We have nothing, but want to build on that to get to something using common sense, care and caution. Start with a single match and build from there, not from an invite, tournament or conference event working backwards. The spirit and intent of the rule is important to consider when planning. Everyone needs to be responsible in order for us to come back to bowling. There is not a specific restriction on invitationals, but the strong recommendation is NOT to conduct them early on in the season. The guidance is very clear that there are to be no large-scale events early in the season. Make sure that you can effectively administer a regular match first.
- The latest research and data inform us all that COVID is not being spread during the school day, at athletic practices or during games/matches between teammates and opponents. However, we are learning that many activities loosely connected to schools and school sports are creating COVID challenges for school districts.
- Events such as team dinners, gatherings at homes and restaurants following matches, and other team-connected but non-athletic social gatherings on the weekends with little to no mitigation measures of face coverings and social distancing are causing COVID numbers in Michigan to increase. Coaches and schools should work to limit or eliminate these gatherings as much as possible to mitigate spread of COVID.
- Strong and regular communication between a school bowling coach and the school athletic director are key when navigating this pandemic and how it will impact the bowling season.
- A coach should also strongly communicate with the bowling center and the manager to ensure that they are aware of new and ever-changing bowling center policies on directives such as: temperature checks, contact tracing, check-in procedures and communication with other teams.
- Coaches need to also encourage parents and players to use best communication practices with all involved including parents, families and players. This may include a less punitive and less restrictive practice policy that allows players to miss because of health and mental health issues (COVID or not). A safe health and wellbeing policy using care, caution and common sense will help a bowling team in the long run, this year more than ever.
- Prepare for changes, postponements and work to be flexible in your scheduling, including potentially changing or cancelling matches because of an unexpected, difficult and last-minute decision on a match or because of a quarantine situation.
- Indoor concession stands or restaurants may be restricted from operating and you will need to communicate with your facility and opponent to ensure that communication occurs on this aspect.
- Advance messaging to teams, spectators and media should be done. Visiting school teams and spectators are expected to comply with the host school strategies for COVID risk mitigation.
- Provide written notice to all attendees, outlining procedures for the event.
- Provide PA announcements to reinforce key site requirements and reminders of guidelines.
- Livestream options for spectators who cannot attend in person. Review and communicate plans to all, consider camera location(s) and state and local policies.
- Seating capacity/configuration of bowling centers – Teams, spectators, media, medical, event personnel. Consider tape or paint as a guide, communicate in advance and create signage.
- Consider designating an event management team – to include a health professional. This group could have the authority to modify, restrict, postpone or cancel the event based on public health risk or other factors.
- Create communication plan – Attendees can receive an emergency notification, if necessary. Think about how you will address and communicate a positive COVID test of an attendee before, during or after the event.
- Attendees – Consider grouping people into tiers from essential to non-essential and decide which tiers will be allowed at an event.
- Athletic Training Services – Athletic trainers in high schools are positioned to play a vital role as sports return following this pandemic. As healthcare professionals, they can take lead roles in developing and implementing infection control policy throughout the school. School administrators should partner with athletic trainers to develop and implement infection control policy throughout the school.
- Transportation to Events – Schools must consider social distancing requirements when scheduling contests and events for the fall. Masking and social distancing (as required by state or local health departments) will need to

be maintained on buses/vans. Thus, multiple buses/vans and/or parental/guardian transportation will potentially be needed.

USBC Bowling Rules, COVID-Related Changes and Considerations

While the USBC does not govern MHSAA high school bowling or play, it is important to be aware of resources, guidelines and changes in USBC rules and operations during this pandemic. For more information on these updates, please see this website.

https://bowl.com/About/About_Home/USBC_COVID-19_Update/

USBC Bowling Rules Considerations

In accordance with the authority granted through **USBC Rule 14**, the following rules have been designated for temporary exceptions to be effective until further notice:

- **Rule 18 USBC** will temporarily allow the use of isopropyl alcohol, aka rubbing alcohol, on the outer surface of the ball at any time during USBC certified competition.
- **Rules 106a and 106b USBC** will temporarily allow individual teams to compete on a single lane without the requirement to rotate lanes after each frame.
- **Rules 320a and 320b USBC** will temporarily allow individual teams to compete on a single lane without the requirement to rotate lanes after each frame.

MHSAA Tournament and Postseason Update

Options will be considered regarding MHSAA Regional and Final Tournament games/format, depending upon the status of COVID-19 and the safe return to MHSAA regular season bowling.

