



2020 AIA Football Modifications

This document provides guidance and game modifications for schools, game administrators, coaches, players, and officials to follow in accordance with NFHS, state and local restrictions and recommendations. Game Administration is responsible for informing all participants of local guidelines for participation.

❖ PREGAME, TRAVEL & FACILITIES

● DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES, TRAVEL & PREGAME

- Dressing facilities for game officials and teams should be large enough for them to use social distancing protocols and should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to their arrival.
- Before, during, and after the contest, players, coaches, game officials, team personnel and game administration should wash or sanitize their hands as often as possible.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times while on the sidelines and on the field of play during pregame when possible.
- Team personnel must wear face coverings at all times.
- Players must wear face coverings during travel, pregame when possible, and post-game.

❖ RULE MODIFICATIONS

● COIN TOSS

- One captain from each team.
- Coin toss should take place in the center of the field with designated individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
- No handshakes prior to and following the coin toss.

● TEAM BOX

- The team box will be extended on both sides of the field to the 10-yard lines (for players only) in order for more social distancing space for the teams. Coaches are required to remain within the regular team box.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet while in the team box and not engaged in activities.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, water bottles, and other apparel and equipment.
- All coaches, players and other personnel must wear face coverings.

● BALL

- The ball should be cleaned and sanitized throughout the contest as recommended by the ball manufacturer.
- The ball personnel should maintain social distancing of 6 feet at all times during the contest.

● PLAYER FACE COVERINGS

- Only cloth face coverings are permissible during play.
- Plastic shields are only allowed if integrated into the face covering and attached to the helmet and clear without the presence of any tint.

- **TOOTH AND MOUTH PROTECTORS**

- Encourage players to sanitize their hands regularly in order to reduce the spread from the use of mouth protectors.

- **GLOVES**

- Gloves are permissible but still must comply with either the NOCSAE Standard or the SFIA Specification.
- Latex medical gloves are not permissible.

- **CHARGED TIME-OUTS AND AUTHORIZED CONFERENCES**

- Players, officials, and coaches should have their own beverage container that is not shared.
- A single charged time-out may be extended in length for hydration and to sanitize game equipment.

- **INTERMISSION BETWEEN PERIODS AND AFTER SCORING**

- The intermission may be extended between the first and second and the third and fourth periods and following a try, successful field goal or safety and prior to the succeeding free kick for hydration and to sanitize game equipment.

- **SIDELINE PERSONNEL**

- Persons on the sidelines (sideline personnel) must be restricted to players, coaches, athletic trainers, athletic directors, administration, media, and game administration personnel (chain crew, ball persons, etc.).
- Sideline personnel must wear a face covering.
- Officials have the authority to notify game administration about unauthorized personnel and have them removed from the sideline.

- ❖ **POSTGAME**

- **HANDSHAKE LINE**

- No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs, etc. can should occur pre or post-match.
- Maintain social distancing prior to and following the contest.

- ❖ **OFFICIALS**

- **PRIOR TO CONTEST & TRAVEL**

- Contact the AIA Office if you have a temperature or are not feeling well. Do NOT attempt to travel to or work a game sick.
- Officials should contact the Athletic Director prior to the day of the contest to discuss logistics and requirements for that particular school, district, or municipality. Officials must follow any additional requirements imposed by the school or municipality.
- Drive yourself to the contest when possible. If carpooling is necessary, wear face coverings and limit the amount of people in a single vehicle.
- Bring your own equipment and towel. Do not share.
- Bring your own container of water.
- Arrive at the game site dressed if possible.

- **PREGAME**

- Social distance during pregame as best as possible.
- Consider holding pregame outside if necessary.

- **MECHANICS**
 - Suspend the switching of sidelines at halftime for wing officials.

- **FACE COVERING & GLOVES**
 - Officials must wear a face covering while on campus (whenever not actively engaged in officiated a contest).
 - The wearing of face coverings and gloves while officiating is permissible.
 - The use of electronic whistles is permissible.

Should the conditions warrant, these modifications will be adjusted. Any further update will be posted on aiaonline.org.

Please refer to the AIA Recommended Guidelines for Return to Activity; Recommendations for Facilities Management (Section IV, page 16).