



# **NDHSAA COVID- 19 MEDIA GUIDANCE**

**NDHSAA COVID-19 MEDIA POLICY MISSION STATEMENT**

The North Dakota High School Activities Association is committed to the health and safety of all of its member schools, student participants, patrons and members of the media. In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the NDHSAA has provided guidance on returning to competition safely for its sponsored sports and activities. With COVID-19 impacting schedules, plans, procedures and protocols rapidly, modifications to NDHSAA events may become necessary to help ensure the safety of those involved. The NDHSAA enjoys working with our state's professional media members and will continue to do so as our state navigates the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## **COVID-19 MEDIA GUIDANCE FOR REGULAR SEASON CONTESTS**

If local school districts elect to sponsor fall sports and activities in 2020, the NDHSAA encourages each local school district to set their own policies regarding who is essential to be "working" at their sporting/fine arts contests including outside media outlets wishing to cover these events.

The NDHSAA also encourages members of the media wishing to provide coverage of high school athletic contests involving NDHSAA member schools to contact local school administrators in advance of any event to get full details on what may be required of them in order to attend the contest.

Media Access may be restricted or different due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and media members must be prepared to accept these restrictions and work with local school administrators on what will be possible regarding media coverage. This may include but not limited to:

1. Not having in-person access to student athletes/participants/coaches following a contest
2. Not having a place to broadcast at the scorer's table or press box, but perhaps somewhere else at a facility
3. Being required to wear a mask/face covering
4. Only having interview access to student athletes/participants/coaches via a virtual method where applicable.
5. Only being able to interview athletes/participants/coaches from an appropriate socially distanced length prescribed by a local public health unit.

## **COVID-19 MEDIA POLICY PLAN (REGION/STATE EVENTS)**

The NDHSAA will adhere to the plan/options below regarding media access at its sponsored region and state tournaments.

1. **AS IS “NORMAL”:** No restrictions are present and the media functions at NDHSAA region or state tournaments as if it were “back to normal,” however, practicing good hygiene (washing hands, disinfecting equipment, disinfecting work area(s), etc.)
2. **MEDIA LIMITATIONS:** Restrictions are present and as a result: Increased press area awareness to social distancing, possible required masks/face coverings, pool photography & information gathering required for reporting, possible restrictions on the number of media personnel credentialed, radio stations sharing feeds with other stations.
3. **STRICT RESTRICTIONS:** Restrictions to an event are as such that attendance is limited to participants, coaches, contest officials, a small representation of the state’s media and a reduced television crew (at tournaments where applicable). Media access in this phase would be assessed prior to the event with arrangements being made according to guidance received by the local health unit. Contracted NDHSAA Television partners would still be able to operate.