



2021 Golf Return to Competition Guidance

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Overview

- Please submit questions through the Q&A feature.
- We will answer them live and at the end of the presentation.
- Zoom is recorded. A link for later viewing will be on the IGHSAU and IHSAA websites at a later date.
- This guidance is intended for high school varsity, sub-varsity high school activities as overseen by the IGHSAU/IHSAA.



Overview

- Recommendations are from IGHSAU/IHSAA for its member schools and should not supersede guidelines, mandates, requirements, and/or orders put into place by:
 - Iowa Governor's Office
 - Iowa Department of Public Health
 - Iowa Department of Education
 - Federal, local or county government entities
 - Federal, local or county health departments
 - Local School Districts



Supervision

- It is the responsibility of the home team to provide proper administrative supervision (not the coach) at meets to assure compliance with the guidelines set forth by the Governor's office, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Health, the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.



Possible/Positive COVID-19 Cases

- The Iowa Department of Public Health has developed guidance for county health departments and schools regarding protocols when a student and/or student-athlete reports COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test result or contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result.



Possible/Positive COVID-19 Cases

- Each school should identify a point of contact for athletes, coaches, and other personnel to report to when he/she experiences COVID-19 symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test result or contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test result. This identified person will be responsible to report such situations to local public health.
- Each school should develop a communication plan to notify relevant persons (players, coaches, spectators) when contact-tracing indicates the need to.



Health Screening

- Schools should implement health screening for practices and meets similar to methods used during summer, fall, and winter seasons.
- Self-screening and reporting to the school representative (AD/Coach/Trainer, etc.) is permissible



General Considerations

- Local rules are at the discretion of the local committee (host school/course) and should be clearly communicated to all participants in advance of competition.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained as much as possible. No hugging, shaking hands, high fives, or fist bumps for support/encouragement.
- Attendees for pre-meet conference must maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet. Face coverings are strongly encouraged to be worn by all pre-meet conference attendees if indoors.



Hand Sanitizing

- Student-athletes should be encouraged to frequently sanitize their hands before, during and after practice and competition.
- Student-athletes should have their own personal hand sanitizer. Individuals should especially sanitize before touching “common” equipment or other items.



Equipment Sanitizing

- Any equipment that is shared by student-athletes should be sanitized before and after practice as well as before and after competition.
- Individuals should never share golf towels. Each individual should bring and use his/her own clean towel.



Considerations for Coaches

- Communicate the guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Carts for coaches are at the discretion of the host course and the local county health guidelines.
 - No shuttles for players, except with extreme weather delays.



Considerations for Students

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately if not feeling well.
- Athletes should bring their own labeled water bottle.
- Do not touch or handle supplies or equipment that isn't yours—Tees, Scorecards, Pencils and other needed items for play.



Driving Range/Putting Green

- For meets, limit time at the practice facilities (range and putting green) to decrease the amount of interaction between teams.
- Hosts may assign a “Time Window” for each participating team. That may also include assigning range location as well.
- Hitting bays set up with 10 feet of space between players.
- Bring your own tees — avoid community tee bins.
- If possible, provide pool noodles or pvc in practice green holes to prevent the ball from dropping all the way in the cup.
- Work with host club to space out putting green holes.
- The practice putting green may have a limited number of players allowed on it at any one time depending on the size of the putting green or by guidelines set by the host course.



Spectators

- Schools should implement spectator protocols by following CDC and local department of health guidelines regarding size of gatherings and social distancing.
- Spectators should use 6 feet social distancing. Families may stand together but should social distance from others.
- Masks are recommended for all spectators when indoors.
- Individuals in the clubhouse should practice 6 feet social distancing and are recommended to wear masks.
- Carts for spectators—the host school or course shall establish an efficient way for host club to collect cart fees to insure social distancing.



Considerations for Administration

- Facility Sanitization – Consideration should be given if facilities will need sanitization, how often, who will be doing the sanitizing
- Post-season – Potential options may be considered regarding the state qualifying meets and the state tournament depending upon the status of Covid-19. Further communication will occur as the season progresses.
- Locker rooms may be utilized however the Dept of Public Health guidelines must be adhered to. (Department of Public Health link)
- Clubhouses may offer food and beverages (appropriate).
- Limit the outside food brought in by teams/spectators.
- The DOE Transportation guidelines should be followed when travelling as a team.
- Administration should consider the number of teams participating in the meet and the levels participating in the meet.



Media

- Schools should communicate with media regarding protocols for practices and meets. It is recommended that:
 - Space be provided for media coverage that takes into consideration:
 - 6 feet of social distancing and masks required.
 - Procedure be established regarding interview requests prior to/after practices and meets, including
 - Identifying an area where interviews will be conducted.
 - Establishing a required advanced notice timeframe.



Scoring Options

- Scoring will be done with a paper scorecard that is not exchanged between players.
- Option One: Players keep theirs and another's score on the scorecard. All players shall verbally exchange scores at the next tee box when each hole is complete. After the round, in the scoring area, players will certify their scores hole-by-hole verbally. Signatures will not be required by the player or marker.
 - The scorecard is considered returned when the player verbally certifies the scores and places the scorecard in the box and/or at the scorer's table.
- Option Two: Each player keeps the scores for all players in the group, so each player serves as a marker for all players in the group. All players shall verbally exchange scores at the next tee box after each hole is complete. After the round, in the scoring area, players certify their scores hole-by-hole verbally in the presence of all players in the group and signatures are not required.
 - The scorecard is considered returned when the player verbally certifies the scores and places the scorecard in the box and/or at the scorer's table.



Closing

- Webinar is recorded – link will be on both websites
- lghsau.org – Coaches info in Golf section listed under Coaches & Administrators tab
- lahsaa.org – Coaches info under the Golf tab
- Questions?

