

IHSA 2020-21 SCHOLASTIC BOWL GUIDELINES

This document is intended to provide guidance for schools conducting practices and hosting meets during the 2020-21 IHSA Scholastic Bowl season. 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 scholastic bowl practices and competitions. Additionally, with the changing nature of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines may change.

General Requirements and Considerations:

- **Social Distancing:**
 - Social distancing between individuals of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times. Handshakes, fist bumps, hugging, etc. are not permissible.
- **Small Events:**
 - Small events (i.e. head to head competition between two teams) are most effective in maintaining fewer competitors, school personnel, officials, and spectators. Small events make it easier to establish appropriate social distance among team participants, school personnel, moderators and spectators. Small events must adhere to the event capacity guidelines outlined in IHSA Return to Play Phase 4 (no more than 50 people TOTAL at an indoor event).
- **Larger Events:**
 - If schools have scheduled large competitions such as tournaments, then again, hosts must ensure that ALL event attendees are held to the indoor event capacity guidelines at any given time.
- **Competition Schedule:**
 - Schools are limited to scheduling in person regular season competition with other schools that are in their conference or their EMS Region.
- **Transportation:**
 - For transportation to and from extracurricular events, schools may adhere to the same guidance provided by ISBE regarding transporting students to and from school.

Requirements and Considerations for Competition Hosts

- **Face Coverings:**
 - Face covering must be worn by all participants, school personnel, coaches, moderators/competition volunteers, and spectators at all times during scholastic bowl competitions.
- **Competition Set-up:**
 - Ensure that the team tables and buzzer systems are set up in a way that allows 6 feet (or maximum amount of distance that the buzzer system allow for) between each team's participants. All others in attendance in the competition room must practice social distancing.

- Ensure that the moderator is placed in a location that provides at least 6 feet of distance from all those in attendance in the competition room.
- Ensure that score keepers are set up in a location that provides at least 6 feet of distance from all those in attendance in the competition room.
- Ensure that spectators are provided enough space to maintain social distancing of 6 feet. If there are too many spectators or a competition room does not permit appropriate social distancing among spectators, then spectators shall not be allowed entry into the competition room.
- Each competition room must be equipped with hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray/wipes. Competition rooms must be disinfected between each competition.
- Do not provide pencils/pens, scratch paper, etc. Outside of the buzzer/lockout system, competitors must supply their own equipment.
- The handheld buttons for the buzzer/lockout system must be disinfected between users.
- **Competition Entries:**
 - Limit the number of competitors to the maximum number of participants to represent a team in a scholastic bowl match (4-5 participants) plus as minimal a number of substitutes as possible.
- **Team Headquarters at Competitions:**
 - Hosts should establish team headquarter areas that allow for participants to socially distance from their teammates as well as other teams. Remember there cannot be more than 50 people in any one location.
- **Coaches Packet Pick-up:**
 - Transmit as much information as possible electronically prior to the competition.
 - For any information that cannot be submitted electronically, organize a method for the packet pick up that keeps coaches socially distanced (i.e. time slots for small numbers of coaches to pick up packets, marks on the ground that are 6 feet apart for coaches lines formed at packet pick-up, etc.)
- **Pre-competition coaches' meetings:**
 - Consider using methods to keep coaches socially distanced during coaches' meetings.
 - Electronic or virtual meetings are encouraged when possible.
 - Multiple smaller meetings with a smaller number of attendees at a time is also a way to allow for social distancing.
- **Gatherings**
 - Avoid competition protocols that cause coaches, participants, and spectators to congregate closely together (results boards, opening/awards ceremonies, etc.).
 - Consider using an online platform for results.
 - Consider using an online platform for award recognitions.
- **Multi-room Competitions:**
 - Stagger start times of larger competitions that utilize multiple rooms. This will keep people from crowding in corridors or common areas in groups of larger than 50 at any one time.
- **Competition Volunteers:**

- In addition to volunteers assisting with the competition itself, have volunteers assist with policing common areas and corridors to ensure that there is no overcrowding or congregating in these areas.
- Volunteers should be assigned to the doors of the competition rooms to keep each room at or below the 50 person capacity or social distancing capacity.
- **Virtual Competitions:**
 - During the regular season, virtual competitions and formats may be agreed upon by those teams who desire to compete in this manner.
 - Any form of an IHSA state series will be conducted as in person events.
- **Sanitation Items:**
 - Have sanitation materials (disinfecting wipes, sprays, hand sanitizer, etc.) in prime locations for meet personnel to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and competition equipment.

Requirements and Considerations for Coaches:

- Communicate practice and all competition guidelines in a clear manner to student participants and their parents.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Track your student participant's symptoms prior to each practice and competition. The chart may be found in the resources section of this document.
- Always have a plan to maintain social distancing amongst your team and coaching staff at all times.
- Always require use of facial coverings.
- It is recommended to always have sanitation materials available (i.e. hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, etc.) for the team and coaching staff.
- Communicate with your local school administrators to understand protocols for lines of communication and responses to a student participant or coach contracting COVID-19 or having direct exposure to someone with the virus.

Requirements and Consideration for Moderators:

- Bring personal hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently.
- Do not share equipment.
- Follow social distancing guidelines
 - Required communication with coaches, participants, meet personnel, spectators, or other moderators must be done at the appropriate social distance.
- Refrain from shaking hands.
- Wear a face covering at all times.
- Please be understanding of announcement issues as a result of competitors wearing masks. If unsure, ask them to slowly repeat an answer.

Requirements and Considerations for Student Participants:

- Student participants should be responsible for their own supplies such as water bottles, face coverings, pens/pencils, scratch paper, etc..
- Hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer should be frequent at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Face coverings are required at all times.

Requirements and Considerations for Parents:

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

Eating and drinking:

- Ensure 6 foot distance whenever athletes are eating or drinking.
- Replace face coverings immediately after eating or drinking.

Questions:

- Questions may be addressed to IHSA Cross Country Administrator, Kraig Garber (kgarber@ihsa.org).

Resources:

IDPH COVID-19 Regions Map -

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

Symptom Tracking Document:

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:0dc6fa36-2bb4-4e9c-b6b1-8579ed788df9>

NFHS Guidance for Opening Up High School Athletics and Activities:

https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15_2020-final.pdf