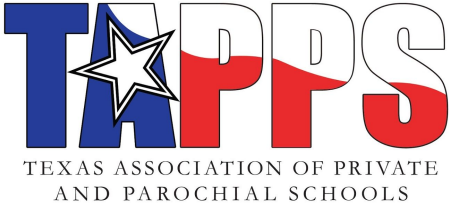


FALL 2020

Return to Action

**Considerations and
Protocols Governing
TAPPS Member Schools**



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Administrators:

The information below provides the basic reopening parameters for the coming year. The information provides the minimum requirements as presented by TAPPS in coordination with local, state and national government regulations. As each member school develops protocols for their return to campus instruction and extracurricular participation, consideration should be given to visitors to campus for extra curricular activities.

Over the next few weeks TAPPS will present season opening webinars for specific activities that will provide more in depth information for each activity. The webinars will include a focus on activity specific parameters for mitigation of COVID 19. The schedule of webinars is shown below.

Volleyball	August 11
Fall Soccer	August 12
PlayVS - Esports	August 12
Cross Country	August 12
6 Man Football	August 13
Football	August 13

Fall Band	August 18
One Act Play	August 19
Cheer	TBD

Bryan Bunselmeyer
Executive Director

Purpose:

The purpose of the information presented herein is to provide direction for TAPPS member schools as they prepare for interscholastic competition during the 2020-21 school year. It was created with the information and executive orders in place at this time. TAPPS will continue to monitor state, federal and CDC guidelines to determine if any modifications to this guidance may become necessary.

Goals:

To provide an organizational outline of governance which member schools may utilize in preparing plans for member school participation and district guidelines.

Overview

For the 2020-21 scholastic year, disruptions in contest schedules are possible. Schools and associated district executive committees (DEC) should meet to discuss and plan for these disruptions where possible. Schools and Districts may be more restrictive than the policies presented herein, but may not be less restrictive.

TAPPS member schools are required to develop protocols for mitigating the risk of COVID-19 spread during all TAPPS contests and activities. In developing and implementing these protocols, schools should follow all national and state requirements, taking into account their local context.

Practice Protocols

Each school shall develop protocols in compliance with local, state and national government regulations. The protocols should apply to all levels of participation including off season and in season activities.

Travel Protocols

Each school shall develop protocols in compliance with local, state and national government regulations. The protocols should apply to all levels of high school participation, varsity and sub-varsity.

Affirmation

The teams involved in the contest(s) shall affirm that the following self screening conditions are met prior to the contest.

Schools must require all staff, coaches, players, trainers, managers, team personnel, officials, clock, table, scoreboard operators and all other persons essential to the contest or activity to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in TAPPS activities or entering areas where TAPPS activities are being conducted. The self-screening shall include, at a minimum, a positive affirmation that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms nor are they lab-confirmed with COVID-19, nor have they had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Symptoms are listed below.

- **Visiting Team Responsibility:**

The visiting team shall communicate to the host that all participants for the contests (players, managers, coaches and other team personnel) affirmed the self screening conditions prior to the contest.

- **Home Team Responsibility:**

The host team shall communicate to the visiting team(s) that all participants for the contests (players, managers, coaches, other team personnel, and officials) affirmed the self screening conditions prior to the contest.

- **Officials Responsibility:**

The home team shall develop, in conjunction with the chapter assignor, a notification process to affirm participants and officials have affirmed the self screening conditions prior to the contest.

- **Symptoms**

- Feeling feverish or measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Covid 19 Positive Test - Return to School

In the event a high school student or cohort, as identified by the member school, tests positive or shows COVID 19 symptoms, the school protocols shall apply to return to school.

Covid 19 Positive Test - Return to Play

For TAPPS participation purposes, a student who tests positive shall be cleared by a physician prior to returning to any TAPPS governed co-curricular and extracurricular activities. This is in keeping with the TAPPS health and safety protocols.

Covid 19 Positive Participant in a Contest*

- **Notification to your school personnel, participants, parents, etc**
Notification should be made in compliance with the school protocols in place for this type of occurrence.

- **Previous Opponent / Officials**
Any notification shall rest with the affected school administration and shall be in compliance with all local, state and national governance.

- **Future Opponent / Officials**
Any notification shall rest with the affected school administration and shall be in compliance with all local, state and national governance.

***Definition of Close Contact - CDC Guidelines (as of August 7, 2020):**

A close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

Interscholastic Competition

For the purposes of this document, interscholastic competition shall include all contests which occur between two or more participants. Contest shall include scrimmages, games, tournaments, meets and warm up games once the post season begins. Participants should be as approved in Section 138 of the TAPPS By-Laws.

Scrimmage Protocols

The protocols listed herein establish the minimum level of action required for scrimmages hosted by TAPPS member schools. Schools and districts may implement protocols more restrictive than those shown here.

Game Protocols

The protocols listed herein establish the minimum level of action required for contests hosted by TAPPS member schools. Schools and districts may implement protocols more restrictive than those shown here.

Tournaments

The decision to host or participate in tournaments shall be at the discretion of the school administration for each member school. If tournaments are hosted, the protocols herein shall be the minimum standard required.

Non-District

The decision to host or participate in non-district competition shall be at the discretion of the school administration for each member school. If contests are hosted, the protocols herein shall be the minimum standard required.

District

Prior to district competition, the District Executive Committee for each activity shall meet to affirm all protocols to be in place for all district contests.

Post Season

- **When the contest is hosted by the TAPPS member school:**
 - Schools must agree on protocols prior to the contest and should be in keeping with the local rules and regulations governing the host school. The two schools should give consideration to the more restrictive of the two policies if they differ.
- **When the contest is hosted at a neutral site:**
 - Schools must agree on protocols prior to the contest and should be in keeping with the local rules and regulations governing the neutral site host. Additionally, the host site rules should be in place if more stringent than the two competing schools.

Contests hosted by TAPPS

For the purpose of this document, **contests hosted by TAPPS** include all championship tournaments or games and regional competitions in swim, tennis, and track and field.

- **Game Basics**
 - **Game Times** shall be established to allow for
 - Fans entering and exiting the arena or stadium
 - Teams entering and exiting the playing area
 - Cleaning / disinfecting areas for both fans and teams
 - **Warmups**
 - Protocols shall be established to limit contact prior to the contests as time / space allow
 - **Locker Rooms**
 - If available, the locker room protocols shall be distributed prior to the contests in keeping with the host facility protocols and local ordinances
 - If not available, TAPPS will notify schools in advance of the contests.
- **Attendance**
 - Maximum attendance shall be governed by the rules of the host site and any state and local ordinances which may apply.
 - Any restrictions shall be communicated to the teams prior to the contest with as much lead time as possible
- **Ticketing**
 - TAPPS shall provide on site ticketing where possible and allowed by the ordinances governing the host facility
 - TAPPS shall provide an online ticketing option for TAPPS hosted contests

Cancellation / Rescheduling of Contests - District

- **Health and Safety Concerns (COVID-19 Related)**
 - **Procedure**
 - School should notify opponent as soon as possible once school administration determines the inability to compete as scheduled
 - **Make Up Opportunity**
 - If possible the contest should be rescheduled for the next possible playing date as it fits both team's schedules
 - If no make up date can be established, the game shall be shown as a no contest for each team and not a forfeiture
- **Health and Safety Concerns (non-Covid)**
 - School should notify opponent as soon as possible once school administration determines the inability to compete as scheduled
 - The district shall determine whether forfeiture of the contest is required if the contest cannot be rescheduled or made up. If the contest will not affect the overall district standings, the district may declare the game to be a no contest for the team involved.
- **Other Concerns (non-Covid)**
 - Failure to participate in a contest and failure to complete a season are discussed in Section 138 of the TAPPS By-Laws.

Cancellation / Rescheduling of Contests - Post-Season

■ Contests

- If a **Team** cannot compete due to COVID 19
 - Postponement, if possible, but rescheduling cannot interfere with next round of playoffs
 - As approved by the TAPPS Office
 - Use of sub-varsity as an eligible opponent
 - Replacement
 - As necessary and approved by the TAPPS office a replacement team may be inserted into the bracket or championship
- If an **Individual** cannot compete due to COVID 19
 - Replacement as if injury occurred and next ranked will advance in Tennis, Swim, Track and Field, Golf individuals
 - Wrestling, Tennis Doubles, and Golf Teams; the school may substitute for the team as necessary and allowed by rule

■ Championships

- Postponement
 - Local / State governing ordinance requires
 - Host facility requires
 - Team Participation
 - Sunday competition may be necessitated as determined by the TAPPS office
- In the event a team cannot participate
 - Shall be replaced by opponent from the previous round or
 - Format change may be considered if multiple teams are involved
- Cancellation of championship
 - While possible, this is the last option TAPPS will entertain for the season and activity involved.

Protocols for TAPPS Activities:

These protocols were created with the information and executive orders in place at this time. TAPPS will continue to monitor state, federal and CDC guidelines to determine if any modifications to this guidance may become necessary.

Face Coverings Required- Executive Order GA-29

Consistent with the latest Governor's Executive Order GA-29, face coverings are required at all TAPPS activities as outlined below. This includes the 2020-2021 school year, unless modified at a later date. TAPPS activities include any scrimmage, game, tournament, meet, contest or event between two or more participants hosted by a TAPPS member school.

1. For the purposes of this document, face coverings include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Face shields may be superior to cloth face coverings in many circumstances, given improved ability to see mouth movements and improved air circulation.
2. All persons ten years of age or older must wear face coverings or face shields upon entry to an area where TAPPS activities are being conducted and when not actively practicing or playing in the contest, unless an exception listed below applies.
3. The face coverings requirements do not apply to a school in a county that meets the requirements of paragraph 11 of Executive Order GA-29, unless the local member school administration chooses to implement these requirements locally. Even in these circumstances, the wearing of face coverings or face shields is strongly encouraged.

Exceptions to the wearing of face coverings or face shields include any person

- With a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering;
- While a person is consuming food or drink;
- While the person is in a swimming pool, lake, or similar body of water;
- When a congregating group of persons maintains at least 6 feet of social distancing; or
- Any other reason or circumstance indicated under Executive Order GA-29.

Practice and Contest Areas, Locker Rooms and Other Common Areas

Host school protocols should address the following areas:

- Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or other similar disinfectants are made readily available in these areas.
- Common areas should be regularly and frequently cleaned and disinfected including all frequently touched surfaces such as doors, tables, chairs, benches, bleachers, lockers, and restrooms.
- All surfaces in practice, warm-up, game or contest areas should be thoroughly disinfected before and after each use.
- All equipment and balls should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before, during and after the contest.
- Food, water, drinks and other similar items, if provided, should be available in a manner that ensures coaches, participants and officials are not sharing these items.

Games, Scrimmages and Contests

Teams and Participants

- Transportation for students is to be determined by local member school administration.
- Teams and participants are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29. (Note: exception is allowed when actively practicing or playing in the contest).
- The host school should designate an area for teams to load and unload separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.
- Visiting team locker rooms, if available, should be cleaned and sanitized by the host school before the visiting team arrives. Schools should limit access to these facilities to only students and staff essential for the game or contest.
- Before each game or contest, both schools shall follow the self screening protocols described in this document to screen all coaches and participants, staff members, contractors, volunteers, sports officials, contest judges, and any individuals otherwise involved in working the event. These individuals should affirm the requirements described in the self screening protocols.

Officials

- The host site should provide sports and contest officials an area to enter and exit separate from fans when possible. Officials should be provided a dressing and meeting area, if applicable, that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
- Pregame or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals.
- Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
- All participants should be provided with entry and exit plans for contest areas that maintain separation from non-participants and fans.

Fans and Spectators

- Schools and/or host sites shall post visible signs and/or messaging at all entrances stating any individuals who are confirmed to have, suspected of having, are experiencing symptoms of, or have been in close contact with an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 should not enter the facility.
- Schools may allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events as determined by the host school protocols, and in keeping with state and local rules for maximum capacity limitations.
- Schools may choose to conduct contests with no spectators; however, the host school cannot allow home spectators to the total exclusion of visitor spectators;
- Schools can and should develop a protocol for limitations on the maximum number of spectators allowed. Such protocol should include reasonable allowances for spectators from all participating schools, and shall be communicated to all schools attending.
- Seating should be established and marked in a way that maintains a minimum six feet of distance between groups.
- Groups should maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups at all times, including the process of admission and seating. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- Spectators, audiences, fans and media are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Fan and spectator areas including bleachers, stands, walkways, and other spectator areas should be located to provide at least ten (10) feet of distance from team/group areas such as team benches or performance areas.
- Food, water, drinks and other similar items, if provided, should be available in a manner that ensures coaches, participants and officials are not sharing these items.
- **Individuals not essential to the team or group should not be given access to contest areas, performance areas, courts, or fields at all before, during, or after contests and events.**
- Post-game interviews, if allowed, should be conducted while wearing face coverings and maintaining at least six feet of distance between the interviewer and individual being interviewed.

Student Support Groups not Directly Involved in the Game or Contest

- Student groups such as marching bands, drumlines, cheerleaders, drill teams, and other groups may attend and perform at games or contests as agreed upon in advance by the schools competing in the contest. Schools should consider limiting the number of participants to those essential to the performance.
- These student groups should remain separate from the game or contest participants at all times. These student groups should avoid mixing with fans or non-group members throughout the game or contest.
- Student groups are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- These students should maintain appropriate distancing from game or contest participants at all times, including when on or near the court or sideline area.

Concession Stands and Food Service

- If made available by the host school, all state and local rules in place for food service must be followed.

Sample Communications for Self Screening Affirmations

Home Team

In preparation for today's contest between our school and _____, I attest that the following:

- All coaches and team personnel involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- All team members involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- Site based officials involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- Officials have been requested from the _____ chapter and they will be required to affirm they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate

Covid-19 Self Screening Affirmation

Schools must require all staff, coaches, players, trainers, managers, team personnel, officials, clock, table, scoreboard operators and all other persons essential to the contest or activity to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in TAPPS activities or entering areas where TAPPS activities are being conducted. The self-screening shall include, at a minimum, a positive affirmation that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms nor are they lab-confirmed with COVID-19, nor have they had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

To assist your fans and team personnel, the following protocols are in place for contests at our facility:

1. Fan limitations
2. Fan PPE
3. Entrance and Exit from the facility

If you have any questions, please contact me by reply email or by phone at

_____.

Visiting Team

In preparation for today's contest between our school and _____, I attest that the following:

- All coaches and team personnel involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- All team members involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate

Covid-19 Self Screening Affirmation

Schools must require all staff, coaches, players, trainers, managers, team personnel, officials, clock, table, scoreboard operators and all other persons essential to the contest or activity to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in TAPPS activities or entering areas where TAPPS activities are being conducted. The self-screening shall include, at a minimum, a positive affirmation that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms nor are they lab-confirmed with COVID-19, nor have they had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact me by reply email or by phone at _____.

To Officials' Chapter Assignor or Crew Chief

In preparation for today's contest between our school and _____, I attest that the following:

- All coaches and team personnel involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- All team members involved in the contest have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate
- All site based officials have been briefed in the COVID 19 protocols and have affirmed today that they meet the COVID self screening conditions required to participate

Covid-19 Self Screening Affirmation

Schools must require all staff, coaches, players, trainers, managers, team personnel, officials, clock, table, scoreboard operators and all other persons essential to the contest or activity to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before participating in TAPPS activities or entering areas where TAPPS activities are being conducted. The self-screening shall include, at a minimum, a positive affirmation that they do not have COVID-19 symptoms nor are they lab-confirmed with COVID-19, nor have they had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.

To assist our officials, the following protocols are in place for contests at our facility:

- Official's Locker Room
- Special Instructions
- Entrance and Exit from the facility

Any responsibility with the enforcement of COVID 19 protocols will rest with the game administrator on duty and not the officiating crew.

If you have any questions, please contact me by reply email or by phone at

_____.