



## IHSAA Baseball



### Informational Webinar with IGHSAAU: Athletic Directors

May 28, 2020

Below is a consolidated transcript of questions and answers from the IHSAA Informational Webinar for Athletic Directors.

**Q. Is there guidance or a checklist for site supervisors to use when hosting a baseball and/or softball contest?**

A. Yes, [a checklist has been provided for site supervisors](#) to follow when hosting a contest.

**Q. How are we to transport our players to away contests?**

A. The Department of Education [has created procedures and protocols regarding transportation.](#)

**Q. If a pitcher licks/blows in their hand, the ball is sanitized, but will the pitcher have to sanitize before getting the new ball?**

A. Yes.

**Q. What is the guidance on restrooms?**

A. Local decision just need to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

**Q. If a player has a 100.4 temperature on Monday - are they okay to practice Tuesday if the temperature is below is there a specific protocol to get back to practice?**

A. No, they are to be fever free for 72 hours before returning to practice.

**Q. Can local districts allow kids and/or parents to drive to games?**

A. Here is the link from the Department of Education providing protocols for transportation.

**Q. Can I impose more stringent guidelines at my facility?**

A. Yes, it is permissible to have stricter guidelines at your facility.

**Q. Can we provide a cooler for kids to put their individual Gatorade/water bottles in?**

A. No

**Q. Do coaches document each player's temperature before each practice/game?**

A. No; but those who record a fever should be noted. [A form created by NFHS is available here to document player's temperatures when a fever is present.](#)

**Q. Is the 100.4 a hard cutoff for the temperature, especially on hot days?**

A. That is the guidance we have received from the Department of Public Health.

**Q. Can coaches take temperatures of kids as they come to practice?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can we have multiple team tournaments? Example a 4 - team tournament on a Saturday?**

A. Local schools can decide the schedule and formats.

**Q. Can I require masks for C, 1B, baserunners. These are the people that most regularly come into contact with each other.**

A. Yes on your team. A school cannot require an opposing team to wear a mask.

**Q. Can a school require the umpires to wear masks while on the field of play?**

A. According to Department of Education guidance, school districts can require umpires to wear masks.

**Q. Can the host school require a temperature check of the umpires prior to the contest?**

A. Yes

**Q. Can parents donate cases of water bottles for the athletes to use at practices and games?**

A. No.

**Q. Are junior high baseball/softball still canceled?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can student-athletes use different colored helmets to reduce the number of shared helmets?**

A. NFHS rules permit different colored helmets in both baseball and softball.

**Q. Are concessions allowed at a non-school facility like a minor league stadium?**

A. Yes, as long as it is a licensed facility, has health department inspections, and follows restaurant COVID-19 guidelines.

**Q. It says, "Fans displaying symptoms are not allowed." Who polices that? Is that a suggestion or a rule?**

A. Spectators are responsible for self-monitoring themselves and should not attend games if they have a temperature above 100.3.

**Q. Is signage preferred over a letter for the parents to sign? What about legality?**

A. Signs are posted for information. Please check with your school's legal counsel regarding waivers.

**Q. Can youth leagues play on school fields starting on June 1?**

A. Work with Department of Education facility guidelines to determine what is and isn't allowed between June 1 and June 30

**Q. Hospitals don't allow their own employees to take their own temps so why would we think that would be okay for BB/SB??**

A. The DE and IDPH created the guidance we are following. As stated in a May 21 zoom, "Anyone can take a temperature."

**Q. Can parents provide prepackaged snacks for the team members for between games? Like a prepackaged Peanut Butter and Jelly uncrustable?**

A. No, players should bring their own refreshments.

**Q. If local and/or state sports reporters request coming to practices for a story, are they permitted to attend?**

A. Only essential personnel are allowed to attend practices.

**Q. Are school districts still allowed to form a baseball/softball cooperative agreement at this point in time for this season?**

A. Classifications are final for baseball; however, sharing agreements may be accepted until June 9 if the cooperative sharing agreement doesn't change the host school's classification. In softball, cooperative sharing agreements may be accepted until June 9. Classifications for softball will then be final on June 9.

**Q. Should we provide water or refreshments for the umpires or should they bring their own along?**

A. Umpires will be told to bring their own water and refreshments for the time being.

**Q. So if a student-athlete comes in contact with a person who tests positive (relative, teammate, opponent, etc.) are they out for 14 days? I noticed the signage said that no one can attend that has come in contact with someone, so if that's the case, wouldn't a kid be out too?**

A. Please contact your local county public health.

**Q. Are indoor hitting facilities considered baseball/softball facilities in terms of moving weight equipment to enable baseball/softball teams to lift?**

A. If this is part of your baseball/softball facilities, you can use the indoor hitting facilities or cages if indoors.

**Q. Can we extend our dugout area to behind the backstop?**

A. As long as it is behind a fenced area.

**Q. If we have no physical on file from an athlete that hasn't participated in other activities this year, do they still have the same participation waiver as others that have an expired physical? Or do they need to have a physical before participating? What about an individual that has a physical that expired a year ago, can they participate and schedule the physical and have it done by the July 25?**

A. Due to the Governor's proclamation, regardless if he/she has participated in a sport within the past year, all students do not need to have a current physical.

**Q. You had mentioned signs being available for facilities on game day, but is there any type of information that can be shared ahead of time with fans before the season begins?**

A. Please direct your fans to [www.ighsau.org](http://www.ighsau.org) and [www.iahxaa.org](http://www.iahxaa.org) for information

**Q. Do outside free-standing self-service pop/Gatorade machines need to be removed from facility grounds?**

A. We would recommend shutting off the pop machines.

**Q. Is charging admission at games allowed? If so, any guidance on that with their being an exchange of cash? If not allowed, can there be a free-will donation bucket?**

A. Local decision on admission - free-will donation bucket is also allowed. Safety for the admission - some have considered shields to separate, hanging shower curtain cut out - masks, gloves, sanitizing supplies

**Q. Will the IHSAA still go with doubleheaders during postseason play?**

A. At the current time, yes, we are planning on doubleheaders for the postseason, but we are looking at spacing out the time between games to help teams and fans social distance during the evening

**Q. With no concession stands - is there any guidance on allowing fans to bring coolers?**

A. Local decision; just remember no tobacco and alcohol.

**Q. Thoughts on team photos and programs?**

A. Our recommendation is no at the current time.

**Q. Is there any allowance for plate umpires to have the option to officiate behind the mound?**

A. Varsity does not have that option in either softball or baseball. For sub varsity baseball, the IHSAA strongly discourages the plate umpire working in the field. For sub varsity softball, prior approval is needed from Jean Berger.

**Q. Our conference has decided not to charge admission due to transmission concerns. What will admission at District or Regional play look like. Required if you host?**

A. Will be required to charge - if not willing to host, please notify the IHSAA and the IGHSAU

**Q. Will the IHSAA/IGHSAU supply schools with a script for PA announcers that is consistent for us all regarding expectations? Anything else regarding pregame lineups and national anthem protocols?**

A. Yes to PA scripts. We are encouraging social distancing for pregame lineups and national anthem protocols.

**Q. Should teams pitch their own softballs/baseballs during the game. Who gets the foul balls when hit?**

A. Umpires will not handle game balls. Home team provides game balls. Each team, when on defense, supplies the game balls to their pitcher. Foul balls should be retrieved by the defensive team.

**Q. Any guidance on temperatures for umpires?**

A. Same guidance as coaches and players.

**Q. What happens if a pitcher licks his fingers. Let's say it is an unseasonably cool night in mid-June, what if pitchers are blowing on their hands before pitching? Same protocol as licking fingers?**

A. A pitcher will not be allowed to put their hands to their mouths prior to pitching the ball. This will be a "no pitch". Play is not dead an umpire declares the ball dead. A new ball will be placed into play while the thrown-out ball is sanitized. The thrown-out ball cannot return to play until sanitized and dry. The pitcher should also sanitize his/her hand prior to receiving the new ball.

**Q. Are locker rooms allowed to be accessed by players if they are in an indoor practice facility? Same for if we have a locker room attached to a dugout?**

A. No

**Q. Will there be any flexibility with mandating 2 certified umpires for all high school level games?**

A. From the IHSAA standpoint, all umpires will be required to be certified to work high school contests (the IGHSAA requires this only for varsity contests). Our rules do allow one umpire to work a game by themselves and our registration process is open throughout the regular season for individuals to register at any time throughout the season

**Q. Quik Stats requirements still in effect?**

A. Yes

**Q. Can softball or baseball have 2 a-day practices prior to the start of the first game?**

A. Yes, that is permissible.