



THE CONNECTICUT INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Memo: CIAC Spring Sports Mask Update

Date: May 17, 2021

To: CIAC Member School Athletic Director

From: Glenn Lungarini, CAS-CIAC Executive Director

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In accordance with the CDC and State of Connecticut guidance, this memo on CIAC mask guidance replaces previous guideline in the CIAC Spring Sports Plan. Local health department and school district face mask policy will take precedence over CIAC guidance.

In general, the CIAC face mask guidance will remain unchanged, with a few exceptions. Student-athletes will continue wearing face masks in all activities around active participation. This position aligns with guidance that our member schools continue with current mask policies throughout the remainder of the school year. Our primary goal is to continue supporting in-person instruction with interscholastic athletics being an extension of the school curriculum. Student-athletes may wear face masks during active competition if they so choose.

Boys' Volleyball

Boys' volleyball will continue with the mask requirement throughout the remainder of the spring season. Many student-athletes may not yet be fully vaccinated, boys' volleyball is an indoor sport, and the gymnasium is an instructional classroom throughout the school day. As such, the CIAC will remain consistent with most member school policies inside school buildings and continue to require student-athletes to wear masks during active volleyball play, as well as in activities around the game.

Baseball, Girls' Lacrosse, and Softball

Effective May 17, 2021, catchers in the sports of baseball and softball and girls' lacrosse players taking face-offs will no longer be required to wear a close-fitting face mask. Given the updated CDC and state guidance, along with the rise in temperatures forecasted for the coming weeks, it is appropriate to no longer require face masks for baseball and softball catchers and girls' lacrosse players during face-offs.

Officials

Effective May 19, 2021, fully vaccinated officials in all sports may officiate without a mask. All officials must continue to bring a mask with them to all events and comply with local health department and school district policies if they differ from CIAC guidance. Officials should always carry their vaccination card and be prepared to present it as proof if/when requested by school administration/personnel. If an official cannot show proof of vaccination upon request or local health department or school district policy requires masks for sports officials, then the official should be prepared to officiate the game with a mask. Any official who is not fully vaccinated must wear a mask.

Coaches

The CIAC believes that mask-wearing by coaches around active participation sets a good example and models expectations within schools, given that CIAC member schools will likely continue with mask requirements during curriculum instruction for the remainder of the school year. Any CIAC member school coach who is fully vaccinated may coach without a mask provided he/she has been approved by his/her member school to do so by demonstrating proof of full vaccination to school administration/medical staff or administrative designee. Coaches who are not fully vaccinated must wear a mask.

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Spectators

Any allowance for spectators/fans should align with DECD sector rules. The CIAC supports the plans established by school districts that direct the presence of adults on campus at this time. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, permissible spectator/fan attendance will be governed by local districts' current operating plan. In alignment with updated CDC and state mask guidance, the CIAC recognizes that fully vaccinated individuals may attend both indoor and outdoor games without wearing a mask, except where required by federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including local school district policies. Spectators may be required to wear a mask when attending CIAC events where a large attendance is expected and physical distancing may not be possible.