



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

## IHSA 2020-21 WINTER SPECTATOR CONSIDERATIONS

This document is intended to provide guidance for schools conducting winter competitions in basketball, bowling, competitive cheerleading, competitive dance, gymnastics, and swimming and diving. 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 dance practices and competitions. Additionally, with the changing nature of the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, these guidelines may change.

### Sports Spectators:

- Schools may determine if spectators are allowed or not at their competitions. Schools should announce to visiting schools if they will be allowed/ not allowed.
- Per IHSA guidelines, schools are allowed to have spectators at competitions.
- Spectators must wear masks and social distance at all times.
- In all sports spectators must be kept back from the playing surface to keep distance between the spectators and the participants.
- In multi-team events, time should be taken to clean and sterilize between spectator groups.
- Spectator limitations will be as follows:
  - Basketball- school spectators must be kept in 2 separate groups of 50 with the home spectators on one side of the gym, the visiting spectators on the other.
    - Spectators must be at least 12 feet back from the court.
  - Cheer/Dance- spectators will be allowed in one group of 50 (1 school) at a time, when their school is finished performing spectators shall exit.
    - It is recommended that spectator groups occupy different areas of the gym so that cleaning and sterilization can be done between groups.
  - Bowling- Spectators will be limited to 2 per bowler.
  - Gymnastics- Spectators will be limited to 2 per gymnast.
  - Swimming and Diving- Spectators will be limited to 2 per participant if space permits.

### Eating and drinking:

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



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## **Activity and Performing Arts Spectator Guidance**

- All spectators must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth at all times, except while eating or drinking, or when outside and able to maintain a safe distance (exceptions can be made for people with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent them from safely wearing a face covering, are younger than 2 years of age, have trouble breathing or are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance).
- Limit spectators to immediate household members or guardians of participants.
- Indoor theaters and performing arts/activity spaces should operate at lesser of 50 guests OR 50% of overall theater or performance space capacity. Outdoor activity, theater and performing arts spaces are preferred and should operate at 20% of overall space capacity.
- If a venue has multiple performance areas, capacity restriction should apply to each theater or activity competition and performance space.
- Performing arts/activity space administrators/venue operators should develop a method to inform spectators of available facility capacity before spectators arrive at the facility (e.g. reservation system, overview of days/times when competition/performances occur, etc...)
- Performing arts/activity space administrators/venue operators should have a plan to allow for social distancing within the venue(s) and if needed, designate employee(s) to monitor health checks, capacity limits and social distancing.
- Spectators should check for available capacity before going to the facility.
- Best practices for spectators: Do not attend events if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, wash hands often, allot for extra time to enter and exit and between shows, performances, competition, etc....
- If applicable use mobile ticketing/touchless transactions – purchase tickets in advance online.
- Local school districts can always be more restrictive with their local district level or health department spectator policies.