



2021-2022 RETURN TO SCHOOL SPORT PLAN

Updated: January 7, 2022

PREAMBLE

School sport has countless physical, mental, and emotional health benefits. As much as any other group or individual, the MHSAA is excited to see school sport return. First and foremost, the safety of all involved with school sport is the priority of the MHSAA and directives from the Government of Manitoba take precedence over any decision made at the MHSAA, school division or school level.

In accordance with the Government of Manitoba's Public Health Orders, the MHSAA's Return to School Sport plan permits school sport to return.

It should be emphasised that this plan is current and fluid. The MHSAA will continue to re-evaluate and adapt as new information and guidelines become available, with the best interest of our student-athletes always in mind.

RETURN TO SCHOOL SPORT APPROVAL

It is vital that before any Return to School Sport occurs, that you consult and obtain approval from your school division's administration, or school administration for independent schools. Further, each school's administration will be responsible to determine how Return to School Sport will be implemented in their building, ensuring all current Provincial Public Health Orders are followed and each sport specific Return to Play Protocol is being adhered to.

USE OF MASKS

Current Public Health Order:

A person who enters or remains in an indoor public place must wear a mask in a manner that covers their mouth, nose, and chin without gapping.

The above statements do not apply in respect of the following:

- *a child who is under five years of age;*
 - *a person with a medical condition that is unrelated to COVID-19, including breathing or cognitive difficulties, or a disability, that prevents them from safely wearing a mask;*
 - *a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person;*
 - *a person who is swimming or engaged in other athletic activities;*
 - *a person who needs to temporarily remove their mask while in the indoor public place for the purpose of:*
 - *receiving a service that requires the removal of their mask,*
 - *consuming food or drink,*
 - *an emergency or medical purpose,*
- or*
- *establishing their identity.*

Schools must adhere to each sport specific Return to Play Protocol and facility guidelines regarding the use of masks, and if they are needed be worn on the field of play while actively participating in the sport.

If there is a discrepancy in mask use policies between a sport specific Return to Play Protocol and a facility or school division policy, the policy with the highest level of protection must be adhered to for all participating.

IMMUNIZATION

Student Athletes:

Public health orders require **student athletes aged 12 to 17 years** attending indoor sporting and recreational facilities (including schools) to provide proof they have received at least one dose of the Pfizer- BioNTech or Moderna vaccine for COVID-19.

If they have not had at least one dose, they must provide proof of a pharmacist-confirmed negative result from an approved rapid antigen test, from a test taken within the 72 hours before they participate. The public health orders do not allow other health care providers to confirm a test result.

18-year-old student athletes who participate in indoor school sports MUST provide proof of full vaccination to participate. Rapid antigen testing for this age group is not an option.

Coaches & Officials:

Coaches, volunteers, and officials aged 18 years and older (whether teachers, parents, or members of the public) MUST provide proof of full vaccination. Rapid antigen testing for this age group is not an option.

Outdoor School Sports:

There are no current immunization requirements for outdoor school sports.

For further details regarding: Collection and Management of Personal Health Information, Proof of Vaccination and Testing, Managing Disclosure, Frequently Asked Questions, and Roster Attestation Form Information please visit the following document:

http://www.mhsaa.ca/assets/content/COVID-19_Public%20Health%20Orders%20for%20Indoor%20Youth%20Sports-Schools_Fact%20Sheet_EN_Dec%202021.pdf

EXHIBITION & LEAGUE PLAY

The MHSAA permits exhibition and league play provided that the Zone receives approval from their respective school division(s), or school(s) administration for independent schools. All current Provincial Public Health Orders must be followed and the sport specific Return to Play Protocol must be adhered to. No out-of-province teams are permitted to participate.

TOURNAMENTS

As per current Public Health Orders, tournaments are prohibited to take place until at least February 1, 2022. All tournaments scheduled to operate within these new health order timelines are not to operate at any indoor sporting facility in Manitoba.

As per Public Health: *Tournaments are defined as a single or multi-day gathering of three or more sport teams, who come together outside regular league play, but does not include; a gathering where team members compete on an individual basis against members of other teams.*

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Provincial Championships will take place, if, and when possible.

The MHSAA currently plans to move forward with the Provincial Curling and Mixed Doubles Curling Championships, the Provincial Hockey Championships, and the Provincial JV and Varsity Basketball Championships.

All teams participating must have received approval from their respective school division(s), or school(s) administration for independent schools. All current Provincial Public Health Orders will be followed and the sport specific Return to Play Protocol will be adhered to.

SPECTATORS

At all times, physical distancing should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible.

Each school division's administration, or school administration for independent schools, is responsible to determine their own policy on the allowance of spectators.

It is the full responsibility of the 'home' or host school to ensure the Provincial Public Health Orders regarding spectators are adhered to. If a school is willing to have spectators, the current Provincial Public Health Orders can be summarized as follows:

Outdoor spectator capacity:

The number of spectators at the facility cannot exceed 50% of the usual spectator capacity of the facility or 250 persons, whichever is lesser.

Indoor spectator capacity:

The number of spectators at the facility cannot exceed 50% of the usual spectator capacity of the facility or 250 persons, whichever is lesser.

Indoor sporting events:

Anyone 18 and older who is entering any indoor sporting or recreational facilities (including schools) is required to provide proof of full vaccination.

Public health orders require youth aged 12 to 17 years entering any indoor sporting or recreational facilities (including schools) to watch or participate to provide proof they have received at least one dose of the Pfizer- BioNTech or Moderna vaccine for COVID-19.

If they have not had at least one dose, they must provide proof of a pharmacist-confirmed negative result from an approved rapid antigen test, from a test taken within the 72 hours before they participate. The public health orders do not allow other health care providers to confirm a test result.

Ticketed sporting events:

Anyone 12 and older who is entering any indoor sporting or recreational facilities (including schools) to spectate a ticketed sport event, where admissions are collected, is required to provide proof of full vaccination. This includes all events that have gate admission (indoor and outdoor sport events).

INTERPROVINCIAL TRAVEL AND TOURNAMENTS

MHSAA member schools will not be sanctioned to travel out-of-province or attend out-of-province tournaments at this time and until further notice.

PROVINCIAL SPORT ORGANIZATION (PSO) RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOLS

Sport specific guidelines for each of the MHSAA's sports is available below. These links provide access to approved PSO Return to Play Protocols.

Football Manitoba: <http://footballmanitoba.com/>

Golf Manitoba: <http://golfmb.ca/>

Manitoba Soccer Association: <http://manitobasoccer.ca/>

Athletics Manitoba (Cross Country and Track & Field): <http://athleticsmanitoba.com/>

Volleyball Manitoba: <https://volleyballmanitoba.ca/>

Hockey Manitoba: <http://www.hockeymanitoba.ca/>

Basketball Manitoba: <https://www.basketballmanitoba.ca/>

Curl Manitoba: <https://curlmanitoba.org/>

Manitoba Badminton Association: <https://www.badminton.mb.ca/page/37761/COVID19-Return-to-Play>

Baseball Manitoba: <http://www.baseballmanitoba.ca/>

Softball Manitoba: <http://www.softball.mb.ca/>

Manitoba Organization of Disc Sports (Ultimate): <https://mods.mb.ca/>

Manitoba Lacrosse Association: <https://manitobalacrosse.com/>

Rugby Manitoba: <https://rugbymb.ca/>

The MHSAA remains committed to protecting the health and safety of our student-athletes, staff, coaches, member-schools, and the health of all our fellow Manitobans.