



Memo: CIAC Winter Sports Guidance Masking Update

To: CIAC Member Schools

From: Glenn Lungarini, CAS-CIAC Executive Director

This evening, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) modified its guidance for the operation of interscholastic, youth, and other amateur athletics. With that update, CT DPH requires that all student-athletes wear a mask at all times, regardless of vaccination status, except for those instances where masks are a safety risk. Therefore, effective December 23, 2021, the CIAC will modify its masking requirements to align with CT DPH.

All CIAC member schools, until further notice, will follow the mask guidance as described in Table 1 below for each sport. As a reminder, CIAC's COVID-19 mitigating strategies and its rules and regulations maintain a safe environment for interscholastic athletic competition and provide the best opportunity to complete an entire winter sports season. Please be reminded that the CIAC Board of Control has the authority and duty to enforce its rules and regulations. The CIAC expects strict adherence to the amended mask requirements from coaches, student-athletes, officials, and spectators.

Since the onset of the pandemic, CIAC has collaborated with the CSMS Sports Medicine Committee and CT DPH with a focus on safely returning student-athletes to as many interscholastic athletic experiences as possible. Today's modification will keep kids safely engaged in interscholastic and youth athletics. Any lack of adherence to COVID-19 mitigation strategies increases the potential of negatively impacting teams and potentially threatens the ability to complete a sports season. Let us all remain committed to providing opportunities for kids by strictly adhering to the amended guidance.

**Table 1**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Update CIAC Winter Sports Mask Guidance</b>
<b>Basketball</b>	Masks <b>required</b> in all settings indoors.

<b>Ice Hockey</b>	Masks <b>required</b> in all settings indoors.
<b>Indoor Track (Running)</b>	Masks <b>required</b> in all settings indoors.
<b>Indoor Track (Throwing/Jumping)</b>	Masks can be removed temporarily during active jumps/throws in competition settings; required at all other times indoors.
<b>Wrestling</b>	Masks should not be worn in-match or during practice while actively grappling; masks required in all other settings (non-grappling practice, sidelines, bench, locker rooms, etc.)
<b>Swimming/Diving</b>	Masks should not be worn in the water; masks required in all other settings (dry land practice, sidelines, bench, locker rooms, etc.)
<b>Cheerleading/Dance</b>	Masks <b>required</b> during competitive routines and in all other settings (practice, sideline cheer, bench, locker rooms, etc.); masks may be removed temporarily during stunting/tumbling but must be immediately replaced
<b>Gymnastics</b>	Masks should not be used during competition or practice on apparatus or while tumbling; masks required in all other settings (practice, sideline cheer, bench, locker rooms, etc.)