

IPS ATHLETICS

2021-2022

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Updated July 30, 2021

These guidelines are fluid and will be updated as more information becomes available.

This document provides a set of guidelines for the high schools of Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) to continue athletics activities going into the 2021-2022 school year. These guidelines apply to workouts and practices during the summer of 2021 as well.

These guidelines are based on current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) as mandated by the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD). Additional input was given from our IU Health partners and IPS administrators. Some guidelines in this document are stricter than those provided by the IDOE and other organizations. **The guidelines in this document override those put out by other organizations for IPS athletics programming.**

The athletic departments of IPS recognize the importance of implementing increased health and safety protocols for the wellbeing of our IPS students and families, and will emphasize and enforce these protocols diligently.

Information will also be posted on our website (www.myips.org/athletics) and social media platforms (@IPSAthletics).

The IPS District Athletics Department can be contacted at athletics@myips.org.

Pre-Participation Requirements

- IPS is requiring participants and their parents to review and sign a **COVID-19 Risk Acknowledgement Form** (*found and submitted on this page <https://bit.ly/2VJ2JS3>*) to ensure that participants and their families are aware of the risks associated with athletic participation at this time.
- All participants must have an updated physical and have the IHSAA physical form (<https://bit.ly/38pENIP>) on file at their high school before physically participating in any of the 2021-2022 athletics activities.
- Parents of participants will also need to **complete the IU Health HIPAA Form** (*found and submitted on this page <https://bit.ly/2VJ2JS3>*). This will allow our IU Health athletic trainers to properly treat them for athletics related issues.

Practice Requirements / Guidelines

- Student-athletes should arrive dressed in proper athletics attire and ready to participate without needing to change clothes whenever possible.
- Student-athletes **must bring their own water bottles and towels**. Items such as these should be labeled with the student's name. Students must not share personal items in any way. Students may bring a draw string bag to carry and store belongings.
- Our IU Health athletic trainers will lead **pre-workout screening** efforts.
 - **It is important for students to stay home if they are not feeling well**, and that the student-athletes will not be punished for missing workouts or practices due to illness.
 - Student-athletes who report feeling ill, who are experiencing symptoms, or who have a high risk of exposure to COVID-19 **will be sent home immediately**.
- **Contact is allowed** but should be limited to what is necessary to compete.
- **No spectators (family included) are allowed during practices** unless pre-approved by school administration. Participants and staff are the only persons allowed on-site for workouts and/or practices.
- Student-athletes must bring their own masks and wear their **masks and/or face coverings** whenever they are indoors and not engaged in physical activity. Students are not required to wear masks while engaged in physical activity.
- All coaches, trainers, and staff must wear **masks and/or face coverings** at all times while indoors.
- There will be multiple hand sanitizing stations for everyone to utilize.
- **All equipment will be properly cleaned** and disinfected by the custodial staff and/or the athletics staff.

Competition & Attendance Protocols & Guidelines

- **High school** will allow attendance up to **25% capacity for indoor & events**. Masks are required for fans indoors. **Outdoor events will allow attendance up to 50% capacity**. Masks are not required outdoors, but fans are encouraged to social distance as best they can and wear masks when not socially distanced.
 - Guidelines are aligned with the MCPHD, but may vary based on the capacity of each particular facility. Please contact the school's Athletic Director for exact indoor attendance limits for their particular school's events <https://bit.ly/3e7AUuP>.
- **Concessions** may be sold.
- **Locker rooms can be utilized**. 50% capacity recommended unless it gives an advantage to one particular team over another. Congregating in locker room areas should be restricted.
- Ticketing systems will be developed at each school to minimize the risk of transmission.
- Each high school will have their own entrance and exit doors to manage traffic flow.
- Participants will be **able to be bused** to road games from school and be bused home after all contests.

The IHSAA has also created a COVID-19 Resource Center (<https://bit.ly/3amp1PO>) with recommended guidelines for each particular sport for competitions (as set by the NFHS) that were mandated by the MCPHD.

Procedure in the Event of a Positive COVID-19 Test

- The individual (student or staff) should immediately inform the athletics staff.
- The individual will need to self-quarantine for 14 days.
- IPS administration will contact the Marion County Public Health Department for additional guidance. All team activities will be shut down for two to five days based on MCPHD guidance.

IPS High School Athletics Contacts

- For information regarding a particular school's programming, contact their athletic director as listed on the bottom of this page: <https://bit.ly/3e7AUuP>

Additional Resources

- [CDC Coronavirus Information](https://bit.ly/2ZPxHZZ) (<https://bit.ly/2ZPxHZZ>)