



SPORT: Soccer

WIAA STAFF LEAD: BJ Kuntz

Committee: Soccer Contingency Planning Committee Recommendations

Considering all recommendations by the General WIAA guidelines and the SMAC guidelines, the following are the specific guidelines for Soccer:

The NFHS has determined that soccer is a moderate risk sport (sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports OR sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants. Soccer could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants.)

Special Considerations for the use of the following equipment:	Special Considerations for the use of the following components of the facility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Soccer Balls ● Nets / Goals ● Goalie Gloves ● Cones ● Pennies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Goals ● Corner Flags ● Bleachers ● Sidelines / Team Bench ● Bathrooms ● Warm up areas ● Ticket Booths ● Entry Gates ● Concessions ● Locker Rooms

NFHS Step 1 which aligns with Washington's Phase 2

- A player should not use a ball that others touch or hit in any manner. The same balls in each pod of 5 (the pod of 5 will use the same balls through the entire practice and not be shared with another pod); sanitize the balls if the pod rotates to a different coach, after each session and following the completion of the practice
- Ideal : 1 ball per player
- Clothing should be washed and cleaned after every workout.
- Individual drills requiring the use of athletic equipment are permissible, but the equipment should be cleaned prior to use by the next individual (weight equipment.)

NFHS Step 2 which aligns with Washington's Phase 3 (modified soccer practices may begin)

- Workouts should be conducted in “pods” of students with the same 5-10 (includes coaches and participants) always working out together.
- Recommended use of masks if scrimmage activities are done.

NFHS Step 3 which aligns with Washington's Phase 4 (soccer practices and competitions may begin)

- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps.
- All equipment should be cleaned and sanitized after set up and before contest.
- Athletes should not share pennies.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Recommend face coverings be worn during the captains meeting and athletes not competing.
- Only athletes will touch the balls.
- Sanitized back up ball(s) should be available and should be rotated in regularly (someone needs to be designated to sanitize the ball.) Keep sanitized and non-sanitized balls separated.
- Players would need to use hand sanitizer before entering and when exiting the game during substitutions; no hand touching allowed during substitutions.
- Hydration stations may be utilized but must be cleaned after every practice or competition.
- Recommended to have team benches on opposite sides of the field and possibly at diagonals to minimize interactions with sideline official. Create additional space if possible, between officials and sideline benches. If benches are used for subs, maintain physical distancing.
- Limit sidelines to essential people.
- International Walk out not allowed.
- Limit “captain meeting” to 1 athlete per school and officials, maintaining physical distance.

Officials are encouraged to utilize FIFA Law 7 while teams are regaining fitness and/or when the situation permits:

- Cooling Break: In the interests of player welfare and safety, competition rules may allow, in certain weather conditions ‘cooling’ breaks (usually 90 seconds to three minutes) to allow the body’s temperature to fall.
- Drink Break: Competition rules may allow ‘drinks’ breaks (of no more than one minute) for players to rehydrate; these are different from ‘cooling’ breaks.

Considerations for Officials, Coaches, Other Personnel

- Schools should have officials’ information in order to track contacts (may be accessible through Arbiter.)
- Officials must come dressed to officiate; a locker room will not be provided.
- A separate bathroom should be provided for officials when possible.
- Officials are recommended to bring their own food and water.
- Electronic whistles are preferred.
- Officials must be spaced 3-6 feet apart.
- Officials will not be expected to monitor the physical distancing; each person is responsible.
- Cleaning supplies should be available on site with devices sanitized between uses.

NFHS Return to Competition Recommendations:

Return to Competition

1. Soccer Rules Considerations

- ***Pregame Conference (5-2-2d)***
 - Limit attendees to head referee or center referee, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
 - Move the location of the pregame conference to center of the field. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Suspend handshakes prior to and following the Pregame Conference.
- ***Ball Holders (6-1)***
 - Encourage social distancing of 6 feet
- ***Team Benches (1-5-1)***
 - Encourage bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet.
- ***Substitution Procedures (3-4)***
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.
- ***Officials Table (6-2; 6-3)***
 - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

2. Pre and Post Match Ceremony

- a. Suspend the pregame world cup introduction line and send players to their field positions with bench personnel lined up on the touch line (6 feet apart) for introductions.
- b. Suspend post game protocol of shaking hands.

3. Soccer Rules Interpretations

- ***Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES***
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.
- ***Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM***
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. (4-1-1)
 - Under garments are permissible but must be of a similar length for the individual and a solid like color for team. (4-1-1d)
- ***Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT***
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved shirt/jackets are permissible. (5-1-3)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible (supplies are limited).
 - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry outside.
 - Fox 40 Mini -
 - Fox 40 Unisex Electronic - 3 tone
 - Ergo-Guard - (3 tone) - orange
 - Windsor - (3 tone) grey
 - Check the market for other choices
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible.
 - Gloves are permissible.