



2021 Fall Return to Play Requirements, Rule Modifications, and General Recommendations

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

PROTECT YOUR TEAM

PROTECT YOUR SEASON

MINIMUM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR VISAA REGULAR SEASON AND POSTSEASON COMPETITION

These requirements are effective as of August 1, 2021 and may be revised in accordance with any changes in Virginia Department of Health or CDC guidelines.

The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel, and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

The VISAA will open fall sports under the same guidelines as we ended spring sports. For outside fall sports there will not be a face mask requirement for players, coaches and participants unless the school hosting any event deems it necessary. There will be no limitations on spectators unless stipulated by the host team. As in the spring all VISAA events will have online ticket sales with our online ticket provider, Ticket Spicket. Host schools will have the option also to provide paper tickets at state events.

Fall Indoor Sports (Girls Volleyball) will have a mask requirement for spectators, coaches, and team members not participating in the match. Participants in the match will not be required to wear a mask unless the host schools have deemed it a requirement for their school.

Please use the Fall Game Contract in hosting any contest. It needs to be signed by both Heads of School and both schools' athletic administrators ahead of hosting the event.

Requirements for Facility Hosts:

The host facility should review the following policies with visiting team administrators, coaches, and officials as they relate to, but not are limited to:

- All schools should use the Fall Game Contract.
- All teams and officials should show up ready to play. Host schools will indicate on the game contract whether locker rooms will be available for visiting teams.
- Parking, entrances, and exits for spectators and teams:
 - If possible, designate a separate entrance and exit.
- Use contactless payments where possible. Use Ticket Spicket for online ticket sales for all state events.
- Athletic training services/Medical care
- Restroom and locker room facilities
- Inclement weather policies
- Sidelines personnel limitations (e.g. participants, coaches, medical staff, and game-day staff)
- Schools must appoint designated school personnel (e.g., Administrator, Athletic Administrator, Athletic Trainer, School Nurse) to assist the host facility manager(s) in game-day management. Any incidents in which host facility policies are not followed should be documented and shared with school officials.

Requirements for Game Day Management:

- Those showing up for any contest are acknowledging they are symptom-free.
- Teams should show up ready to play.
- Pregame conferences should be limited to the head referee or center referee and the head coach from each team.
- Pregame or postgame handshakes, fist bumps, or personal touch exchanges are not recommended but can be included in the Game Contract when hosting an event.
- The visiting team must provide their own water cooler and water bottles. Visiting teams should have access to water at the host facility.
- If the host school chooses to offer a concession stand, please ensure that the items offered comply with local food distribution rules and guidelines.
- The decision to allow fans is up to the host school. All decisions on fan attendance must be disclosed in the game day contract.

General Recommendations:

- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should not return to play until they are cleared by a physician.
- Limit contact between players when substituting.
- Players in any indoor contest must wear face coverings if recommended by member schools hosting the event or stipulated in game contest form.
- Supply an adequate amount of sanitizer for benches and scorer's table.
- Do not share uniforms, towels, other apparel, or equipment.
- Gloves are permissible but still must comply by meeting either the NOCSAE standard or the SFIA specification.

Requirements for Players:

- Players should clean and sanitize equipment after each game.
- No sharing of water bottles.

Requirements for Officials:

- Provide a designated space (locker room, classroom, etc.) for officials' pregame and postgame activities that is removed from spectator/team interaction. It is highly recommended that Officials come ready to officiate.
- Screening is not required before the contest unless a requirement by host school and communicated before the season to the Commissioner that assigns officials for all contests.
- Bring your own water bottle.

Requirements for Parents and Spectators:

- Parents and spectators supporting VISAA member schools should follow the guidance of local, state, and federal recommendations as it pertains to spectator events and stadium capacity restrictions if and when such information becomes available.
- Make sure immediate household members are free from illness before participating in practice and competition (if there is doubt, stay home).
- Practice proper social distancing.
- Provide personal items for your student-athlete and clearly label them (e.g., water bottles, extra face masks).
- Disinfect your student-athlete's equipment after each game or practice.
- Educate yourself on the risks and benefits of athletic participation in the time of COVID-19 and ensure you and your student-athlete are aware of the guidance surrounding athletic events.