

TO: All Utica Board 51 Officials
FROM: Lee Pavlot, State Interpreter
SUBJECT: 2021 COVID 19 Information

OFFICIALS' GUIDELINES WHEN RETURNING TO OFFICIATE

CONTACT THE HOST SCHOOL:

- Contact should be made with school athletic administration leading up to the contest about (1) to determine where you should enter the host school's property and (2) to obtain other information that you or the school may want to communicate to each other prior to your arrival.
- Officiating crews should designate one crew member to contact the host school and provide information to other members of the crew.
- Request hand sanitizer be available at scorer's table, if applicable, and use it between periods and during time outs; officials are encouraged to bring their own in the event none is available.
- Conversations should occur with the host school administration regarding the size of changing areas or locker rooms to ensure social distancing can occur.
- When possible, officials should come to contests fully dressed in uniform.

GENERAL OFFICIAL GUIDELINES:

- Officials are not responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, face coverings, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues.
- This monitoring obligation remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.
- Be prepared to have a health screening conducted upon arrival at a school campus.
- In accordance with NYSDOH guidance (Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation), responsible parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are unable to tolerate a face covering for the physical activity (e.g., practicing, playing); provided, however, that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering.

NOTE: If an official cannot tolerate a face covering while officiating, it is recommended he/she contact their local department of health for guidance.

- Upon conclusion of the contest, officials should leave the contest area and not interact with others.
- Officials must pay special attention to playing rules that require distances between players during play.
- Reminders should be issued for situations that involve hygiene (spitting, etc.).
- Officials should maintain distance from players if an altercation occurs and minimize the times they are within six feet of others.
- Officials should be aware of the location of medical personnel while on school property.
- Limit the exchanging of documents between officials and others.
- Once the contest begins, avoid conversations within six feet with coaches.
- Wash hands frequently.

EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES:

OFFICIALS UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

- Electronic whistles are permissible.
- Whistles with protective covers are recommended.
- Long-sleeved shirts are permissible.
- Officials should not wear jackets during pre-game court observation so that no clothing is left out.

BASKETBALL:

- The sanitized game ball should be provided to the officials in the locker room prior to the game.
- The sanitized game ball should only be used for the game and not be used for warm-ups.
- The host school should ensure that the ball is sanitized during time-outs and between quarters.
- Sanitizer should be provided by the host team at the table.

GAME DAY:

- Communicate with school athletic administrator prior to the contest pertaining to any special school requirements.
- Upon arrival at the host site and throughout the contest, officials should wash and sanitize hands.
- When traveling to contests, it may be safe to limit carpooling or traveling with other individuals.
- Always maintain social distancing of six feet, including while in the locker or dressing room and on the court.
- Bring own water bottle or rehydration beverages.
- Use a mask when communicating verbally within six feet of others. While running the floor, a mask may be lowered but when in close contact with another person, the mask must be worn properly.
- To maintain social distancing, officiating positions may need to be changed in a manner that are not necessarily in conformance with standard officiating mechanics.
 - **Throw-in**—Official may stand 6 feet or greater away from player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that players on a front court throw-in.
 - **Free Throw Administration**—The lead official shall stand on the end line and bounce the ball to the free thrower.

PREGAME CONFERENCE:

- Limit attendees to the referee and the head coach from each team at the center circle with each coach standing on each side of the division line, while maintaining social distance.
- No handshakes, fist bumps and similar gestures are permitted.
- Maintain social distancing while performing all pregame responsibilities.

OFFICIALS' TABLE:

- Limit the table to essential personnel, including the home team scorer and timer. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space availability at the table is a variable in determining the number of individuals permitted at the officials' table and observing social distancing requirements.

PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME CEREMONY:

- Traditional pre-game introductions should be altered to ensure social distancing occurs.
- No shaking hands during introductions.
- Eliminate all handshakes, fist bumps and similar gestures pre-and post-game.

Once again, I emphasize to all officials that we must still officiate the game according to the basketball rules as established in our rule book. Good luck & stay safe.