

CDPHE Mandates for CHSAA Boys Soccer

[Link to CDPHE Season C letter](#)

**Subject to change*

Currently, CHSAA has been approved for 25 players per soccer team for practices and games, 50 combined total for two teams in a game. These games and practices will be held outdoors - any indoor activities (including practices) are not included in the variance and should follow CDPHE's guidance for Organized Sports at the local Dial Level. Please confirm with your school/district/local health department for the restrictions in your area as some counties are more restrictive. In all CHSAA *sanctioned athletics and activities*, spectators must follow the Indoor/Outdoor Guidance for the dial-level of the county.

Minimize travel across county and regional borders.

STUDENTS, COACHES & VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT GO TO PRACTICE/PARTICIPATE IF:

- They are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus.
- They have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days.
- Refer to the [CDPHE Quarantine Memo from February 24](#) for more specifics.

Coaches and administrators must communicate all practice and competition guidelines in a clear manner to student participants and their parents. The following protocols will be put in place to mitigate risk and ensure the safest possible conditions during competition and practice:

General Requirements

- All guidelines from CHSAA must be adhered to.
- **Social distancing** between individuals of at least 6 feet must be maintained at all times. Handshakes, fist bumps, hugging, etc. are not permissible.
- **Spectators** – If host school allows spectators, they must wear facial coverings and maintain 6 feet social distance at all times. When considering spectators, if permitted by the venue, refer to CDPHE's guidance for [Organized Sports](#).
- **No Scrimmages or Foundation games.**
- Students must wear facial coverings when not engaged in training, practice, competition, or other strenuous physical activity. Coaches must wear facial coverings at all practices and games.
 - Any practice or competition that takes place indoors require face coverings for all players, coaches officials, etc.
 - Consult with your school/district/local health department as some counties are more restrictive and may require use of facial coverings while competing.
- Gloves are permissible for players.
- Soccer balls should be sanitized before and/or after each practice, whether self-provided or brought by the coach. For competition, soccer balls should be sanitized pre-game, at halftime, and post-game. This is the host team's responsibility.
- Players must bring their own rehydration liquids to practice/games in clearly marked or labeled containers with the player's identity. The container should be re-sealable. Players must NOT plan on refilling their containers on site.
- The use of locker rooms should be eliminated whenever possible; only used for restroom use and changing (no more than five people at one time all wearing masks). Whenever possible,

athletes should arrive to practice and competition fully dressed. Masks must always be worn in the locker room.

- For all equipment that is used, it must be labeled and not shared (this includes goalie equipment).
- Players' bags/equipment should be placed/stored 6 feet away from others' bags. Players should store their gear in their bags (as opposed to a community pile or tossed on the bench).
- Players should arrive at the venue no more than 15 minutes before the start of on-field activities. Anyone arriving earlier than 15 minutes before their start time should wait outside the facility and be socially distanced from others.
- If there is an activity occurring on the field before the team's scheduled start (another game or practice), the incoming team should wait until all players from the prior event have vacated the venue. There must not be interaction between the two groups.
- There must be no on- or off-field interaction (socializing, team meetings) following the conclusion of practice or games. Players, coaches, officials, spectators, etc. must vacate the venue immediately. Have separate entrances and exits for teams, coaches, spectators, officials, etc.
- There must be sanitation materials (disinfecting wipes, sprays, hand sanitizer, etc.) in prime locations for game personnel, team & coaching staff to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment.

Practice Guidance & Considerations

- Refer to CHSAA [COVID-19 Requirements & Mandates](#) (listed under Practice) while also adhering to state/county/local health restrictions; schools/districts may have stricter standards. Coaches must review this document with their Athletic Director before engaging in any workout/practice with students and must communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Coaches should conduct workouts in "pods" (10 or fewer) of same students who are always training and rotating together. This will ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Must keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.
- Pinnies must not be shared amongst student athletes and need to be washed in between uses.
- Goalies should use water to moisten their gloves (no spitting).
- Except for goalies, players should avoid any hand contact with soccer balls during practice. Feet should be used for collecting soccer balls, etc.
- A limited number of people should handle cones or other equipment for practice drills; should use hand sanitizer after handling this equipment. At the conclusion of practice, coaches should not ask players to participate in picking up cones or other equipment from the field.
- Players should maintain as much separation as possible during practices. Whenever possible, coaches should be promoting social distancing on the field, while recognizing that there may be times of close contact by players.
- Benches should not be used during practices.

Competition Guidance & Considerations

- Refer to CHSAA [COVID-19 Requirements & Mandates](#) (listed under Event/Competition) while also adhering to state/county/local health restrictions; schools/districts may have stricter standards. Coaches must review this document with their Athletic Director before hosting competitions at their school/facility and must communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students, parents, officials, etc.

- Coaches must remain in regular team box, but box width for student-athletes and other bench personnel should be flexible to allow social distancing.
 - Benches should not be used during games.
 - If social distancing can't be achieved with both team benches on the same side, team benches may be set up on opposite sides of the field.
 - There must be minimum 10 feet distance between spectators and team benches.
 - Utilize stadium seating for team benches to promote greater social distancing when available.
 - **Coaches/administration should assess and determine appropriate sideline spacing for each individual site.** How can you best spread out bench personnel? What is best for your site?
- If Officials Table is on sideline – must be limited to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and must find an alternative location.
 - Press box should be limited to essential personnel only.
- Trainers are allowed to be on the sideline in any capacity that they feel is appropriate while maintaining appropriate social distance and wearing a facemask.
- Pregame Conference
 - Attendees must be limited to head or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team. All attendees must wear face coverings.
 - The location of the pregame conference should be moved to center of the field (or other area that allows participants to spread out). All individuals must maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Handshakes must be eliminated prior to and following the pregame conference.
 - Only the owner of the coin should handle the coin during the toss.
- The pregame World Cup introduction line must be suspended. Players should be sent to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions and National Anthem (or similar adjustment to avoid close player contact).
- Game protocols, such as team huddles, that cause coaches, participants, spectators, and officials to congregate closely together (pregame, post-game and throughout competition) must be avoided.
- Substitution Procedures – Social distancing of 6 feet between the substitutes, officials and/or teammate(s) must be maintained. More leniency may be required.
 - Substitutes must not report to the scorer's table or onto the field with a pinnie on or in their hand.
 - Substitution procedure – Rule 3-4-1d When an entry is taking place on a throw-in, a goal kick or a corner kick, the substitute(s) must have reported to the scorer (or official area) prior to the dead ball situation.
 - In some situations (i.e. where bleacher seating is being used for benches), it may not be possible for the substitute to reach the table before the dead ball situation. More leniency would be expected.
- Ball chasers must socially distance from one another and other personnel (at least 6 feet). They must be wearing masks and handle the ball(s) with their feet only (no hand contact).
- Delays in the start of play should be avoided so that players do not have prolonged periods of standing in close proximity. Players should limit direct contact until the ball is ready to be put into play (free kicks, throw ins, goal kicks, corner kicks).
- Inclement weather – if a game has to be postponed due to lightning, when making the decision to wait 30 minutes or postpone to a later date (if the game is in the first half) or declare the competition complete (if the game is in the second half), administration and officials should work together to consider if student-athletes can be safely socially distanced while taking

shelter. If taking shelter will put many participants in a tight indoor space (bus, practice shed, small hallway, etc.) officials and administration must choose to implement a contest-ending procedure prior to waiting 30 minutes.

- In inclement weather, remind student-athletes to bring appropriate rain gear, etc. (Bench personnel cannot safely all huddle under an 8x8 or 10x10 tent).
- Post-game protocol of shaking hands must be suspended. Teams/coaches should consider other ways to show post-game appreciation for opponents and officials.
- Teams must clean their own bench areas completely, so they are free of ALL trash and belongings.
- **OFFICIALS**
 - Must wear a face covering at all times except during play; refer to state/county/local health guidelines for stricter standards.
 - Use of electronic whistle is allowed.
 - Gloves are permissible for officials.
 - Should bring personal hand sanitizer and wash your hands frequently.
 - Must not share equipment (i.e. flags, whistles, jerseys, coins, rehydration liquids, etc.)
 - Must follow social distancing guidelines.
 - Communication with coaches, participants, game personnel, or spectators must be done at the appropriate social distance.
 - Must refrain from shaking hands.

Field & Team Bench Diagram

