



2021-2022 RETURN TO SCHOOL SPORT PLAN

Updated: September 7, 2021

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

In the current Public Health Orders, there are **NO** immunization requirements for K-12 students to participate in indoor school sports.

All coaches, team personnel, and officials 18 years of age and up **MUST** be fully vaccinated to participate in all indoor school sports.

There are no current immunization requirements for outdoor school sports.

***NOTE:** It is the full responsibility of each school to ensure their coaches, team personnel, and officials staff comply with all Provincial Public Health Orders regarding immunization.*

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

Hosting and participating in tournaments within Manitoba may proceed. The MHSAA is accepting sanctioning requests for tournaments in all sports.

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 must be followed and the sport specific Return to Play Protocol must be adhered to. No out-of-province teams are permitted to participate.

As per [Manitoba Education's Restoring Safe Schools 2021-2022 Guidelines](#), **overnight trips remain prohibited**. This is subject to change. Any change will follow Public Health Recommendations and Orders at the time.

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Provincial Championships will take place, if and when possible. Currently Provincial Championships have been paused to do Manitoba Education's restriction on overnight trips.

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

As per current Provincial Public Health Orders:

Outdoor facilities: The number of spectators at an outdoor sporting or recreational facility must not exceed 50% of the usual spectator capacity of the facility.

Indoor facilities: Indoor sporting and recreational facilities must not operate unless admission of members of the public to the facility is restricted to the following:

- persons who produce proof that they are fully immunized;
- persons who produce proof from the Government of Manitoba that there is a medical reason for the person not to receive a vaccine for COVID-19;
- persons under 18 years of age.

For certainty, the above applies to spectators who are watching sporting or recreational activities at the facility.

NOTE: It is the full responsibility of the 'home' or host school to ensure the Provincial Public Health Orders regarding spectators are adhered to.

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://golymb.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.