

# **2020-2021 BASKETBALL CONSIDERATIONS**

**As of November 12, 2020**

## **KSHSAA RETURN TO SCHOOL ACTIVITIES – ACTIVITY SPECIFIC RISK MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

**With support of the NFHS, the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Committee and the KSHSAA Executive Board, we offer this document as guidance to the member schools of the KSHSAA to consider for the 2020-21 BASKETBALL season. The considerations outlined are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging physical distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate and reasonable protective equipment.**

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and there might be additional steps in each school, city, and county to help prevent the spread of virus. Even when taking all precautions, there will still be risk of transmitting illnesses. Everyone should stay vigilant about the health of members of their teams. Lastly, the situation with Covid-19 is rapidly changing. These considerations may quickly become outdated. Please keep up with the latest from the CDC and other health officials in your state.

### **Competition Scheduling Considerations:**

- Multi-team, multi-community events are discouraged.
- Consider having game nights where only two teams are involved, avoid tournaments.
- Schedule teams in the same geographic area.
- Post-season modifications will be made as conditions allow.

### **Athlete Considerations:**

- Daily screening
- Consider temperature checks before each practice for all athletes.
- Clothing/towels/sleeves/knew pads should be washed and cleaned after every workout and competition.
- Player braces, equipment, etc. should be cleaned after each use/wearing.
- Players should have their own water bottle and towel – CLEARLY MARKED WITH THEIR NAME.
- Personal equipment should not be shared.
- Wear masks when not on the court participating. (games and practices)
- Eliminate handshakes pre- and post-game.
- Players should sanitize hands after being substituted for and coming to the bench area.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Player uniform – long sleeves and long pants are permissible provided they meet the color requirements.

### **Coach Considerations:**

- Coaches must wear masks.
- Players and team personnel on the team bench will practice social distancing and wear masks.
- Consider temperature checks before each practice for all coaches.
- Plan your practices to maintain social distancing guidelines whenever possible.
- Coaches should wear face coverings during practice and competitions when social distancing guidelines cannot be met.
- Have a plan to mitigate the exposure potentials to give your athletes a chance to compete.
- Make sure equipment is sanitized before and after each practice.
- Eliminate handshakes before and after contests.
- Use hand sanitizer frequently.
- **(New 10/5/20):** A mask will be required if you have a question for an official during the contest. If the official sees you are not wearing a face covering, they will not respond to your question.

### **Event Staff Considerations:**

- Event staff must wear masks.
- Scorer's table – scorekeeper, public address announcer, and scoreboard operator should be 3-6 feet apart when possible.
- The host should sanitize the table before the game and at half time.
- Place officials table sufficiently away from the sideline to allow for additional space for substitutes.
- Limit seats at the table to essential personnel which includes home team scorer and timer with a recommended distance of 6 feet or greater between individuals. Other personnel (visiting scorer, statisticians, media, etc.) may not be deemed essential personnel and consider an alternate location for them.

### **Official Considerations:**

- Check temperature prior to leaving for contests.
- Officials should wear masks into the facility until they prepare for the start of the contest.
- Masks should be worn at halftime, between games and after games.
- Schools should provide a sanitized and safe room for officials to change and socially distance.
- If the official locker room is small and officials can't socially distance, consider providing a larger room for the pre-game meeting and halftime.
- Officials have the discretion to wear a mask during the contest.
- Officials should consider bringing their own food and water.
- Schools should provide bottled water or sports drink and packaged foods only.
- Electronic whistles are allowed but not required.
  - Choose a whistle whose tone will carry inside.
- Whistles with spit hoods/bags are permitted.
- Face coverings with whistles built in are permitted.
- Schools should have officials' information and team information in order to do contact tracing if necessary. Official information is available in Arbiter or the KSHSAA directory.
- Officials are not expected to monitor physical distancing of participants. Each person is responsible.
- Long-sleeved shirts are permissible.
- Officials are not required to wear black jackets during pre-game court/player observation.

### **Equipment/Facility Considerations:**

- Cleaning supplies should be available on site. Host school is responsible for cleaning score table and team benches.
- Hand sanitizer should be available at the score table, in locker rooms, in officials dressing area.
- Ball carts, score tables, clocks, media table and any other common surfaces should be cleaned with disinfectant at the end of the day.
- The home team should provide 6 balls for each team to warm up with. Each team keeps track of their own warm-up basketballs and places them on the rack designated for their team at the end of each warm-up period.
- Basketballs should be cleaned according to manufacturer recommendations.  
<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/COVID/PDF/SpaldingBallCleaningGuidelines.pdf>
- Team benches should be disinfected/cleaned at the end of each contest.
- The host school should ensure the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters
- Locker rooms must be cleaned and sanitized after each team leaves.
- Areas for video, web-streaming or televising should be designated prior to the contest and sanitized.
- **(New 10/5/20):** Officials should be provided a safe sanitized area to shower and change clothes after contests in so far as possible.

### **Practice Considerations:**

- Consider having work-outs in “pods” of the same students using the same balls.
- Players should practice social distancing when possible.
- Before and after practice and competition, players will wash their hands, wear face masks and practice social distancing.

### **Competition/NFHS Rule Modification Considerations:**

#### **(AS ALLOWED BY NFHS RULES)**

- **Pre-game and Post-game protocols:**
  - **(New 10/5/20):** Limit attendees to the head coach from each team and officials. Masks must be worn.
  - **(New 10/5/20):** Move the location of the pre-game conference to center court with the head coach from each team and the officials (2 or 3) at center court on each side of the division line around the center circle. All individuals maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
  - Suspend handshakes/fist bumps/high fives prior to and following the Pregame Conferences.
- **Team Benches (1-13-1)**
  - Social distancing should be practiced when possible. Below are some suggestions:
    - Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
    - Allow only essential bench personnel which includes: players, coaches, ATC, and one manager/statistician.
    - Place team benches opposite the spectator seating.
    - Additional chairs or rows may be added to allow bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
    - Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating behind the bench.
    - Limit contact between players when substituting.
    - Personnel not in the game should adhere to any required local/state face covering requirements.

- **Pre-game Introductions – Post game Protocol**
  - The five starters on the visiting team will be introduced first. They will move to the free throw line area on their end of the court until all starters are introduced.
  - The five starters from the home team will then be introduced and go to their free throw line area on their end of the court until all starters are introduced.
  - There will be no pregame handshakes or fist bumps.
  - When the game is concluded players will utilize an appropriate sign of respect and sportsmanship directed to their opponent and then exit the court to their team bench. , Please develop and utilize an appropriate sign of respect and sportsmanship that does not include handshake or other physical contact; suggestions include head nod, wave, chest thump with fist, salute, etc.
- **NFHS Rules Book Modifications**
  - Throw-in – officials may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw in.
  - **(New 10/5/20):** Officials may bounce the ball to the player on a front court throw-in. Officials will not bounce the ball across the lane area.
  - **(New 10/5/20):** During a throw in on the baseline in the corner, the lead official may stand inside (toward the lane) of the player throwing the ball in.
  - Free-throw administration – The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.
  - Jump ball – eliminate the jump ball and award the ball to the visiting team to start the game. The alternating possession will be used for the remainder of the game and to start any overtime periods.
  - **(New 10/5/20):** If there is a technical foul prior to the beginning of the contest (scorebook error, players dunking during pre-game) the free throws will be administered and the game will start with the offended team having the throw in. The possession arrow will be set after the ball is at the disposal of the offended team for a throw in.
- **Other game considerations:**
  - Only athletes will touch the balls. Players will retrieve stray balls.
  - A sanitized back up ball should be available at the score table (someone needs to be designated to sanitize the ball(s).)
  - Players would need to use hand sanitizer before entering and when exiting the court during substitutions; no hand touching allowed during substitutions (sanitizer could be set up on a chair at end of bench.)
  - Each school is responsible to bring towels to wipe up sweat off the floor; host schools are recommended to provide a roll of paper towels at the scorer's table.
  - Players should avoid huddles.
  - Pre-game warm-up will be conducted as stated in the KSHSAA Basketball Manual for post-season contests. During the regular season schools and/or leagues may determine warm up procedures.
  - **(New 10/5/20):** Run through tunnels during introductions should be avoided.

### **Transportation Considerations:**

- Consider doing temperature checks before traveling to destinations.
- Follow the guidelines and protocols of the school district.
- Consider face coverings be worn by all individuals. Mitigating the spread is important with the longer time together on a bus or in a van.
- **(New 10/5/20):** Reduce traveling groups to essential personnel only (competitors, coaches, medical)

### **Locker Room Considerations:**

- Stagger times for students to dress in locker rooms for practice.
- Have team meetings in larger rooms.
- Wear masks when in locker rooms.
- Students bring own towels to shower.
- The school should establish a protocol on sanitizing the locker rooms.
- Teams may want to consider coming dressed to contests to avoid time in the locker room.

### **Concession Stand Considerations:**

- Consider selling pre-packaged items only.
- Consider how concessions are sold and who is handling products being sold.
- Have a plan to keep workers safe (face coverings and gloves) and those purchasing the items.

### **Crowd Size/Limits Considerations:**

- Consider limiting the size of crowds.
- Consider requiring that masks be worn by fans.
- Social distancing in stands.

### **Admission/Ticketing Considerations:**

- Consider how ticketing will take place.
- Consider using digital ticketing.
- Consider how to protect those working the ticket gates.
- Consider how to prevent congregating in ticket lines.
- Consider if you will be taking cash and who will handle cash.

### **(Updated 11/12/2020) Cheerleader Considerations**

KSHSAA understands and appreciates the influence that Spirit Squads provide to teams and school spirit and support their continued inclusion at basketball games and wrestling matches as deemed appropriate.

Each school district should discuss the following considerations for Spirit squads and make determinations on what is the safest approach for students, coaches, and spectators in 2020-21.

#### **During basketball games**

- Schools should allow a maximum of 8 cheerleaders or less on the baseline at one time to employ social distancing.
- Dance teams spaced in stands and social distancing.
- **Cheerleaders must be positioned at a minimum 6 feet (prefer 8 feet) back from the end line. If the gym does not allow cheerleaders to remain 6 feet back from the end line, they should be repositioned, possibly to the front rows of the student section.**

- Cheerleaders above the maximum 8 on the baseline, should have priority to the first row of the student section of the stands.
- All cheerleaders may be on the court during 60 second (long) timeouts, at quarter, and halftime.
- 6 feet distancing between cheerleaders and officials should always be maintained.
- Masks are recommended, but absolutely NO stunting with masks.
- No visiting before/after game or half-time between school squads.
- These groups should always remain separate from game participants and remain away from the fans or non-group members.

### **(New 10/23/2020) Pep Band Performances at Basketball Games**

KSHSAA understands and appreciates the influence that a pep band can provide to teams and school spirit and we support their continued inclusion in home basketball events as deemed appropriate.

Each school district should discuss the following *considerations* for Pep Band performances and make determinations on what is the safest approach for students, directors, and spectators in 2020-21.

- Schools should consider a smaller number of pep band members performing at one time
- 6 feet distancing between band members and 9 feet for trombones
- Masks and bell covers are recommended. Slitted masks for wind players
- Shared equipment, such as drum kits should be sanitized between players
- Mallets, sticks, etc. should not be shared
- The NFHS aerosol study recommends, after 30 minutes of performing/playing instruments the area should be vacated by the pep band members for at least 15 minutes while there is a clean air exchange
- Spectators should be seated at least 10 feet away from the pep band members

Please refer to our **2020-21 KSHSAA MUSIC CONSIDERATIONS** for more specific COVID and Aerosol Disbursement Study information for music education.

<http://www.kshsaa.org/Public/COVID/PDF/Music-Considerations.pdf>