

## **IHSA Phase 4 Return to Play Plan**

As a result of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, as regions reach Phase 4 on June 26th or after, IHSA member schools are permitted to begin use of voluntary summer contact days. School districts should work with their local health departments on current restrictions in their area prior to beginning contact. Local school administration determines the permitted activities at their school. Prioritizing the health and safety of all students and staff must remain the focus of each IHSA member school.

**Phase 4** of the IHSA RTP Plan correlates to **Phase 4** of the Restore Illinois Plan.

**The following are best practices when conducting summer contact days:  
Students are limited to 5 hours of participation per day.**

### ***Pre-Workout:***

- Schools must maintain a daily record of what athletes are participating, when, symptoms they may present (see attachment).

- o Athletes should be screened at the start of practice for temperature >100.4F/38C or symptoms of COVID-19 (fevers, chills, cough, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell).

- o Any person with symptoms (refer to attached form) or a positive COVID-19 test, should not participate in practice, competition, or conditioning and should be referred to a physician for evaluation and only return after clearance to do so from a physician.

- o Signage about symptoms and transmission of COVID-19 should be posted around facilities.

- Gatherings of up to 50 individuals, indoors or outdoors, are allowed. Thirty feet of space must be maintained between gatherings of 50 when outdoors. Indoors the limit of 50 individuals is the maximum no matter the spacing.

- o When students are not actively participating in a drill, practice, or contest, care should be taken to maintain social distance between individuals.

- If locker rooms are a necessity, capacity should be limited to ensure members can maintain 6 ft of social distance.

- Individuals should sanitize or wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap, or use alcohol based hand sanitizer and rub until dry before touching any surfaces or participating in workouts.

- Appropriate clothing/shoes should be worn at all times in the weight room to minimize sweat from transmitting onto equipment/surfaces.
- Students must be encouraged to shower and wash their workout clothing immediately upon returning to home.

### ***Facilities Cleaning:***

- Adequate cleaning schedules, before and after each use by a group of athletes, should be created and implemented for all athletic facilities to mitigate any communicable diseases.
- Prior to an individual or groups of individuals entering a facility, hard surfaces within that facility should be wiped down and sanitized (chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, athletic training room tables, etc.).
- Hand sanitizer should be plentiful and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.
- Weight equipment should be wiped down thoroughly before and after an individual's use of equipment. ***Please see ISBE and CDC for more cleaning details.***

### **Physical Activity and Athletic Equipment:**

- On June 26 or when your region reaches Phase 4, summer contact days will begin. Coaches are encouraged to use a staged approach to build back up to full summer contact activity. Local districts should work with their health departments and local school officials to make decisions about team travel to summer
  - o Athletes who did not participate in phase 3, are encouraged to follow the fall acclimatization schedule for any sport.
  - o Football players should maintain their summer acclimatization schedule, per IHSA By-Law 3.157.

- There should be no shared athletic towels, clothing, or shoes between students.
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations should be plentiful at summer contact events.
- Athletic equipment such as bats and batting helmets should be cleaned between each use. Other equipment, such as catchers gear, hockey helmets/pads, wrestling ear guards, football helmets/other pads, lacrosse helmets/pads/gloves/eyewear should be worn by only one individual and not shared.
- Shared equipment such as athletic balls, thud pads, sleds should be cleaned frequently during practice and competitions.
- In phase 4 spotters for weightlifting are allowed while masked. Maximum lifts should be done only with power cages for squats and bench presses. Spotters should stand at each end of the bar.

### **Hydration:**

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must not be shared.

- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) may be utilized to fill individual water bottles but must be cleaned after every practice/contest.

**PPE:**

- Coaches/volunteers must wear a mask.
- Participants should be encouraged to wear a mask if feasible for the sport.

It is the responsibility of each IHSA member school to comply with the above requirements.

If available, it is encouraged that an Athletic Trainer or medical personnel be available for workouts. They should be masked for any interactions with athletes and maintain appropriate social distance when feasible.

Any person with positive symptoms reported should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional.

**Should the conditions warrant, these requirements will be adjusted. Any further official updates will be posted on IHSA.org and the IHSA social media platforms.**