

Howard School District

“Return to Play” - Fall 2020

Howard School District 48-3
Home of the Tigers



The following guide attempts to return our activities to play for the 2020 – 2021 activity seasons. Only through the dedication of an informed and conscientious school community can our youth experience these important and life-influencing opportunities. It is imperative that anyone who is experiencing symptoms or has had contact with individuals who are sick, **STAY HOME!** Athletes, participants, coaches, and officials who are in a vulnerable population should take extra precaution and visit with their physician about participation, particularly in sports/activities that do not allow for consistent social distancing. Be advised that in the event of school closure due to significant community spread, no activities will be held.

Screening Procedures/COVID Monitoring Form

All rostered individuals (athletes, managers, statisticians, coaching staff, cheerleaders) and other school personnel involved (bus drivers, etc) will be screened daily for CDC recommended indicators of COVID-19. Students will be screened upon their arrival at school for temperature and symptoms. Any individuals with unexplained positive responses (i.e.- intestinal issues following a large meal, headache with a history of migraines, etc.) must not be allowed to practice/compete/coach/assist until they have been evaluated by medical personnel.

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/MonitoringForm.pdf>

“NOTE- Individuals with positive screening responses are NOT automatically placed in a 14-day quarantine period. However, if individuals with positive responses refuse to be evaluated by medical personnel and provide that notification to the school, they must sit out and monitor for further symptoms for 14 days from the onset of symptoms to ensure recovery.” (SDHSAA Requirement.)

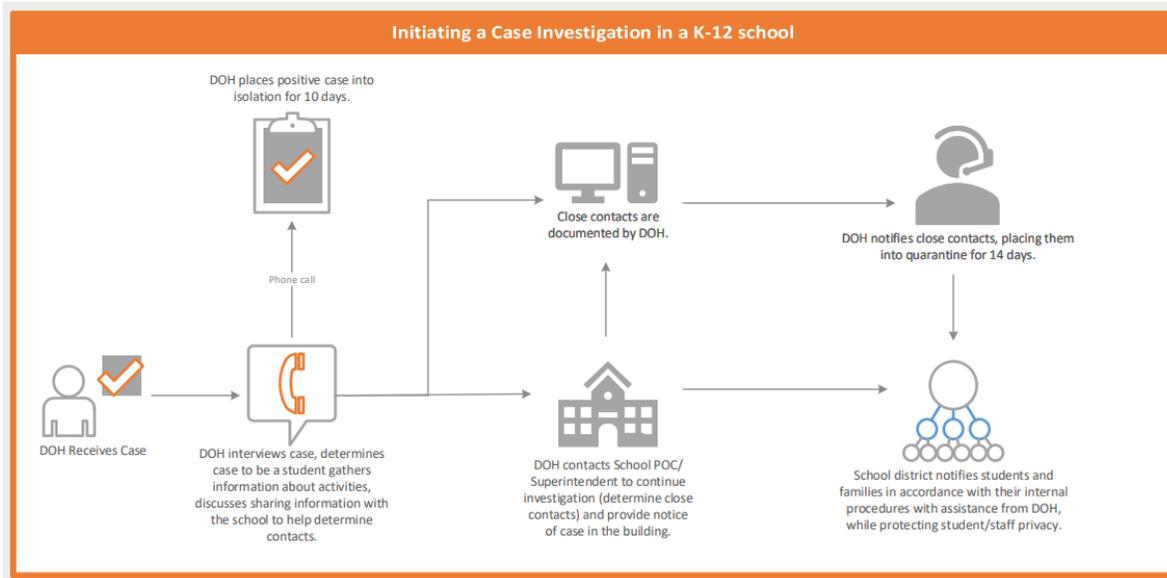
All contest officials and judges will self-screen the day of the contest and report to site host administrator. Any individuals with unexplained positive responses (i.e.- intestinal issues following a large meal, headache with a history of migraines, etc.) must not be allowed to officiate/judge until they have been evaluated by medical personnel.

Protocol for Confirmed Close Contact and Positive Cases

ALL indications of positive cases and confirmed close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes of time starting two days prior to symptom onset) must come through the South Dakota Department of Health. Any Department of Health verified close contact (student/coach/official/judge/team personnel) must follow SDDOH guidelines. Currently, those guidelines require a 14-day quarantine from the date of contact away from school and daily screening of symptoms.

Any Department of Health verified positive case (student/coach/official/judge/team personnel) must follow SDDOH guidelines. Currently, those guidelines require the individual to self-isolate for 10 days from the first onset of symptoms and must be fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. Any individual (student/coach/official/judge/team personnel) with a verified positive case must have a physician complete the SDHSAA COVID Return to Play form (<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/ReturnToPlayForm.pdf>) prior to returning to competition/coaching/officiating/judging/team membership. For students, if the physician indicates the need for the return to play protocol due to hospitalization, cardiopulmonary concerns, or otherwise, the school must verify that the return to play protocol is followed.

Schools must notify the SDHSAA of any verified close contact or positive cases of rostered individuals via the SDHSAA School Zone. No personally identifiable information will be contained in the notification to the SDHSAA. All information will be treated in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA from the member school and the SDHSAA. Dr. Swartos from the SDHSAA will be part of the SDDOE/SDDOH School Response Team.



SDHSAA Policies

“No Contest”- If a school has substantial spread of cases within their building such that they are forced to deliver instruction completely via distance learning, all efforts should be made to reschedule. If that is not possible, the contest will be declared a “no contest” for both teams. Similarly, if both teams agree not to play, but are not in a “shutdown”, in exceptional scenarios it could become a “no contest” with prior approval from SDHSAA.

“Forfeit”- If a school decides on their own, without a school/district shutdown or without SDDOH recommendation, that they do not want to play a contest, the contest will be declared a “forfeit” with the team deciding not to play awarded a loss and the opposing team a win.

Any post-season contests that are unable to be played will be considered a forfeit. The SDHSAA will act as a mediator and make final decisions as it pertains to forfeit and no contest determinations.

Spectators

Attendance at events is “at your own risk”. Use of masks by spectators is encouraged. Social distancing between individuals and nonfamily groups will be practiced.

No temperatures will be taken of any spectators inclusive of non-participating students. Spectators will be required to self-screen and watch from home on the NFHS Network if exhibiting symptoms.

TIER	Fan Attendance	Conditions
Tier 1	Open attendance	Steady/Decreasing rates of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations.
Tier 2	Parents/Student Body Only	Slow/intermittent increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Isolated cases, no evidence of exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 3	Student Body or Parents Only	Steady/incremental increase of community active cases, new cases, and hospitalizations. Sustained increases, potential exposures in large communal settings.
Tier 4	No Fans	Sharp increase of community active cases, new cases, and/or hospitalizations WITHOUT concurrent increase of cases/contacts within the school setting. Confirmed exposures in large communal settings.

Event Management

Ticket takers and event workers will be screened upon arrival. Workers will be offered protective equipment such as masks and gloves.

Concession stand workers will be screened upon arrival. Workers will be required to wear gloves and masks.

- Post signage for patrons to maintain social distancing of 6' between parties near food stand
- Maintain a sanitize solution for wiping cloths during operations and increase cleaning/sanitizing frequencies - especially high-contact surfaces such as equipment, utensils, and countertops
- Discontinue self-service operations for the public such as drink stations, condiment trays, cup/napkin/utensil dispensers and other amenities to help maintain infection control
- Consider the use of fans or open (screened) windows to improve air circulation in smaller indoor stands
- Plexiglass will be installed between employees and customers
- Cashiers will not handle food
- Consider prepackaged product.
- Concession stand facility will be cleaned and sanitized following the conclusion of the event.

Media personnel will be allowed to attend games and contests.

Facilities and equipment will be cleaned prior to contests and following the conclusion of the event once all spectators and participants have left the facility. Bleachers will be sprayed with sanitizer.

Locker Rooms

Locker Rooms will be made available to both home and away participants. Social distancing is encouraged.

In the event of confirmed positive cases at building level or visiting team, athletes will be asked to come ready for practice or competition. No showers will be available for practice or contest.

Athlete Transportation

Use of school transportation both to and from venues is "at your own risk". As per school policy, "School transportation is provided to and from activities for students. Part of the experience of the activity is the travel to and from events with peers. There are exceptions to this policy because of some necessity. They are:

- A parent who is at the activity may bring a student home from an activity. A written authorization must be given to the director/coach of the activity before the child may leave the activity.
- A parent may request that a student ride with another adult. This request, in writing, must be given to the coach/director or administration the day before the event so all parties involved have time to evaluate and communicate to all parties involved.
- Because of the size of the district, a parent may request to have a student park their vehicle along the bus' route, with a written communication to the coach/director or administration. The bus will pick up and leave off that student.
- All final decisions regarding transportation of students to and from activities rest with school officials."

High school rosters reduced for travel when possible inclusive of ball boys/girls, statisticians, and non-essential personnel. Busses to load back to front and dismiss front to back. Assigned seating will be used (contact tracing by SDDOH).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents may request to transport their student to an event by providing written authorization to the director or coach one day prior to the event. A parent may request that a student ride with another adult. Students may not drive themselves to events.

COVID-19 & Communicable Diseases Waiver

All participants must sign and have on file the "Parent/Guardian Consent Form for Activity Participation (COVID-19)" consent form prior to participation.

SDHSAA Mandatory Rule Modifications Per Sport

Golf

- Follow all rules published by the host course and USGA guidelines that are in place for spectators, competitors and coaches alike. This includes leaving the flagstick and hole-barrier in place if the course is using that system for regular season play.
- No-Touch Scorecards shall be used. The USGA and Golf Genius are working on a tutorial to show how this can be provided free of charge through the USGA Tournament Management App on any mobile device with a data connection. Rules regarding illegal use of electronic devices will remain in place for competitors.
- Fans/Spectators and Rules Officials shall maintain a 6' distance from all players throughout the round.
- No Awards Ceremonies following play. Meet management shall distribute all awards to coaches, who will then present to the athletes. No draping of competitors in ribbons/medals.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties.
- Clean frequently touched areas, and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests.

Sideline Cheer

- Sideline Cheer (2-1-14, 2-1-16)- Participants should be appropriately spaced on the court, field, or sideline to ensure proper social distancing.

Cross Country

- Rule 8-1-3: Course must be widened to ensure 6' of width at its most narrow point
- Finish Corral/Chute: Removal of the "Chute" as an option for the finish area, and instead all meets should establish a "Corral" of over 100' in length and 12' in width to accommodate finishers
- Awards: Awards ceremonies should not occur. Distribute awards directly from meet administration to coaches to provide to athletes. No draping of medals on competitors
- Starting Boxes: Design start area with boxes of 6' in width, with an empty 6' box between each school/team. If unable to accommodate in a straight line, consider use of a staggered, wave or interval start.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties.
- Clean frequently touched areas, and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests.
- Spectators must not have access to athletes, and should be restricted to areas outside of the 6' course width and a minimum of 6' away from team camps, starting and finish areas.

Football

- Rule 1-2: Team Boxes may be extended length-wise to the 15-yard lines on either end to promote social distancing of 6' from one another in the team box.
- Rule 1-3: Game Balls may be rotated more frequently than previously allowed to ensure cleaning and sanitization of balls between downs. "Ball Boys" should practice social distancing and must remain on their own teams' sideline or end-zone area during the contest (and not on the opponents sideline).
- Rule 1-5: Face masks with integrated visors that connect to the entirety of the mask may be worn, as long as the visor is 100% clear and free of tint.
- At this time – Cloth masks and face coverings are not permissible, as they affect the legality of and ability to properly wear chin straps and mouthguards. The NFHS SMAC will be releasing additional guidance on this matter soon.
- Rule 2-6 & 3-5: Charged Time-Outs are to be 120 seconds in length. Conferences during Charged Time-Outs must be held within the nine-yard marks on the field and not at the sideline. More than one coach, however, may now be part of this nine-yard mark conference, and, technological devices may be used in this conference.
- Rule 3-5: Quarter Breaks are to be 120 seconds in length as well and follow the same guidelines as above for a charged time-out.
- Coin Toss: Only FOUR captains may attend per team. Eliminate handshake as required in manual.

- Line-To-Gain Crew shall be located on the HOME team's sideline, regardless of orientation to press box. Chain-gang crew shall not enter the playing field. If a measurement is needed, officials should deliver chains to the field, not the chain crew.
- Eliminate Individual Introductions of players/tunnel line from all contests. Starting Units can be introduced, but not with the run-through action of athletes as names are called.
- No common distribution of water accessible to multiple parties. Each athlete must have his or her own Water Bottle. Officials should provide/be provided their own, specific beverage containers as well.
- Clean frequently touched areas, and provide ample hand sanitizer at all practices and contests.
- NO NON-TEAM PERSONNEL IN THE TEAM BOX. Media and others must remain outside of the team box area at all times.

Volleyball

- Prematch Conference (1-2-4a; 1-6-2; 1-6-3; 2-1-10; 5-4-1h, k; 5-6-1; 7-1-1; 7-1-1 PENALTIES 1; 9-1a; 12-2-3)
 - Limit attendees to one coach from each team, first referee and second referee.
 - Move the location of the prematch conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All four individuals maintain a social distance of 3 to 6 feet. Coaches will indicate to the officials how many players are listed on their roster so officials will verify for the match.
 - Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets.
- Roster Submission: Suspend roster submission at the prematch conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- Line up submission: Coaches will turn in a small court sample or service order for HOME team and VISITING team for each set at the table.
- Team Benches (5-4-4b, 9-1-2, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-3-3b)
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present.
 - Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet where possible.
 - Only team personnel allowed on the benches. Stats/managers/book keepers etc. should find areas to other than the bench to sit.
- Deciding Set Procedures [1-2-4b, 5-4-4c, 5-5-3b(26), 9-2-3c]
 - Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 3 to 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive.
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all social distancing protocols. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present.
- Substitution Procedures (2-1-7, 10-2-1, 10-2-3, 10-2-4)
 - Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line.
 - Athletes should use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the contest. No high five or contact on the substitution exchange.
- Officials Table (3-4): Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer with a recommend distance of 3 to 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.
- Line Judges: Line judges do not need to carry the ball with them to their standing position at the time-out by the first referee. Instead, the server should just set the ball on the service line and it will be available upon their return to play.

- Pre and Post Match Ceremony
 - At the end of the timed warmup, only the starters/libero (if using one) will be permitted on the endline for national anthem and introductions. When announced step forward and back. Nonstarters will be at the bench are practicing social distancing.
 - The first referee and the line judge working on the first referee sideline stand to the right of the first referee's stand. The second referee and line judge working on the second referee's sideline stand to the right of the net post on the second referee's side. The referees stand closest to the respective poles. All should face the court for introductions and face the flag for the national anthem.
 - After the national anthem and introductions, the first referee whistles and signals the players to enter the court. Line judges will take their respective positions, R2 will check the line-ups and play will begin.
 - The handshakes both before and after the match will be eliminated.
- Officials and Athletes should bring their own water/water bottle.
- Game Balls should be sanitized between sets/time-outs etc. If ball shaggers are used, it is recommend that they wear gloves and sanitize balls between serves while rotating volleyballs to the server. It is recommended that shaggers from the previous matches be used and stay on their side of the floor to sanitize balls. Example: JV contest is completed. Team A places shaggers on their end of the floor and Team B places shaggers on their end of the floor to help with ball control and sanitize balls.
- Have hand sanitizer located on each bench for athletes to use upon entering and exiting the contest (substitutions, timeouts, etc.)

Oral Interpretation

- District and region contests could be conducted virtually if necessary, with District and Region Chairs facilitating the contests.
 - Alternates would need to be chosen at the district and region level. The alternates would advance if advancing schools or participants are unable to attend.
- At the state competition, only competitors and judges would be allowed in the room.
- Many small gathering areas would be necessary, as opposed to the normal large gathering area.
- If there is a state competition, plans would need to be implemented for social distancing and awards ceremonies.

Winter and spring activity requirements have not been determined at this time.

References:

SDHSAA COVID-19 Information <https://www.sdhsaa.com/Athletics/Health-Safety-Issues/COVID>
 SDHSAA Fall Sports/Activities Task Force Recommendations July 2020
<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/FallTaskForceGuidance.pdf>
 SDHSAA Monitoring Form <https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/MonitoringForm.pdf>
 SDHSAA Return to Play Form <https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/ReturnToPlayForm.pdf>
 SDHSAA Concession Stand Guidance <https://www.sdhsaa.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Athletics/Health-Safety/COVID/ConcessionStandGuidance.pdf>