



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.

2020-21 Basketball

Bulletin 1

Rules, Revisions, and Interpretations

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COVID INFORMATION

Thank you for your efforts and flexibility in adapting to the many changes required due to the pandemic. Your willingness to cooperate and continue to officiate with a mask is appreciated. Without you, there is no game!

Officials should not concern themselves with non-compliance of COVID issues but should instead alert game management and have them handle those issues when they come up. Officials must only concern themselves with issues related to the rule book.

Officials should be guided by the information contained in the Return to Competition Guidelines which can be found on the PIAA website: [Return to Competition Guidelines](#)

Officials should also be guided by the most recent Order by the Secretary of Health regarding Universal Face Coverings-it can be found here: [PA Governor Universal Face Coverings Order](#)

The Order requires a face covering for all individuals, "Indoors or in an enclosed space, where another person or persons who are not members of the individual's household are present in the same space, irrespective of physical distance." PIAA considers officials in a similar fashion as athletes as it relates to this Order.

PIAA considers officials similarly to athletes when in competition. PIAA expects compliance with face coverings by all participating officials based on the recently enacted Order by the Secretary of Health. If, in consultation with your physician, you interpret the Order to permit an exception for you while actively officiating under Section 3, PIAA will not question the determination that you have reached. We will accept that as strict adherence to Secretary of Health's order. In addition, if an official meets the requirements above in the Q & A, they will not be prohibited from officiating.

The additional wrinkle to this entire issue is if a school mandates that officials wear a mask. Schools as the hiring entity of the official (independent contractor) can place additional conditions upon officials. Officials, when presented with these additional work guidelines may decide if they wish to contract with that school. This is why it is very important for officials to reach out to the host school in the days leading up to the assignment to see if there are any items they should be aware of prior to their arrival.

This is listed in the Return to Competition Guidelines which is located on the PIAA website along with the mention that officials will enforce the rules of the game but are not responsible for any COVID related issues regarding items such as social distancing of competitors or the mandatory face coverings of contestants.

Running Clock Changed for this Season

Officials are reminded to maintain social distancing throughout the contest. The referee is not mandated to sign the book or go nearer than six feet of the table. We may bounce the ball on all throw ins to maintain distance. Finally, a reminder that the clock now runs when a 30 point differential has been reached in the second half (previously it was 40 points).

Some officials have been granting timeouts for breaks during games without being called by either team. There are no rules that support this action and officials cannot take it upon themselves to grant these timeouts unless requested in accordance with the rule book. Teams/coaches that feel they need a break because of wearing a face covering can be guided by the following items for relief:

1. There are 10 total timeouts per team per contest (5 per team)
 2. There are 3 breaks between periods with the half-time break being extended beyond the standard 1 minute.
 3. When free throws are being administered players may go to the bench area to hydrate.
 4. There are a number of stops in the action during a contest for a player to hydrate in addition to what is listed above, including substituting for those players who can hydrate while on the bench, and finally;
 5. If schools feel that the wearing of a mask would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability they should claim the exemption provided by Governor Wolf in his Universal Face Covering Order found here: [Governor Wolf Universal Face Covering Order](#)
- Schools should refer to Section 3 to claim the exception to wearing a mask. It is listed below for your review:
 - Section 3: Exceptions to Covering Requirement
 - The following are exceptions to the face covering requirements in Section 2. All alternatives to wearing a face covering, including the use of a face shield, should be exhausted before an individual is excepted from this Order.
 - A. If wearing a face covering while working would create an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
 - B. If wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability.
 - C. When necessary to confirm the individual's identity.
 - D. While obtaining a service that requires the temporary removal of the face covering, such as dental services.
 - E. When working alone and isolated from interaction with other people with little or no expectation of in-person interaction.
 - F. If an individual is communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication

Officials that worked a contest that may involve an individual who exhibits symptoms or has tested positive should remember that the CDC defines close contact as being within 6 feet for a total of 15 cumulative minutes over a 24 hour period. Those officials who may feel impacted by this type of scenario should complete a daily health assessment and also contact their medical provider for additional information regarding their specific situation. Also, PIAA has requested with the administration of the Department of Health that officials be placed within the 1B category for vaccine distribution in order to further protect sports officials.

