

2-M Conference



January 29, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians and Athletes of the 2-M Conference,

As you are aware, announcements last week have now made it possible to begin various athletic seasons both at the Middle/Jr. High levels and High School levels. Although everyone is thrilled to be able to allow our student athletes opportunities to play and compete, there are logistical limitations and mitigation measures that all teams and schools will be following.

In a collaborative effort to navigate these unusual times related to athletics/activities and COVID-19, the 2M conference members have developed some general guidelines all schools in the conference will be following. We appreciate your help in advance and know that although this is not ideal, everyone's focus is on providing our students safe opportunities to participate in activities and athletic events.

Rescheduling games

- I. Currently, winter athletics will have shortened seasons. The limited number of games and limited number of weeks will make rescheduling games cancelled due to quarantine or other reasons difficult. Please understand that some events may not be rescheduled.

Broadcasting

- I. Games will be broadcast and information on how to view a streaming video of the event will be provided for both home and visiting spectators.

Spectators

- I. There are specific guidelines related to numbers of spectators allowed. The following are spectator limits:
 - a. When located in a region not facing specific mitigation efforts outlined in the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. Gatherings of up to 50 spectators, indoors or outdoors, are allowed.
 - b. When located in a region under Tier 1 mitigation efforts per the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. Gatherings of up to 25 spectators, indoors or outdoors, are allowed.
 - c. When located in a region under Tier 2 or more restrictive mitigation efforts per the Restore Illinois guidelines:
 - i. No spectators are allowed, whether indoors or outdoors.
- II. We are currently allowed 50 spectators, but that could change.
- III. At this time, the conference will only allow home spectators. Tickets will not be distributed to visiting spectators. In an effort to allow all students participating to have at least one parent/guardian an opportunity to attend a limited season of sporting events, no visiting spectators will be allowed. This will also allow home schools to contract trace and ensure families are socially distant.
- IV. Based on the number of athletes participating and the number of spectators allowed, each home school will determine tickets distributed to each player/family. Obviously, Priority will be given to the immediate families of athletes.

Quarantine of Participants and Spectators

- I. Each school district will follow IDPH guidance related to quarantine and notifications related to a positive COVID-19 test.

Location of Games

- I. In order to accommodate the requirements related to teammates being distanced on the bench and the spectators being socially distant, games may be scheduled in larger venues than originally planned/scheduled.
- II. For many schools in the conference, one gym may be used for all events during this time. In order to accommodate the possibility of 6 Middle School/Jr. High and High School athletic seasons, games may need to be played earlier than normal. For example, volleyball may begin at 4:00p.m. to be followed at 6:30 by high school basketball.
- III. We understand getting to those events may be difficult but due to the space challenges related to allowing spectators, high school gymnasiums may be the only option for all 6 different sports during the same few weeks. We appreciate your understanding as we work to not only provide these opportunities for our students but also provide an opportunity for spectators.

Cheerleaders

- I. Each District that has cheerleaders will provide guidance on logistics related to cheering at games.
- II. At this point, cheerleaders will only cheer at home events.
- III. As further guidance related to cheerleading is available, changes may be necessary.

Concessions

- I. In order to limit individuals in attendance to essential staff and follow mitigation procedures, there will not be concessions at this time.

Non-Conference Games

- I. Events with other schools outside of the 2-M conference may have other rules regarding spectators, mitigation and general policies related to extra-curricular play during COVID-19. Please be patient as we work through these differences and provide families and athletes information about differences.

In addition, school officials will conduct temperature checks prior to the games for players, coaches, staff and spectators. Spectators will also be required to wear a mask throughout the event. Visitors including spectators to our buildings are required by IDPH to be temperature checked. Anyone with a temperature over 100.4 will not be allowed to participate or watch the event.

We want our student-athletes to have this opportunity to participate and compete. In order to continue to do that, we will follow guidelines as outlined by IDPH. Thank you in advance for supporting our student athletes by following the guidelines and understanding that changes may be made based on tier mitigations and IDPH changes. Putting children first and working through this very unusual time is everyone's focus.

Your specific school district will provide additional information regarding tickets, schedules and other information.

Respectfully,

2-M Conference Superintendents