

REGION 2 PROTOCOLS & POLICIES FOR RETURN TO COMPETITION 2020-21

Recommendations

Social Distancing

- Social distancing should be encouraged at all times (six feet at a minimum).
- Consider limiting staff to only essential personnel.
- Consider the capacity of rooms/buildings and consider a reduction in this number.
- Large social gatherings in any spaces should be discouraged.
- Student housing, if applicable, should allow for individual sleeping rooms on and off campus.
- Consider spacing in the cafeterias, classrooms, weight rooms, athletic training rooms/locker rooms, and other on-campus venues.
- Virtual team meetings should take place when possible.
- When at practice any unnecessary contact should be avoided such as handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, or elbow bumps. Following competition, teams will leave without shaking hands, but an acceptable alternative gesture while social distancing such as wave or non-contact high five is acceptable.
- In all common areas, seating should be spaced six feet apart. Large social gatherings in any spaces should be discouraged.
- Student athletes should sit every other seat on a bench and should avoid using a dugout when possible. They should consciously stand six feet apart when not participating in a drill or activity that requires closer contact.
- Fans, staff, and other event attendees must wear face masks.
- Athletes should limit contact with spectators when possible.
- Athletes will wear face mask when feasible.

Sanitization

- All equipment and locker rooms should be cleaned between each individual use.
- A schedule should be maintained increased, routine cleaning and disinfecting of athletic facilities and equipment.
- Hand sanitizer should be made available throughout the facility for use before, during, and after workouts.

Pre-participation Exams

- Pre-participation exams should be spaced out by teams, limiting the number of people in a space to the practitioner and individual getting screened.
 - This can be accomplished by limiting the number of teams that can be screened in one day and doing the screens by appointment time, so you do not have large groups congregating waiting for their turn.
 - The following forms are available on NJCAA Connect:
 1. Physical Examination Form
 2. Physical Examination History Form
 3. Preparticipation Clearance Form
 4. Athlete with Special Needs Supplemental History Form

Requirements

Daily/Competition Screening

- Student athletes, coaches, and staff will be screened daily before practice/competition with no-touch temperature checks and a questionnaire.
- A positive screen that would warrant further investigation would be a temperature greater than 100.4° F or a “yes” response to any of these three questions:
 1. Do you have new onset cough or shortness of breath?
 2. Have you had a fever or had symptoms of a fever?
 3. Have you had known exposure to a COVID-19-positive individual within 14 days?
- A failed screen would be indicated by a temperature >100.4 or positive symptom that is not explained-- cold, allergies, etc.
- A 10-minute acclimation period should be allowed before re-temperature check to see if the environment is a factor.

Team Travel

- Prior to travel for athletic competition, coaches, athletes, and other team personnel will be screened for illness.
- The traveling team’s official will screen traveling athletes before boarding transportation. Screening should take place inside a controlled environment to ensure temperature accuracy.
- Athletes with symptoms related to illness will not be allowed to board transportation or travel to away competition. An athlete with a positive screen will be suspended from travel.
- Screening and temperature check will be conducted upon arrival.
- Copies of each team's screening will be available upon request
- An athlete with a positive screen will be suspended from competition.
- All visiting teams will follow institutional rules for use of the Athletic Training Room.
- Traveling teams will be asked to abide by the policies in place of the host, including what facilities are available and guidelines of use per specific facility at the time of competition.
 - Teams should contact host institution’s athletic department prior to traveling for specific institutional policies or changes.

Game Management Personnel/Officials

- Prior to travel, game officials will conduct self-temperature checks. If the official has a positive temperature of 100.4°, a replacement official is warranted.

- Game officials will be included in the onsite screening process at the host site. Any official who fails the on-site screening process will not be compensated for time and travel.
- Region 2 will require host administrators to screen all game day management personnel to include table crew; PA operator, gate keepers, security and other personnel.
- Whistle with covers/bags/shields are preferred. Electronic whistles are permissible.
- Some form of face mask or whistle covering must be utilized by officials. Any face/whistle cover must be unadorned and black in color.
- Eye protection may be worn and must be shatterproof goggles or glasses.
- Gloves may be worn and must be unadorned.

In/Post Game

- All individuals necessary for competition will be classified into tiers, as described here. Tiers are based on the ability to wear face masks/face covering, the ability to practice social distancing of 6 feet or greater, and their respective role for the competition. All individuals should wear masks and physically distance whenever possible.
 - Tier 1- Individuals that it would not be possible to physically distance or wear masks effectively during athletic training or competition. This should only apply to athletes currently active in physical exercise, for example; during workouts, practice when active, and players on field/court during competition.
 - Tier 2- Individuals who come in contact with Tier 1 individuals but can reasonably maintain physical distance and use face coverings during the interaction. This includes student athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and operational staff. All Tier 2 individuals should wear face mask/face coverings and physically distance.
 - Tier 3- Individuals who provide event services but are not in the same vicinity of Tier 1 individuals. This includes housekeeping, catering, media. Tier 3 individuals should minimize contact with Tier 2 individuals and should always use physical distancing and utilize face masks/face coverings.
- Spectators are not a part of Tiers 1, 2, or 3, and will observe local health official mandates. Spectators will be separated from Tiered individuals. Capacity will be reduced to ensure possibility of physical distancing by spectators, no more than 25% capacity of maximum facility seating. Visiting teams will be allowed 20 seats of the 25% capacity. Visiting schools will provide the host with a pass list upon arrival. Host schools may adjust capacity if visiting institution does not use their allotted number of seats.
- When possible, limit all contact between teams. This includes any contact not required by that sport.
- Teams will immediately exit the venue so game management personnel can begin the disinfection process.
- All players and coaches must have their own water bottles or cups. Host team will be required to provide water. No disposable cups will be provided by host team.
- All attending event should enter and exit facilities utilizing designated doors only.

- Teams should not shake hands after the game; instead a wave or non-contact gesture can be substituted.

Post Season Competition

- Member colleges will adhere to all state and local regulations and guidelines regarding food service for concessions and hospitality rooms
- Championship host will follow all safety protocol recommendations provided to NJCAA member colleges for regular-season competition.
- Coaches or the Athletic Director should request a social distancing plan from the host prior to the start of the event, including fan ingress, fan egress, fan seating.
- Temperature checks should be required for student-athletes, coaches, and game personnel prior to each entry into the venue.
- Host should encourage social distancing and directional signage in venue.

Contests

- Current circumstances may not allow for all competition to be completed.
- All efforts by both institutions will be made to reschedule all Regional competition.
- All post-season qualifications will be based on regional winning percentage.

Testing

- Any athlete that fails a Covid-19 screen will be recommended to have a Covid-19 test or required to quarantine in accordance with CDC guidelines unless medically cleared by a physician, nurse practitioner or Physician's Assistant.
- Any athlete that has been exposed through the contact tracing process who is currently not demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms will be required to complete 14-day quarantine.
- It is highly recommended to have exposed athletes tested.
- A Covid-19 positive athlete is required to isolate in accordance with CDC guidelines for a minimum 10 days.
- If an athlete tests positive within 5 days from a contest, the athlete must disclose the positive test to the coach who must inform the opposing team(s) within 24 hours of receiving the positive test results.

The recommendations and requirements in this document apply to all region and non-region contests. The recommendations and requirements are established as a minimum standard and institutional protocols take precedents. This is a fluid document and will be amended as changes occur within CDC guidelines.