

TCSAAL COVID-19 Fall Guidelines

Before Heading to a TCSAAL Event

- Take temperature. 100.0° F or over, do not attend TCSAAL Event
- Pass a COVID 19 Symptom Check (see below)
- If player / coach / Admin / official is not feeling well in general, out of an abundance of caution, please stay home

COVID-19 Symptom Check (Adopted from UIL)

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, consider the following question:

Have they recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them?

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

Screening Questionnaire Information

1. When asking individuals if they have symptoms for COVID-19, school systems must only require the individual to provide a “Yes” or “No” to the overall statement that they are symptomatic for COVID-19, as opposed to asking the individual for specific symptom confirmation. School systems are not entitled to collect information during screening on the specific health information of an individual beyond that they are symptomatic.
2. Once it is determined that individuals who responded “Yes” to either of these questions have met the criteria for re-entry, school systems must destroy those individuals’ responses.

Facility Preparation

- Benches and restrooms MUST be sanitized before the games begin.
- No visitors are allowed in the locker rooms to change. Everyone must be dressed and ready to play as soon as they enter the gym/field.

- No concessions will be sold.

Drop Off/ Pickup

- If schools have specific drop-off / pickup and entry locations for a visiting team, they should notify their TCSAAL Regional Director and the other team ahead of time.

Pre- Game Procedures

- Upon entering the facility / field, Temperature check should be conducted for all players (home team & visiting team), officials, administrators, staff, clock, book, line judges.
- Athletes coaches and officials must provide their own face mask.
- Face mask must be worn at all times when not playing. Including wearing them while sitting on the bench.
- Benches must maintain an empty seat between each person or separate chairs far apart. If using a physical bench, you must still maintain a person separation between individuals. Bring in chairs or use floor as necessary.
- All people that will need water must provide their own water bottle that is labeled with name.
- Coaches should ensure their team has hand sanitizer.
- Host facility should ensure there are hand washing / hand sanitizing stations.
- Officials should bring their own personal hand sanitizer.
- Pre-game or pre-event meetings between teams and/or sports and contest officials should be planned to allow appropriate distancing between individuals. Masks must be worn.
- Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. No hand shaking or contact of any kind. No approaching each other. A display of sportsmanship can be done from safe distance. Masks should be worn.
- Only one person at a time will be allowed to use the restroom. Visitors must only use assigned bathroom by host team.
- The only people allowed at a TCSAAL event must be on the formal roster. This includes head coach, assistant coach, videographer. Also, school admin and a score keeper. Plus, a TCSAAL league staffer as needed.

FANS & SPECTATORS:

- Fans and family members will not be allowed entry to watch games at this time (Flag & Volleyball Season). Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are unable to allow spectators in person (we encourage you to stream games online, and TCSAAL will plan to do so for the State Playoffs). Please note that TCSAAL only reviews film for sportsmanship issues. We do not review official's rulings.

- Team rosters will allow for a “videographer” to live stream the game to your families and fans.
- No cheerleaders or entertainment (band, etc.)
- We encourage a hosting team to provide a wireless internet login for their visiting team, but this is not required, and it is each team’s responsibility to handle their own internet needs.

Mask Protocol

- All in attendance, including student athletes, coaches, officials and event staff will be required to wear a mask/face covering at all times when not in the game. When on the sidelines, players must always have a face cover on. Coaches and team staff must keep their masks/face covers on at all times when at a TCSAAL event. Masks must cover mouth and nose at all times when being worn.
- The only exception to wearing a mask is any person with a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering and has a medical note.

Playoff Guidelines

- No Tie Breaker Games (we will use the following to determine playoff advancing)
 - Beyond the current tiebreaker criteria as detailed in the TCSAAL Handbook (See handbook for all tie-breaker steps), if teams are still tied for an advancing position the procedure will follow to include the additional criteria detailed below. We will not play tiebreaker games in flag football and volleyball.
 - 10. Average sets or points conceded in division games.11. Average sets or points conceded in all TCSAAL sanctioned games, including non-division games.12. Average sets or points won in division games.13. Average sets or points won in all TCSAAL sanctioned games, including non-division games.14. Coin flip.
- Playoff Format (Higher tournament seed will host playoff games through the Regional Semi Finals - no fans)
- TCSAAL may send a league Representatives to a game (regular season and playoffs) as deemed necessary.
- Regional Championships, TCSAAL will provide facility for regional Championship games and State Playoff Games. (No Fans)

Return to Play Guidelines

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are test-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (**COVID-19 Symptom Check** listed above) must

stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 1. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 2. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 3. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test (at a physician's office, approved testing location, or other site) that is negative for COVID-19.
- In addition to the criteria and processes described above, a student who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must receive clearance from a physician prior to returning to participation in UIL marching band or athletic activities.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A TEAM GETS A COVID CASE?

- If teammate coach or team personnel that has been with the team is diagnosed with COVID-19 then that team must suspend all play for 10 days.
- If teammate coach or team personnel is presumed to have COVID-19 then that team must suspend play until the presumed individual has been cleared by a doctor for not having COVID-19 or 10 days has passed, and the individual completes return to play procedures. That individual must still follow all return to play procedures.
- All games that are postponed due to COVID-19 can be rescheduled if time allows.
 - All regular season games must be completed by November 21, 2020 for flag and volleyball.
 - Any game that cannot be made up may be ruled a forfeit against the team that was unable to play. All teams must comply with reschedules within the regular season window when assigned by regional director.
 - In the event that division games do not get played due to COVID-19 a team is still playoff eligible if they complete at least a majority of division games.

- If a division only has one team or less eligible based on the above for playoffs that team will be the 1 seed and the remaining team will be determined based on winning percentage.

Remote Learning Students

Students participating in remote learning offered by their school district, whether synchronous or asynchronous (as defined by TEA), may participate in TCSAAL activities if they meet all other TCSAAL eligibility requirements. Students must be enrolled in remote learning options through the school the student will represent. Schools may develop local policies with additional requirements for participation.

VOLLEYBALL SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:

Officials

- Officials' are encouraged to wear masks at all times. Not required while on court officiating.
- Line judges if being utilized must wear a mask at all times.
 - It is encouraged to go without line judges in sub varsity matches to reduce the number of people present.
 - Line judges use hand signals but not flags. Flags create additional airflow which can easily spread the aerosol of any airborne microorganisms.

Before the match

- Each team brings their own warmup balls.
- No switching of benches. Home team chooses a bench for the match; visitors take the other.
- No coin toss; Visiting team serves first, loser of set 2 or 4 serves for the deciding set (3 or 5).
- Each team brings two or more towels to wipe their team's side of the court. Referees no longer will handle towels.

Warm-ups

- No shared court. This will stop players from chasing a ball that may enter the other court.
- Warm up Procedure, (suggested timeline if match starts at 5:00).
 - 4:30 to 4:39 Peppering - Visiting team has the entire court; home team is at their bench area away from the court. Balls must be picked up before the home team enters the court.

- 4:40 to 4:49 Peppering - Home team has the entire court; visiting team is at their bench area away from the court. Balls must be picked up before the visiting team enters the court.
- 4:50 to 4:55 Hitting – Visiting team has the entire court and serves within these 5 minutes.
- 4:55 to 5:00 Hitting – Home team has the entire court and serves within these 5 minutes.

During the match

- Line judges use hand signals but not flags. Flags create additional airflow which can easily spread the aerosol of any airborne microorganisms.
- Only the home team scorers are allowed on the official table.
- Wipe off ball between sets and timeouts.
- Penalty for not wearing a mask or other COVID-19 violations: First time per team is a warning, recurring times is side-out point to other team. If COVID-19 violations become excessive then officials can forfeit match. Masks are for everyone's safety and are our best defense to keeping everyone safe and maintaining the season. Please ensure you and all of your team are complying by covering their mouth and nose.

Post-Match

- Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. No hand shaking or contact of any kind. No approaching each other. Masks must be worn.
- Teams need to get all of their belongings and leave the game site ASAP.
- If multiple games are being played in the same location teams playing in next game need to wait outside or on bus. They should not enter gym before the other game has completed and everyone involved with that game has left.
- If parents are present, they must remain in their cars. They cannot come watch from a distance.

Flag Football Specific Guidelines

- Officials' are encouraged to wear masks at all times. Not required while on field during officiating.
- Penalty for not wearing a mask or other COVID-19 violations: First time per team is a warning, recurring times is a five-yard penalty. If becomes excessive then officials can forfeit game. Masks are for everyone's safety and are our best defense to keeping

everyone safe and maintaining the season. Please ensure you and all of your team are complying by covering their mouth and nose.

- Teams should be on opposite sides of the field when possible.
- Wipe off ball between possessions, quarters and timeouts.
- Pregame and post-game gestures of sportsmanship should be conducted between teams and sports and contest officials in ways planned to help reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19. No hand shaking or contact of any kind. No approaching each other. Masks must be worn.
- Teams need to get all of their belongings and leave the game site ASAP.
- If multiple games are being played in the same location teams playing in next game need to wait outside or on bus. They should not enter field area before the other game has completed and everyone involved with that game has left.
- If parents are present, they must remain in their cars. They cannot come watch from a distance.

TCSAAL COVID-19 Fall Guidelines & Updates

COVID-19 is an ever-changing situation Therefore TCSAAL will be re-evaluating and assessing best practices throughout the season. Therefore, this document is subject to change at any time. Changes will be communicated via email and through our website.