



COVID-19 Reopening Guidance: Summer Sports

Purpose

This guidance was created in consultation with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) as a resource for administrators to determine when and how districts and nonpublic schools may begin to engage in school sports seasons while keeping participants and spectators safe. It must be used in conjunction with all proclamations issued by the governor and guidance provided by the IDPH. Additional guidance will be provided by IHSAA and IGHSAU. **For guidance on the use of school facilities for activities other than baseball and softball, please refer to the Iowa Department of Education's (Department) [COVID-19 Guidance on the Use of School Facilities](#).**

June 1

Team organized practices for baseball and softball may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in date. The following mitigation efforts are required to help ensure player, coach, and spectator safety:

- Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate in practice if they currently have [symptoms](#) or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
- No dugouts may be used. Players' items should be lined up against the fence at least six feet apart.
- Parents must remain in their cars or drop off and pick up players after practice.
- Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing catch, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to bat.
- Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after practice. No shared drinking fountains, portable hydration stations, or coolers may be used.
- Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each practice.
- Players and coaches should check their temperatures **before** attending practices.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness is not allowed to practice.
- Coaches should be knowledgeable of their students with pre-existing health conditions and work with school nurses or other health officials to take additional precautions as needed.
- Players should be encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer.
- Coaches must ban the spitting of sunflower seed shells.
- Coaches are responsible for tracking absences for the purpose of noting potential COVID-19 cases.
- Contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

June 15

Baseball and softball games may begin unless circumstances dictate a change in date. Baseball and softball practices must continue to follow the guidelines provided in the previous section. The following mitigation efforts are required to help ensure player, coach, and spectator safety during games:

- Post signage prominently indicating no one should attend or participate in games if they currently have [symptoms](#) or have been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days.
- Use of dugouts is permitted during games only.
- Players should use their own gloves, helmets, and bats as much as possible.
- Players must bring their own water/beverage to consume during and after games. No shared drinking fountains, water stations, or coolers may be used.
- Coaches must sanitize shared equipment before and after each game.
- Players and coaches should check their temperatures before attending practices or games.
- Anyone with symptoms of illness is not allowed to participate.
- Schools must limit the use of bleachers for fans. Encourage fans to bring their own chairs or stand. Fans should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines.
- Schools must also implement any other reasonable measures under the circumstances of each school to ensure social distancing of staff, students, and community members, increased hygiene practices, and other public health measures to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 consistent with [guidance issued by the IDPH](#).
- Fans must not attend if they have symptoms of illness.
- No concessions stands are permitted.
- Contact public health if a positive case of COVID-19 is reported.

In-person team organized activities for other sports remain suspended until July 1. For profit businesses that provide sports training and that sell memberships are allowed to offer sports training as long as they follow the same guidelines as fitness centers/clubs, gymnasiums, health clubs, and health spas and can continue to operate for all sports.

Questions and Additional Guidance

If you have questions, please contact your [school improvement consultant](#). If they are unable to assist you, they will connect you with the appropriate person. For additional COVID-19 guidance and information, please visit the Department's [COVID-19 webpage](#).