

# UHSAA Return-To-Play Protocol



## General Advisement and Sport-by-Sport Specifics

## UHSAA General Best Practices and Guidelines

- 1. No shaking hands before/after game.*
- 2. Players/coaches on bench/sideline are highly recommended to wear masks.*
- 3. Fans are encouraged to wear masks when social distancing isn't feasible.*
- 4. Understand and practice school/district and local health protocols for COVID-19 prevention and tracking.*
- 5. Place signage in facilities to inform participants/spectators on protocol and best practices.*
- 6. Any players, coaches, or spectators who are sick shall not be engaged in practices and/or contests.*

# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Baseball**

### **General Considerations:**

- Any players, coaches, or spectators who are sick will not be allowed at games or practices. Coaches must check players for COVID-19 symptoms prior to games. Players who have household members with symptoms must stay home from games. All state COVID-19 guidelines apply.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after games.
- Social distancing rules apply when in lines for the restroom, concessions, and all other times when possible.
- Have hand sanitizer and wipes available at the field.
- Disinfect the bench/dugout prior to competition.
- Stagger seating of fans.
- Check the fans' temperature prior to admission.
- Minimize the number of spectators.

### **Considerations for Coaches:**

- Wear masks on and off the field.
- Eliminate handshakes post-game.
- No seeds, gum or spitting.

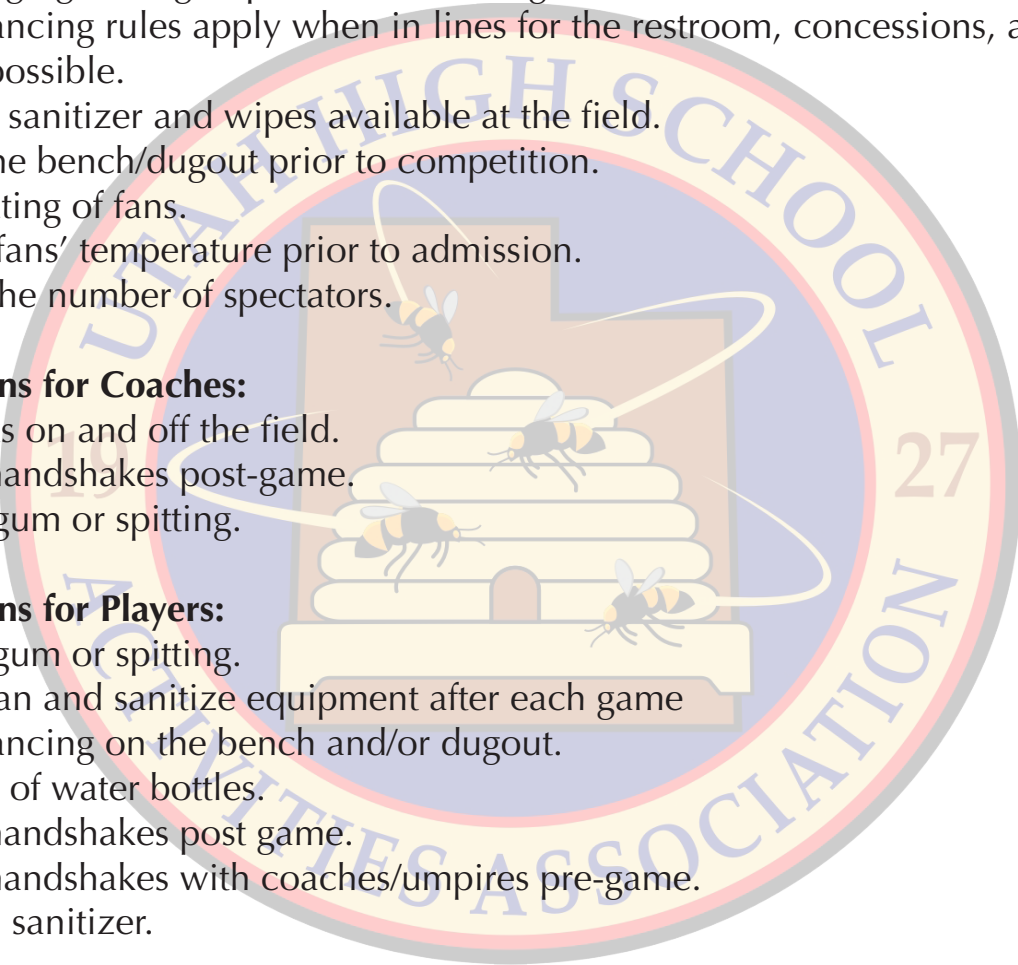
### **Considerations for Players:**

- No seeds, gum or spitting.
- Players clean and sanitize equipment after each game
- Social distancing on the bench and/or dugout.
- No sharing of water bottles.
- Eliminate handshakes post game.
- Eliminate handshakes with coaches/umpires pre-game.
- Carry hand sanitizer.

### **Considerations for Parents**

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students' personal equipment after each game or practice.



# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines Cross Country***

## **General Considerations:**

Social distancing of at least 6 feet should be maintained at all times. No hugging, shaking hands, or fist bumps for support/encouragement. Cross country meets should consider using staggered, wave or interval starts.

## **Possible Rule Modifications:**

8-1-3a: Consider widening the course to at least 6 feet at its narrowest point.

## **Finish:**

- Consider using finish corrals and FAT timing for larger meets as easier to distance at finish.
- With no FAT timing system consider alternative means of finish place and time to address congestion at finish line.
- Consider using image-based equipment at finish to assist with picking place to avoid congestion.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and exercise equipment.

## **Pre and Post Game Ceremony:**

Establish cross country specific social distancing meet protocols including the elimination of handshakes before and after the match.

## **Considerations for Coaches:**

Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection. Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.

## **Considerations for Students:**

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Cloth face coverings are permitted.
- Bring your own water bottle.

## **Considerations for Parents**

(A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students’ personal equipment after each game or practice.

# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Football**

- Limit the number of players to 50. Event size can exceed 50 participants if organizational oversight can be provided that ensures guidelines are followed. Complete the “Event Management Template” found in the Governor’s 4.8 plan. Every school would be required to have AT LEAST ONE ADMINISTRATOR AT THE VENUE BEFORE TEAMS ARRIVE FROM THEIR SCHOOL. TYPICALLY, ONE HOUR BEFORE GAME TIME.
- Try to limit travel as much as possible, but schools may need to bring multiple buses, allowing for appropriate social distancing, and temperature check all participants before arriving at the venue.
- Traveling for certain schools may result in athletes having to spend the night in a hotel, it would be the district, school, and coach’s responsibility to get appropriate lodging to allow for the required social distancing in determining how many athletes will be in the same room.
- Every football athlete, manager, coach, administrator, athletic director, media rep, football official, bus driver, UHSAA staff member needs to have symptom form completed, and temperature checked before traveling teams would be allowed to leave the school to travel to the competition site, and home teams would check athlete temperatures as the athletes arrive at the school and before they are allowed into the locker room. For those individuals who we consider support staff, temperature checks would occur at the venue (officials, administrators, media, game administration, and UHSAA staff).
- Fans: Size of crowd would be determined by current State and County Health Departments, and the Governor’s Plan.
- It is strongly recommended that fans follow the current social distancing guidelines and wear a mask.
- Coaches, athletes, and officials will stand 6’ apart while standing on the sidelines, with team box extending to the 10 yard lines and wearing masks while not in the game. Pre-game coin-toss would include one coach and one captain from each team, with a wave of sportsmanship after the game is concluded. Designate soccer as a handshake free zone with teammates, coaches, opposing team, and game officials.
- Hand sanitizer on each sideline at the 50-yard line so players can sanitize before they go into the game, and as soon as they are substituted.
- No team water bottles, athletes would need to bring their own, clearly marked, and set in their designated spot on the sideline in their 6’ area.
- All medical equipment, water bottles, water coolers, pinnies, and team balls will be sterilized before coming into the facility. Teams would be required to sanitize footballs and kicking tees/pad after change of possession, and after each kick or try.
- Host sites would need to sterilize all stadium press boxes, official’s locker room, sideline benches, goals, fences and railings that athletes and equipment might touch.
- Host sites would need to provide signage to remind and help individuals stand 6’ apart, and family groups to spread out, and wear masks so the kids can play.

### **Considerations for Parents**

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),

# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Golf**

### **Practice Range and Greens:**

Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing, chatting or during practice drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to hit.

### **On Course Play:**

Only essential personnel are permitted on the course. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials.

### **Spectators:**

Spectators should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines and have no contact with the players. The traditional spectator rule of maintaining 60 feet spacing between players and spectators should continue to be maintained.

### **Coach Conferences:**

Encourage limiting the number of individuals in a conference and/or huddle to those who must be in close proximity for those discussions. It is encouraged that coaches wear a mask.

### **Team Handshakes:**

Teams and individuals should NOT exchange handshakes before, during or following practice or meets.

### **Masks:**

Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are encouraged to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing.

### **Equipment:**

Players must use their own equipment and golf balls. Do not touch other players equipment or golf balls.

### **Course Equipment:**

Players should not touch the flagstick, bunker rakes, or ball cleaning devices on the course.

### **Hand Sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes:**

Players, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes.

### **Congregating:**

No gathering points for registration or awards ceremony. Functions may be held with social distancing protocol and local health guidelines adhered to.

Follow the USGA Back2Golf Operations Playbook and PGA Jr. League Guidelines

### **Considerations for Parents (A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):**

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students' personal equipment after each game or practice.

# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Soccer**

- Limit the number of players to 25 on the sideline. Event size can exceed 50 participants if organizational oversight can be provided that ensures guidelines are followed. Complete the “Event Management Template” found in the Governor’s 4.8 plan. Every school would be required to have AT LEAST ONE ADMINISTRATOR AT THE VENUE BEFORE TEAMS ARRIVE FROM THEIR SCHOOL. TYPICALLY, ONE HOUR BEFORE GAME TIME.
- Try to limit travel as much as possible, but schools may need to bring multiple buses, allowing for appropriate social distancing, and temperature check all participants before arriving at the venue.
- Traveling for certain schools may result in athletes having to spend the night in a hotel, it would be the district, school, and coach’s responsibility to get appropriate lodging to allow for the required social distancing in determining how many athletes will be in the same room.
- Every soccer athlete, manager, coach, administrator, athletic director, media rep, soccer official, bus driver, UHSAA staff member needs to have symptom form completed, and temperature checked before traveling teams would be allowed to leave the school to travel to the competition site, and home teams would check athlete temperatures as the athletes arrive at the school and before they are allowed into the locker room. For those individuals who we consider support staff, temperature checks would occur at the venue (officials, administrators, media, game administration, and UHSAA staff).
- Fans: Size of crowd would be determined by current State and County Health Departments, and the Governor’s Plan.
- It is strongly recommended that fans follow the current social distancing guidelines and wear a mask.
- Coaches, athletes, and officials will stand 6’ apart while standing on the sidelines, pre-game coin-toss would include one coach and one captain from each team, with a wave of sportsmanship after the game is concluded. Designate soccer as a handshake free zone with teammates, coaches, opposing team, and game officials.
- Hand sanitizer on each sideline at the 50-yard line so players can sanitize before they go into the game, and as soon as they are substituted.
- No team water bottles, athletes would need to bring their own, clearly marked, and set in their designated spot on the sideline in their 6’ area.
- All medical equipment, water bottles, water coolers, pinnies, and team balls will be sterilized before coming into the facility.
- Host sites would need to sterilize all stadium press boxes, official’s locker room, sideline benches, goals, fences and railings that athletes and equipment might touch.
- Host sites would need to provide signage to remind and help individuals stand 6’ apart, and family groups to spread out.

### **Considerations for Parents**

(A family’s role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students’ personal equipment after each game or practice.

# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Tennis**

- Encourage spectators to wear masks or social distance where possible.
- Student-athletes are permitted to wear gloves to reduce COVID-19 spread through the ball.
- Teams are discouraged from bringing players who are not likely to compete to the match site.
- Student-athletes should use a new canister of balls in each match.

### **Considerations for Coaches:**

Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents. Consider conducting workouts in “pods” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection. Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.

### **Considerations for Students:**

- Consider making each student responsible for their own supplies.
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful at all contests and practices.
- Athletes should tell coaches immediately when they are not feeling well.
- Cloth face coverings are permitted.
- Bring your own water bottle.

### **Considerations for Parents**

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students' personal equipment after each game or practice.



# ***UHSAA Sport-by-Sport Specific Best Practices and Guidelines***

## **Volleyball**

- No pre-game and post-game handshakes/high-fives/fist bumps
- Nets, standards, officials stands, and balls should be cleaned and sanitized after set up and before contest.
- Each team is responsible for its own hand sanitizer and its own med kit.
- Option of eliminating benches and allow players to stand with social distancing (players remain at least 6 ft. from court)
- Limit bench personnel to observe social distancing of 3 to 6 feet.
- Only athletes will touch the balls; balls should be set on the floor during a time out.
- Players should use hand sanitizer before entering and exiting the court.
- No hand touching allowed during substitutions.
- Each school is responsible to bring towels to wipe sweat off the floor.
- Electronic whistles are preferred where possible.
- Officials should bring their own pen to sign the line-up sheets.
- Scorer's table - scorekeeper, libero tracker and scoreboard operator should be 3-6 feet apart where possible.
- Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10- minute mark rather than at the pre-match conference.
- Suspend 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.
- Move the location of the pre-match conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All individuals maintain social distance of 3 to 6 feet.
- Coaches, scorer's table personnel, officials, and players on the bench are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings.
- Players on the court are NOT required to wear face coverings but may do so if they desire. Cloth face coverings and gloves are permissible.

### **Considerations for Parents**

(A family's role in maintaining safety guidelines for themselves and others):

- Make sure your child and immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt stay home),
- Provide personal items for your child and clearly label them.
- Disinfect your students' personal equipment after each game or practice.