



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

March 1, 2021

Rhonda Blanford-Green, Commissioner
Colorado High School Activities Association
14855 E. 2nd Avenue
Aurora, CO 80011

Dear Commissioner Blanford-Green:

Thank you for your January 21, 2021 request to allow capacity variances for certain high school sports to be played under the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) for Season C. This letter updates the February 25, 2021 approval letter to rephrase the limits for volleyball team numbers. Your request included the following alternative capacities:

- 18 per volleyball team or bench, 36 total participants per game with two teams. Additionally, an allowance of 25 players for volleyball practice.
- 5 players per bowling team (Bakers format), with up to nine teams competing in a single event with 45 total participants.
- 12 gymnasts and 3 coaches per gymnastics team, with up to four teams sharing a facility during meets and practice - totaling 50 participants.
- 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 are not included in the variance and should follow CDPHE's guidance for Organized Sports at the local Dial Level.
- 25 players per field hockey 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 are not included in the variance and should follow CDPHE's guidance for Organized Sports at the local Dial Level.

These requests are approved pending the adoption of the changes outlined below by sport including additional measures of face coverings for indoor sports during competition (except gymnastics), spacing requirements, recommendations to avoid travel, and other sport-specific guidelines listed. These outlined changes were informed by the [American Academy of Pediatrics' Interim Guidance for Return to Sports](#).

The approval of these requests is contingent upon several additional requirements. First, CHSAA must clearly communicate the COVID safety requirements outlined in these sports bulletins, as well as general sports safety requirements, with all stakeholders. The attached [General COVID Guidance For All Sports](#) (p3) as well as the final sport bulletins for each approved sport should be posted in an easily accessible place from the CHSAA main page, and should be distributed to all schools and organizations that participate in any season of sport.

CHSAA Season C Waiver Approval
March 1, 2021

Second, if state or local public health or CHSAA are contacted regarding documented noncompliance of a school with these approved requirements for play, public health may begin a compliance enforcement process and CDPHE may also reconsider and revise some or all of the CHSAA waiver.

Finally, the approval of these requests is also contingent on stable conditions in virus spread and hospital capacity. If local conditions become more dangerous or if specific activities are found to include untenable risk, guidance and expectations for play may be adapted to preserve safety.

We appreciate the opportunities that CHSAA activities provide young people in our state, the joy and spirit that is shared among families during sport, and the immense benefit to physical and mental health that accompany youth programming. We are grateful to have CHSAA as our partner in ensuring that these activities are safe and sustainable during this pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Hause', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ann Hause
Director, Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance

cc: Mara Brosy-Wiwchar, Chief of Staff

Overview Of Changes Needed By Sport:

(more detailed suggestions are included in the linked drafts)

- [Volleyball](#)
 - Face coverings are required for everyone indoors, not suggested.
 - Face coverings are required for competitors during indoor play.
 - Minimize travel during season play.

- [Bowling](#)
 - Face coverings are required for everyone at the lanes.
 - Face coverings are required for competitors during play.
 - Minimize travel.
 - Space all teams and specify closed lanes to maintain at least a full empty lane between teams.
 - Improve ventilation whenever possible.

- [Gymnastics](#)
 - The dates in this bulletin should be updated to reflect the current schedule.
 - Face coverings may only be removed by athletes during active practice or competition on an apparatus where they can pose a safety concern, but must be put back on as soon as the athlete completes work on the apparatus. Clear distancing rules must also be in place.
 - Unmasked competitors must remain at least 25 feet apart from every other individual except for safety personnel such as spotters.
 - Equipment does not need to be sanitized between each use in cases where slippery surfaces could pose a safety hazard. However, it should be clarified by CHSAA which equipment falls into this category and which equipment requires sanitation. Consider issuing a recommended cleaning frequency.
 - Minimize travel.
 - Improve ventilation whenever possible.
 - Avoid enclosed spaces with poor circulation such as locker rooms and weight rooms.

- [Soccer](#)
 - Require face coverings for indoor competition, including during play.
 - Minimize travel.

- [Field Hockey](#)
 - Require face coverings for coaches and spectators at all times, and for resting participants not presently engaged in play.
 - Require face coverings for all indoor field hockey activities, including during play.
 - Minimize travel.

The following information should be very clearly communicated to all CHSAA stakeholders, and should be posted centrally and clearly on the CHSAA website.

General COVID Guidance For All Sports:

- **STUDENTS, COACHES, SPECTATORS & VOLUNTEERS SHOULD NOT GO TO PRACTICE/GAMES FOR ANY SPORT 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.
- **Face coverings must be worn** by all participants including athletes, coaches, spectators, and volunteers. The only exceptions to this requirement are:
 - Athletes who are actively participating in outdoor play. Benched, sidelined, or resting athletes must wear face coverings.
 - Athletes who are participating in certain specified indoor sports where a mask may pose a hazard. (*The only indoor sports where masks are not currently required are aquatics, gymnastics, ice hockey, spirit, and wrestling.*)
 - For any of the above exceptions, be sure to check your school, district, and local policies, as some may be more restrictive than the state baseline.
- **Practices and workouts should be conducted in “pods”** of ten (or fewer) of the same athletes who are always training and rotating together. This will ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Frequently touched surfaces, including game balls, must be sanitized as often as is feasible - at least on a daily basis.
- Athletes should not share food or drink, including water. Each participant must bring their own hydration liquids.
- Athletes should not share equipment or uniforms.
- Avoid enclosed indoor spaces with poor ventilation such as locker rooms and weight rooms. When such spaces must be used - i.e. bathrooms - limit unnecessary congregation and encourage distancing.
- **For indoor sports** - try to promote ventilation and airflow. Windows and doors should be left open when possible.
- When considering **spectators**, if permitted by the venue, refer to CDPHE’s guidance for [Organized Sports](#).
- No other activities or events can co-occur with sports in the same room (indoors) or designated area (outdoors). This means that band and cheer activities are prohibited during sporting events.
- **Minimize travel** - especially across county or regional borders.
- Check the individualized sport bulletins for more details and specific guidance for the sport you intend to participate in.