



## 2020 AIA Soccer 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 (including players) must wear face coverings during travel, pregame, and postgame.

### ❖ RULE MODIFICATIONS

#### ● PREGAME CONFERENCE

- Limit the pregame conference to one captain and the head coach from each team and the center referee.
- Conference should take place in the center of the field with all individuals maintaining social distancing of 6 feet.
- No handshakes prior to or following the pregame conference.

#### ● BALL HOLDERS

- If possible, use additional balls for play. This permits the intermittent cleansing of game balls, allowing them to dry before game use, using disinfecting wipes during the match.
- Encourage social distancing of 6 feet.

#### ● TEAM BENCH

- Persons on the sidelines must be restricted to players, coaches, athletic trainers, athletic directors, administration, media.
- Officials have the authority to notify game administration about unauthorized personnel and have them removed from the sideline.
- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet as possible
- Sideline personnel must wear face coverings.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, water bottles, and other apparel or equipment.
- All coaches, players and other personnel must wear face coverings.

#### ● SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES

- Maintain distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, referee, and the player by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.

- **OFFICIALS TABLE**
  - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not considered essential personnel and may need to find an alternative location.
- **PRE AND POST MATCH CEREMONY**
  - Suspend the pregame world cup introduction and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions.
  - Suspend the post-game handshake.
- **SOCCER RULES INTERPRETATIONS**
  - Cloth face coverings are permissible
  - Gloves are permissible
  - Long sleeves are permissible
  - Long pants are permissible
  - Undergarments are permissible but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom.
- **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 HALVES AND AFTER SCORING**
  - The intermission between halves and after scoring may be extended for hydration and to sanitize game equipment.

#### ❖ **POSTGAME**

- **HANDSHAKE LINE**
  - No handshakes, high fives, fist bumps, hugs, etc. 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.

- **FACE COVERINGS & 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](http://aiaonline.org).**

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