



The IHSA governs the equitable participation in interscholastic athletics and activities that enrich the educational experience.

IHSA 2020-21 COVID-19 PERFORMING ARTS CONSIDERATIONS

This document is intended to provide guidance for schools conducting competitive practices, hosting competitions live or virtual asynchronous and synchronous in performing arts activities during the 2020-2021 school year. This could include but not be limited to IHSA Speech: Individual Events; Drama: Contest Play, Group Interpretation, Short Film; Debate: Student Congress, Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Music: Solo & Ensemble and Organizational events. The guidelines explained in this document are intended to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets and potential for illness through safe practices such as social distancing, proper hygiene, and appropriate protective equipment. This is not an exhaustive list, and school officials may take additional measures based on requirements set forth by their school district and/or local health officials. Please understand that even with this guidance, there is still risk of transmitting illness at events such as practices and competitions. Additionally, with the changing nature of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines may change.

IHSA Performing Arts Seasons:

Speech: Individual Events

February 6th, 2021 - Regionals
February 13th, 2021 - Sectionals
February 19th & 20th, 2021 - State Final

Debate: Student Congress, Public Forum, Lincoln Douglas, and Policy

March 12th & 13th, 2021 - State Final

Drama: Contest Play, Group Interpretation, Short Film

March 20th, 2021 - Sectionals
March 26th & 27th, 2021 - State Final

Music: Solo & Ensembles & Organizational Contests

March 6th, 2021
April 16th & 17th, 2021

- Currently, State Series events are *“To Be Determined”* to ensure that the events can be conducted safely and in accordance with the Governor’s Restore Illinois Guidelines. The IHSA will make every effort to conduct some form of State Series event and will



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announce decisions made by the IHSA Board of Directors related to this as they become available.

- It is recommended to keep the current scheduled state series dates open for the purpose of potential State Series Events as noted above.
- Each activity menu page will feature additional specific post season contest information if applicable. Additionally, addendums to the terms and conditions will be posted for each activity.
- Prior to a state series there will be dedicated training time available for all coaches, site managers and judges.
- Currently, per IDPH guidelines, live competition is limited to IDPH COVID-19 health regions/intra-EMS-regions and conference schools.

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:37ae0de3-609b-4853-8622-b3b9c6d41781>

Requirements and Considerations

In-Person (Live Event)

General Guidelines

Schools may determine if live activity events can be safely conducted.

IDPH - All current Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines must be followed.

Face Coverings/Masks - When indoors, masks must always be worn.

Social Distancing - Distancing between individuals, of at least 6 feet must always be maintained. Handshakes, fist bumps, hugging, etc. are not permissible at any time.

Capacity - Student participants, coaches/directors, timers, paid/volunteers, judges, and media are considered a group of 50 people.

Spectators - Spectators are at the discretion of local school districts. If hosts allow spectators, they must always wear facial coverings and maintain 6-ft. social distancing throughout the entire event. NOTE: Some sites may not permit spectators. Please see the IHSA Winter Guidelines for Spectators as a guide to activity events.

- All IHSA guidelines must be followed.
- Local school districts COVID-19 policies and procedures may be followed.
- Small events are most effective in maintaining fewer competitors, school personnel, officials, and spectators. Smaller invitational events make it easier to space out competitors to ensure for appropriate social distancing. Small contests must adhere to



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the event capacity guidelines outlined by IHSA and IDPH, as well as those outlined in this document.

- Hosts can have multiple rounds/waves of students at an invitational contest provided the rounds/waves of students are completely spaced out so that they do not intermingle or wait in common areas.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment.
- Have sanitation materials (disinfecting wipes, sprays, hand sanitizer, etc.) in prime locations for attendees.

General Practice Requirements and Considerations for Coaches/Directors:

- Coaches/Directors must wear face coverings at all in-person practices and competitions.
- Always require use of facial coverings on students.
- Communicate practice and all competition guidelines and COVID-19 safety protocols in a clear manner to student participants and their parents.
- For live practices (if the local school district allows live practices/rehearsals), consider conducting practices/rehearsals in “pods” of same students who are always practicing and rotating together. This will ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those students and staff who attend each practice/rehearsal in case contact tracing is needed.
- Always have a plan to maintain social distancing amongst students and staff.
- Educate students on proper hygiene techniques: hand washing and sanitation.
- Electronic or virtual meetings are encouraged if possible.

Requirements and Considerations for Host Managers:

Prior to the Event

- Hosts can use any online management and scoring platforms. Tourney wire – an online scoring platform: <https://www.tourneywire.com/> will be used for the IHSA state series in Speech, Drama and Music. Debate will use Tabroom - <https://www.tabroom.com/index/index.mhtml>
- Email all event information in advance to participating schools or host virtual coaches’/directors’ meetings to disseminate contest information in lieu of traditional in-person coaches’/directors’/judges’ meetings.
 - Electronic or virtual meetings are encouraged if possible.



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- If live meetings occur, utilize methods to keep coaches/directors/judges socially distanced during live coaches'/directors'/judges' meetings. Eliminate or minimize the use of handouts/paper.
- Face coverings for all contest personnel, contest officials and coaches/directors are required at live coaches'/directors'/judges' meetings.
- If a live meeting is being conducted, coaches/directors must still have the option to attend virtually if they are not comfortable meeting in person.

Arrival/Warm-Up

- Establish firm arrival times for participants. Participants who arrive early must stay in their bus/vehicles until the appointed performance time. Hosts may designate a home room waiting area for participants, so students do not have to wait on the bus/vehicles longer than necessary and are not congregating in the open areas.
- Warm-up Spaces - For invitationals, auxiliary spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, field houses, all-purpose rooms, multi-purpose spaces, music rooms, etc.) can be used as performance spaces and holding areas for student participants, meet personnel, spectators, etc. as long as all auxiliary spaces allow for social distancing and are kept at 50 people or less.

Competition

- Competition Rotation - Once one group of students, coaches/directors, competition personnel, spectators, and media for a combined total of 50 people completely vacate a space a new group of 50 can occupy that area. Time schedules should be spaced to reflect the necessary time to take the appropriate COVID-19 sanitation procedures in these areas.
- Awards – Live awards ceremonies should not be conducted. Consider using an online platform for leader boards, results, and awards announcements.
- Streaming – Competitions can be streamed. Schools may use their preferred streaming service. It is the responsibility of the host and the competing schools to secure all appropriate copyrights and royalties necessary for streaming and performing. The Association is not responsible for copyright or royalties of competing schools. For additional information on streaming contact the NFHS Network - <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/> - customersupport@nfhsnetwork.com or mkoski@nfhsnetwork.com

Requirements and Considerations for Coaches/Directors at Events:

- Coaches/Directors are responsible for educating all attendees and ensuring social distancing is maintained between students. This means additional spacing while



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competing, coaching, or changing locations so that students remain spaced out, and no congregating of students occur. Always have a plan to maintain social distancing amongst students and staff.

- Require students to arrive at the competition venue already in competitive attire/costumes.

Requirements and Consideration for Judges:

- Communicate the format and protocols in the judges' contracts.
- Adjustments to the number of judges may be made due to the size of the competition and the COVID-19 mitigation protocols (i.e.: Number of judges in prelims, semis, or finals, etc....).
- Face coverings are always required.
- Judges should be spaced 6-feet apart.
- Bring personal hand sanitizer and wash hands frequently. Refrain from shaking hands.
- Do not share equipment.
- Follow social distancing guidelines.
 - Communication with coaches/directors, participants, invitational managers, or other judges must be done at the appropriate social distance.

School Transportation:

- Follow ISBE Guidelines. For transportation to events, schools must consider social distancing requirements. Social distancing (as required by state or local health department) will need to be maintained on all transportation. If a team must return to the bus, there needs to be distancing for possible prolonged periods. Face coverings must always be worn while on the bus.

Eating and Drinking:

- Ask students to bring their own water.
- Ensure 6-foot distance whenever students are eating or drinking.
- Replace face coverings immediately after eating or drinking.

Virtual Contest - Synchronous and Asynchronous

General Virtual Guidelines

Synchronous - Virtual competition occurring at the same time (like a live event where teams log in to perform at a specified time).



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Asynchronous - Virtual competitions where teams performances are pre-recorded and submitted at a specified time.

Schools can elect to conduct and/or compete in synchronous and asynchronous virtual competitions.

Hosts can determine the platforms and technology standards that they wish to conduct their competition. Some online platforms may include but are not limited to: NFHS Network, Zoom, Google Meet, Google Hangouts, Microsoft Teams, NSDA Campus, Yaately, Jitsi, 8x8, Big Marker, and/or YouTube, Google Drive, Dropbox etc....to name a few. Hybrids of both synchronous and asynchronous competitions may also occur.

Host schools can utilize panels of judges as they deem necessary for their specific platform. Multiple panels can be used virtually based on the size of the competition.

Individual contest hosts can establish a platform and timeline for their invitational.

To assist in understanding some available formats, refer to the following link <http://www.speechwire.com/p-video-resources.php> for video resources.

Virtual Competition Guidelines – Suggested Standards and Norms

- Coaches/Directors are encouraged to select versatile material that allows for recording of videoconference performance or that may allow for physical distancing in-person with students wearing masks. Coaches/Directors should consult publishers regarding copyright permissions for online streaming for purposes of adjudication.
- Filming should be on an iPhone, iPad, or basic video camera.
- Determine technology needs. Use electronic devices (desktop, laptop, tablet, cell phone, etc.) to establish a baseline. Secure a strong internet connection.
- Local school districts can determine if students will use technology at home or on site at the school in advance or on the day of competition. Prior to competing, it is recommended to self-explore with the equipment and with different setups for the camera, audio, background, etc. What position works best? Can other people hear you? Do you have any internet issues?
- Some virtual video platforms have trial offers or are free for students to try.
- Test the technology - It never hurts to test technology more than once. In fact, problems can arise because of mistakes such as forgetting to plug in the computer the night before. Test everything; if there is an issue that occurs right before competition, it is best to have it resolved early. If you have backup technology, you may also want to test that. If a computer dies, but you know how to use another device like a phone a student may be able to keep going in a pinch.



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- Neutral background - Where possible, position speakers in front of a neutral background. Green screens, virtual backdrops or professional equipment are not allowed, but a blank wall works great, or affix a sheet to the wall behind a student. When using a sheet, make sure it is well-secured to avoid movements in the background. The less visual distraction, the better. If possible, this may require some advance preparation to reorganize a space. This may include rearranging furniture, closing doorways, etc.
- No special lighting can be used. Full house lighting must be used. Try to create as much light as possible. Even though professional lighting equipment is not allowed, try opening blinds, or moving a lamp(s) near the speaker. Angling lamps with no shades could also improve the lighting for the videos.
- Video should not be edited, cut, or altered in any way. Multiple videos and camera angles cannot be edited together. No sound editing can occur. Entries must be one unedited recording from start to finish.
- No special effects can be added.
- No professional cameras or operators can be used.
- No fans or piped in fan cheers can be added.
- Fans/spectators cannot be present during the recording.
- Keyword may be used at beginning and end of the video to ensure a “live” performance.

Virtual Officiating/Judging

- Electronic ballots may be used.
- Judges can score from home or the contest site. Contest managers need to clearly communicate the expectations to the judges via their contract.
- Judges will access the videos from the platform indicated by the competition host.
- If the judges adjudicate virtually (remotely/from home) the host may conduct a virtual meeting to review the contest protocols.
- Unless otherwise indicated, judges will adjudicate as typically done at a contest.
- Judges should only watch a video once. Replay should not be used.
- For asynchronous competition, it is recommended that contest hosts give judges at least 24 hours to critique and score the virtual contest before announcing awards if judges will not be gathering to score at the host school.
- It is recommended that for contests that are “live scored”, an appropriate time allotment shall be given between each “live scoring” virtual performance.
- Contest hosts can collaborate with judges to confirm the posting of contest results.
- Judges must not share video.



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General Requirements and Considerations for Students:

- Students should be responsible for their own supplies such as a water bottle.
- Students should wear their own appropriate clothing/costumes and not share clothing or costumes with anyone. All equipment and attire should be washed immediately upon returning home.
- Hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer should be frequent at all practices and competitions.
- Students should tell coaches/directors immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Face coverings are always required.

General Requirements and Considerations for Parents/Guardians:

- Make sure students and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is any doubt, stay home).
- Provide clearly labeled personal items for students.
- Help make sure that the student is washing/cleaning clothing/costumes and personal items after each use.
- Know facility/venue limitations on capacity/attendance prior to attending an event/competition. Always maintain social distance and wear a face covering while in attendance at an event.

Questions:

- Questions may be addressed to IHSA Administrator, Susie Knoblauch (sknoblauch@ihsa.org).

COVID-19 Resources Focusing on Performing Arts/Activities

The COVID 19 pandemic presents a myriad of challenges to high school athletic and activity programs. To help address some of those challenges, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has developed a compilation of resources to assist school administrator, coaches, and directors.

IDPH COVID-19 EMS-Regions Map -

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:37ae0de3-609b-4853-8622-b3b9c6d41781>

IHSA COVID-19 Information - <https://www.ihsa.org/Resources/COVID-19>

IDPH Community Guidance - <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance>

IDPH School Guidance - <http://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance>

ISBE - <https://www.isbe.net/coronavirus>



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NFHS Arts Education is Essential - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/nfhs-joins-52-other-national-organizations-to-support-arts-education-as-essential-for-students-during-covid-19-pandemic/>
TEACH Act Explained - Copyright Guidance for Distance Learning - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/nfhs-and-nafme-copyright-guidance-for-distance-learning/>
Copyright Guidance - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/copyright-covid-19-guidance/>
Understanding Copyright and Compliance Course
- <https://www.nfhslearn.com/courses/understanding-copyright-and-compliance>
COVID-19 Aerosol Study - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/unprecedented-international-coalition-led-by-performing-arts-organizations-to-commission-covid-19-study/>

Music Resources

Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/fall-2020-guidance-for-music-education/>
Instrument Cleaning Guidelines - <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/>
NFHS and Varsity Performing Arts to offer FREE Marching Band Show Program
- <https://www.nfhs.org/articles/nfhs-helps-launch-together-as-one-a-free-marching-band-field-show-package-for-high-school-performing-arts-programs/>
Advocacy Webinars - <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/virtual-learning-resources-for-music-educators/>
COVID-19 Resources and News - <https://nafme.org/covid-19/>
Free Professional Development Clock Hours - Articles for Teaching Online during COVID-19 - <https://nafme.org/community/elearning/free-nafme-academy-webinars/>
Bridging the Gap: Teaching and Learning Music Online Webinar - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSUaMelyCVc&feature=youtu.be>
Virtual Learning Resources for Music Educators - <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/virtual-learning-resources-for-music-educators/>
NAfME Online Professional Learning Community - <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/nafme-online-professional-learning-community/>
Resources for Music Educators and Distance Learning - <https://education.musicforall.org/>
Argument for Music Education - <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:f0288518-5385-44ef-b009-c21ad93de676#pageNum=1>
Resources for Music Educators and Distance Learning - <https://education.musicforall.org/>
Letter Writing Campaign - <https://www.voterve.net/NAFME/campaigns/73881/respond>
IDPH Music Guidance - <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/music-guidance>



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Speech, Debate & Theatre Resources

Virtual Learning Resources - <https://www.speechanddebate.org/virtual-learning-resources/>

NSDA COVID19 Updates - <https://www.speechanddebate.org/coronavirus/>

2020 Nationals Information - <https://www.speechanddebate.org/nationals/>

Flexible Show Selection for Theatre Productions -

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:90e524f9-d054-4b1a-96cf-b4ca6d32d9e4>

Recommendations for Reopening School Theatre Programs -

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SCHOOLTHEATRE/7f9e7fa8-ea41-4033-b6a3-1ce9da6a7b6f/UploadedFiles/HPVMgpNDTw2FWro1JLiL_EdTA_ReOpen_Guide_2020_FINAL.pdf

Creating Online Learning - <https://learn.schooltheatre.org/resources-for-creating-online-learning>

Click to Teach/Click to Learn - <https://learn.schooltheatre.org/click-to-teach-lesson-plans>

IDPH Theatre Guidance - <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/theaters.pdf>

Support for Freelance Artists - <https://covid19freelanceartistresource.wordpress.com/>

Spectators - Please see the IHSA Winter Sports Guidelines.