



The Big East Conference Administration unanimously recommends to its member schools that fall sports remain scheduled during the fall season of the 2020-21 school year.

The following conference-wide policies will apply to all Big East Conference Events:

- Admissions will be limited to 2 or fewer fans for all sports per athlete. Individual districts may restrict visitors further.
- The Big East will make available two (2) sport specific passes per athlete for fans attending competitions and events. There will be no general admission to Big East Conference events.
- Require face coverings for athletes and fans for the duration of the Fall Season in the sports of Volleyball, Football and Boys Soccer. Cross Country will follow the WIAA Guidelines for face coverings. Athletes with approved exemptions will need to provide a medical exemption to their school
- WIAA Fall Sport-Specific considerations will be followed for all Big East Conference competitions.
- There will be no concessions offered at Big East Conference events. Water bottles only will be allowed.

Fall 2020 EWC Athletic Event Information

The goal of this plan is to come together in a unified protocol, however, if any school sees a protocol not fitting their reopening plans, transparency will be key to the communication to the public and other conference schools.

The following information will outline the procedures in place for participation and hosting of EWC athletic events for the Fall 2020 season. This document has been created in collaboration with all EWC Activities Directors, Administrators, local health officials, and guidance from the WIAA. Regular consultation will take place with local health departments about the current status of COVID-19 in each individual school district and protocols will be followed.

The following has been created based upon the student(s) being in school during the day, so Pre-Workout/Contest Screen would have taken place in order to attend school on any given day.

Soccer

Social distancing -- MAKE SURE WE COMMUNICATE THIS TO THE NON EWC SCHOOLS

- Practice – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This includes additional spacing between athletes while stretching, warming up, chatting, changing drills, etc. Athletes must maintain spacing, and there should be no congregating of athletes while running drills. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Locker Rooms – Teams and Officials should arrive dressed for competition. Locker rooms are available to be used for restroom and storage purposes. No showers will be allowed. Team meetings will take place in an alternate location (outside).
- Benches – No benches should be used during practice. Players' items should be separated as below for personal items, at least six feet apart. Benches should be permitted only during games. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Practice Field – Only essential personnel are permitted on the practice/competition field. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/athletic trainers, and officials (competition). All others (i.e. managers, photographers, media, etc.) are considered non-essential personnel and are not to be on the field of play.
- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own gym bag for personal items (see gym bag information below). All personal items should remain in the gym bag when not in use. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of practice.
- Spectators – Spectators should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines. Each participant will be issued 4 tickets/passes for distribution upon their discretion. This will also fall under local control based on re-opening protocols. Tickets/passes will not be re-issued with lost/stolen/etc. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained. Home School can designate special considerations for their student section attendance. **Reminder--we are a shared conference with the Packerland Conference. Expectations will be communicated to Packerland Conference for attending EWC hosted events. Expectations when attending a Packerland hosted event may differ.**
- Media – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend games. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving at games to plan appropriate entry and available workspace. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Concession stands – Under local control
- Huddles – It is recommended that social distancing be maintained, as much as possible, when the coach is communicating with the entire team, or in smaller groups. Communicating with smaller groups is preferred. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Team Handshakes – Athletes shall NOT exchange handshakes before, during or following practices and competitions.

Game Protocols

- Face Coverings – Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are required to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing. If an individual would like to wear a face covering on the playing field or in a meeting, they may do so. There is no prohibition on the color of the face covering. Spectators, workers, and others are required to wear face coverings and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines.
- Pre-Game Conference -- Limited to head referee/center official, head coach from each respective team, and a single team captain. Meeting should be moved to center of the field to allow for social distancing.
- Player habits – Coaches should work to break old habits and create new ones in an effort to minimize the spread of the virus. Spitting and nose clearing on the field, and goalkeepers spitting on their gloves during practices and competitions should be eliminated. The habit of minimizing any touching of the face, and covering the cough should be instilled. Post goal, teams are encouraged not to gather and celebrate.
- Interaction with Officials – Coaches should consider social distancing guidelines (6 feet) when interacting with an official or any other individual in the area. Conversations can occur at a distance.
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes – Athletes, coaches, and officials are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes and use them frequently – including before prior to taking the field and upon return to the sideline. Additionally, it is emphasized to avoid touching the face throughout practice and competition.

Equipment

- General Equipment – There should be no shared athletic equipment. Any equipment that is used for practice should be cleaned and disinfected prior to and immediately following practice. Only one individual should handle the set-up and break-down of equipment on any given day (i.e. goals, flags, cones, etc.).
- Personal Items – Shoes, clothing, towels and other personal items must not be shared among athletes. Any items that are not currently being worn/used should be stored inside a personal gym bag. Gym bags should be placed in a predetermined area 6 feet apart for the duration of practice/competition.
- Foam Rollers, etc. – Must not be shared among athletes. Athletes are encouraged to purchase their own equipment and appropriately label.
- What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing EPA-registered disinfectants. Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

Hydration

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must ***NOT*** be shared.
- Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should ***NOT*** be utilized.

COVID-19 Coach:

- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- All coaches, staff, officials, and families should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

Gym Bag – Supplies recommended for your personal gym bag

1. A reusable facial mask – The mask should be worn when entering the practice/competition site and anytime you are not competing. Once warm-ups and practice/competition have begun on the field of play, you can put your mask into a baggie inside your gym bag. However, you must abide by the at least 6' apart rule at all times while unmasked.
2. Warm-ups and electronics and other personal items that are used by the athlete, prior to practice/competition, must be placed back in the gym bag before practice/competition begins.
3. Personal bottle of hand sanitizer – less chance of possible cross contamination and less time standing around waiting to use a shared gym bottle – be sure to have this inside a Ziploc bag, in case it leaks. This will be used when you enter and exit the practice/competition site, and at other necessary times in between.
4. Disinfectant wipes for personal use. When using a restroom area, you should disinfect any surface that you will be touching, before and after using the facilities.
5. Athletic braces, tape, inhalers, or any other sports-medical item you may use before, during or after practice/meets should be stored in your gym bag when not in use.
6. Personal water bottles for drinking – the water fountains will not be in use because of CDC guidelines.
7. Additional shoes should also be stored in a separate compartment or bag inside your gym bag – preventing possible cross contamination with other items in the gym bag.
8. Any other item that you deem necessary for practice or competition must be stored in your gym bag when you are not using it.

**Everything inside the gym bag must be disinfected after every practice – before you return to practice again. Be sure to spray the inside and the outside of the bag as well. This is for everyone's protection, we don't want to take a chance of carrying any potential virus back and forth.

Tennis

Social distancing -- MAKE SURE WE COMMUNICATE THIS TO THE NON EWC SCHOOLS

- Practice – Coaches are responsible for ensuring social distancing is maintained between players as much as possible. This means additional spacing between players while playing chatting, changing drills so that players remain spaced out, and no congregating of players while waiting to practice or play. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- On Court Play – Only essential personnel are permitted on the tennis courts. These are defined as players, coaches, athletic trainers, and officials. All others, i.e., ball boys, managers, video people, media photographers, etc. are considered non-essential personnel and are to be in the gallery remaining in the seating area (when present) or remaining outside the court area (behind the fence).
- Spectators – Spectators should practice social distancing between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines. Each participant will be issued 4 tickets/passes for distribution upon their discretion. This will also fall under local control based on re-opening protocols. Tickets/passes will not be re-issued with lost/stolen/etc.
- Media – All local social distancing and hygiene guidelines for spectators should be followed by media members planning to attend games. Media members should contact host school administrators prior to arriving. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Concession stands – Under local control
- Coach conferences – Coaches conference are limited to HEAD COACHES. It is required that coaches wear a mask.
- Team/Individual handshakes – Teams/individuals shall NOT exchange handshakes before, during, or following the practice, match or meet.
- Press area – Local schools shall determine which personnel should be in the designated press area considering Wisconsin DHS guidelines.

Practice and Game Protocols

- Face Coverings– Players are not required to wear cloth face coverings, but may do so if they desire. Coaches and others are required to wear masks, especially when not able to maintain social distancing. If an individual would like to wear a face covering on the court or in a meeting, they may do so. There is no prohibition on the color of the mask. Spectators, workers, and others are encouraged to wear masks and they are expected to follow social distancing guidelines. Face coverings are required when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Meet Introductions– Are allowed with social distancing and masks required. No handshakes between opponents..
- Tennis balls – Open and use two cans of tennis balls. Each player will receive two tennis balls of different numbers—Limit handling tennis balls. Use racquet and/or feet to advance the ball to the opponent on the other side.

- Player habits – Coaches should work to create new habits including staying away from touching their face, and not spitting. Avoid touching court gates, fences, benches, etc., if you can, and other players' equipment or tennis balls.
- Hand sanitizer and/or sanitizing wipes – Players, coaches, and umpires are encouraged to provide their own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and/or sanitizing wipes. The WIAA SMAC recommends using hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) before and after each set and match and when going out to, and coming in from, the courts. Additionally, emphasize to all to avoid touching their face.

Equipment

- Tennis equipment – Players are required to use their own equipment. Players should not touch other players' equipment. Players are required to sanitize their equipment before and after practice and contests.
- Court equipment – Players should avoid touching court gates, fences, benches, etc. if you can.
- What kinds or brands of sanitizer should we be using – The WIAA SMAC recommends referencing and utilizing EPA-registered disinfectants. Balls and equipment may be wiped with listed disinfectants and a damp cloth.

Hydration

- All students shall bring their own water bottle. Water bottles must **NOT** be shared.
 - Hydration stations (water cows, water trough, water fountains, etc.) should **NOT** be utilized.
- COVID-19 Coach:
- Designate a coach to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
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 - Train coaches, officials, and staff on all safety protocols. Conduct training virtually, or ensure that social distancing is maintained during training.

Gym Bag – Supplies recommended for your personal gym bag

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2. Warm-ups and electronics and other personal items that are used by the athlete, prior to practice/competition, must be placed back in the gym bag before practice/competition begins.
3. Personal bottle of hand sanitizer - less chance of possible cross contamination and less time standing around waiting to use a shared gym bottle – be sure to have this inside a Ziploc bag, in case it leaks. This will be used when you enter and exit the practice/competition site, and at other necessary times in between.
4. Disinfectant wipes for personal use. When using a restroom area, you should disinfect any surface that you will be touching, before and after using the facilities.
5. Athletic braces, tape, inhalers, or any other sports-medical item you may use before, during or after practice/meets should be stored in your gym bag when not in use.

6. Personal water bottles for drinking— the water fountains will not be in use because of CDC guidelines.

7. Additional shoes should also be stored in a separate compartment or bag inside your gym bag - preventing possible cross contamination with other items in the gym bag.

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