



# BIG NORTHERN CONFERENCE SPECTATOR POLICIES FOR 2021 UPDATED MARCH 19th, 2021

On Thursday, March 18th, Governor Pritzker's announcement in conjunction with the IDPH prompted significant changes to several of the IHSA's spectator protocols. Spectator limitations for indoor sporting events changed from a maximum of 50 individuals to 25% venue seating capacity with a minimum of 12' buffer space between all spectators and student-athletes. Outdoor sporting events will now be allowed to fill athletic venues to 25% capacity based off of the square footage of the venue. The information provided here within is predicated on these recent modifications. The member schools of the BNC will provide updates to protocols and policies if the limitations change throughout the remainder of the 2021 Spring Semester.

The outdoor athletic venues throughout the BNC vary significantly and have to define their seating capacity on an individual basis. In an attempt to offer similar opportunities for fans and spectators at all schools, the BNC will be utilizing the following minimum guidelines for determining Spectator limits for the duration of the 2021 Spring Semester or until modifications are updated by the IHSA or IDPH.

**FOOTBALL:** Each Football stadium in the BNC is considered an enclosed facility but each stadium has significant variables which determine 25% capacity. At minimum, each visiting opponent will be provided at least one ticket per rostered player but can offer more on a school-by-school basis which will be determined by the host school's overall venue capacity and seating availability. Fans should also be aware that many games are scheduled at neutral sites where different limitations may be enforced by the host school district. The amount of home fans allowed to attend Football games will also be at the discretion of the hosting school based on local determinations of 25% capacity limitations.

**VOLLEYBALL & WRESTLING:** As these two sports are performed indoors, the member schools of the BNC will continue to utilize the same format which was used during the Basketball season where only home fans will be allowed to attend in-person. Temperature checks for spectators at indoor sporting events may still occur at some schools.

**SOCCER, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL:** Many BNC facilities are not enclosed and limiting spectators will be difficult due to the lack of entry and/or admission gates. Permanent venue seating is also limited at most schools. Therefore, both home and visiting fans will be allowed to attend at all facilities. The BNC schools request all fans to bring their own seats or folding chairs and that all fans should practice social-distancing from others outside their own immediate household. Also, for Baseball and Softball, due to dugout restrictions, many team benches will be utilizing "overflow" space for rostered players outside of the dugout areas. Spectators must remain a minimum of 12' away from all areas designated for student-athletes.

**TRACK & FIELD:** Spectator limitations for BNC Track meets will be developed on a case-by-case basis determined by the seating capacities of the host school venue as well as the amount of teams that will be participating in any particular meet.

**LIVESTREAMING & ADMISSIONS:** Each BNC member school has differing capabilities in regards to live streaming outdoor events so not all outdoor athletic contests may be offered via live streaming. Some BNC schools may also be utilizing digital ticket sales and/or admissions fees so spectators should be aware of some potential fees at some member schools. Football or Soccer games played at a neutral site may also have an admission fee for spectators to offset the cost of facility rentals.