

SIJHSAA STANCE ON MASK MANDATES AND ISBE RECOGNITION
(As of Monday, August 16, 2021)

Since Governor Pritzker's announcement last week regarding the mask mandate for PreK-12 schools, the SIJHSAA office has received numerous questions how schools can navigate this with some schools meeting the mandate while other schools choose masks optional. During regular season and until schools would become unrecognized by ISBE, schools may compete in the regular season under the following guidelines for indoor competition.

***Schools Choosing Masks Optional:** These schools must communicate with their opponents in advance of the day of competition the parameters surrounding competition and spectator attendance. If schools cannot agree on the terms of competition, the scheduled contest will be deemed "no contest." This is a local decision. (INDOOR)

Note: If outdoor COVID Mandates change, the above mentioned guideline will apply.

***Mask Mandate and SIJHSAA State Series:** If the mask mandate for indoor sports remains in place during the SIJHSAA State Series, all schools will abide by the mask mandate including students, coaches, officials and spectators.

Note: This stance will apply to outdoor sports if guidance changes.

***ISBE Recognition Status:** Should a school become unrecognized by ISBE, the school would no longer meet the requirements for membership and be eliminated from regular season and state series competition in all sports. Reinstatement to SIJHSAA membership is immediate upon notification of Recognition by ISBE.

***Failure to field a team due to COVID Quarantine:** A team that isn't able to compete because of a lack of available players, due to COVID Quarantine, will take a forfeit loss while their opponent accepts a forfeit win.

***COVID Screening and Testing:** Last week IDPH updated the All Sports Policy with the latest guidance for outdoor and indoor sports. They have additionally provided recommendations on screening and testing for COVID should schools choose to adopt this locally. The SIJHSAA nor the IHSA does not have access to any tests and aren't aware of any distribution plan for tests.