



## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021 OFSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FESTIVALS

### OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this document is to provide OFSAA convenors and host committees with the necessary additional information and support to safely organize and host this fall's OFSAA events. The information within this document is based on (and follows) the direction provided in the following:

- [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act 2020](#)
- [COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools \(2021 - 2022\)](#)
- [OPHEA: COVID-19 Considerations for: Interschool Athletic Activities](#)

“The government will monitor the COVID-19 situation, including ongoing risks related to variants of concern (VOCs) and alignment with broader provincial guidance and direction. The ministry will continue to work with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and local public health units (PHUs) to access key measures to inform and update provincial guidance and direction, including lifting measures when appropriate. Local public health units may require additional or enhanced health and safety measures based on local experience and data. Medical officers of health in local public health units also have the statutory powers under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, which they may use to address outbreaks or risks of COVID-19 transmission in schools.” - (COVID-19: Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for Schools, p. 3)

OFSAA encourages event convenors to continue to work closely with their local school boards and public health units on their fall event plans. OFSAA event host committees are expected to employ multiple strategies and a layering of controls to support healthy and safe environments for students, staff, and visitors. It is recommended that convenors designate volunteers on the organizing committee who will be responsible for the implementation of COVID-19 protocols. Convenors are also asked to work with and / or request support from the OFSAA staff liaison assigned to their event. Due to the ever-changing landscape with COVID-19, and the potential need for contingency plans, the connection with OFSAA is expected to be greater this fall.

The information within this document will be re-evaluated regularly and, where required, updated based on public health advice throughout the fall of 2021. Any changes will be communicated to event convenors in a timely manner.



## **CLASSIFICATION OF OFSAA FALL SPORTS:**

High-contact sports are defined as sports/activities where there is physical contact and/or close proximity required between individuals. The following OFSAA events are classified as high contact: Girls' Field Hockey, Girls' Basketball, Football

Low-contact sports are those that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants and allow for physical distancing most of the time. The following OFSAA events are considered low contact: Girls' & Boys' Golf, Cross Country Running, Boys' Volleyball

\* High and low contact sports are permitted indoors and outdoors. \*

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS COMMON TO ALL FALL 2021 OFSAA EVENTS:**

### **1. MASKING:**

Host committees need to ensure proper masking guidelines are followed at OFSAA events.

- Masking is not required when playing high or low contact activities outdoors.
- Masking is encouraged for indoor sports where they can be worn safely based on the activity.
- For indoor activities, windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.
- Any visitors (e.g., spectators, athletic trainers, etc.) are required to wear a medical mask. Host committees must provide a medical mask if necessary.
- See more information in the sport specific protocols re: coaches, officials, spectators, players on the bench/sidelines.

### **2. SCREENING:**

Host committees need to ensure that all spectators and participants at OFSAA events self-screen (daily) and that records are being kept.

- A process must be in place to confirm the self-screening of all spectators and participants prior to or upon their arrival.
- Depending on the location of the championship, the timing of the competition, and the type of individual (spectator vs. participant), etc. the screening process may be completed by the school or venue or a combination of both.

### **3. RECORD KEEPING:**

Host committees need to ensure that proper record keeping with respect to COVID-19 is taking place at OFSAA events.

- The name and contact information (phone number) for all spectators and participants must be recorded.
- Coaches will provide this information upon registration to the host committee for all individuals connected to their team.



- In the event of a contact tracing request from the public health unit, convenors must be able to provide or facilitate access to records that contain the names and contact information (phone number) of everyone that attended the OFSAA event during the specific time frame.

#### **4. REPORTING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19:**

Host committees must have a procedure in place to handle any students, staff or spectators who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during an OFSAA event.

- Designate a main contact person.
- Identify an area/ room to serve as the designated space to isolate someone who is experiencing symptoms while they await pick-up.
- Ensure that proper reporting procedures are followed.
- Ensure that personal protective equipment is available for any staff that interact with the person.

#### **5. HAND HYGIENE AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE:**

Host Committees need to ensure that proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are reinforced at OFSAA events.

- Hand hygiene should be conducted by anyone entering an OFSAA championship and incorporated into their daily schedule at regular intervals during the day.
- Appropriate signage should be placed around activity areas.
- People should have the supplies they need for appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and these supplies should be easily accessible.

#### **6. DISTANCING AND CONGREGATING:**

Host committees need to promote as much physical distancing as possible between individuals at OFSAA events.

- Periods of movement (athletes, spectators) should be staggered, if possible, to limit congregation.
- Physical distancing measures are to be layered with other public health measures (e.g., screening, hand hygiene, cohorting, enhanced cleaning, masking)

#### **7. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:**

Host Committees need to develop arrival and departure procedures for OFSAA events that support physical distancing where possible.

- Maximizing use of all possible entrances and exits, creating designed routes for participants and spectators to get to the competition area, provide visual cues or physical guides, such as tape on the floor or sidewalks and signs / posters on walls
- Hand sanitizers should be available at all entrances and exits



- Staggering arrival and departure times is recommended to support cohorting and physical distancing measures.
- The individual pick-up/drop-off of students should happen outside the area or within a designated and isolated area.

## 8. CLEANING OF HIGH TOUCH AREAS:

Host committees must ensure / confirm that high touch areas at OFSAA events are cleaned in accordance with health and safety guidelines.

- Cleaning plus disinfecting twice daily is suggested as a minimum, however more frequent cleaning may be necessary depending on the frequency of use.

## 9. SHARED MATERIALS:

Host committees can allow the use of shared materials at OFSAA events.

- The focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk.

## 10. SHARED SPACES:

Host Committees must ensure proper procedures are in place to control the interaction between different cohorts (e.g., athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, medical personnel) in shared spaces at OFSAA events.

- Masking, signs and as much distancing as possible between cohorts (e.g. athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, medical personnel) should be maintained.
- **Areas to be addressed: changerooms, meeting rooms, officials' meeting, hospitality area, registration, gate, concessions, merchandise and clothing sales, award ceremonies, benches, hand hygiene stations.**

## 11. TRANSPORTATION:

Host Committees must ensure that expectations regarding student transportation are being followed by all participants of OFSAA events.

- Each team will be expected to follow their board's policies and procedures regarding student transportation (e.g., capacity, assigned seating, masking, records, windows, etc.)

## 12. VENTILATION:

Host Committees must ensure / confirm that the new ventilation expectations for indoor areas within schools are being met for OFSAA events.

- School boards are responsible for meeting these expectations.
- For indoor activities, windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.



### **13. HYDRATION:**

Host committees must communicate that water bottles are not to be shared at OFSAA events.

- Each athlete is encouraged to bring their own drink bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day and not shared.

### **14. SCHEDULING:**

Host Committees need to develop a schedule that minimizes the mixing of cohorts at OFSAA events.

- Plan schedules so that the arrival and departure of teams do not overlap and that there is time between events/games to decrease/avoid congregations of teams.

### **15. FACILITY CAPACITY:**

Host committees must ensure that COVID-19 capacity limits are being monitored and implemented for all facilities used for OFSAA events.

- Be aware of the maximum number of occupants in relation to school board, public health policies, and provincial capacity limits, for any facility being used.
- Actual limits can be found in [Reopening Ontario \(A Flexible Response to COVID-19\) Act 2020](#), Schedule 2 (16) (1).

### **16. SPECTATORS:**

Outdoor stadium venues which hold a large capacity and allow for physical distancing between spectators and event participants (e.g., students, coaches, and referees/officials) will be permitted to have spectators. Host committees must ensure:

- Coordinate with venue management any COVID-19 safety measures required.
- See more information regarding spectators in the sport specific protocols.

### **17. OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS:**

Host committees must ensure that officials and volunteers adhere to all COVID-19 protocols during OFSAA events.

- Communicate with officials regarding COVID-19 protocols established by their association.
- Officials and community volunteers must wear a medical mask if they are required to wear a mask.
- See more information regarding masking and distancing in the sport specific protocols.

### **18. BANQUET:**

Host committees will not be permitted to host a banquet at OFSAA events.



## **19. COMMUNICATION:**

Host committee must implement a comprehensive communication plan for their OFSAA events.

- Target audiences: students, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, and community.
- Provide information regarding hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, masking, screening, reporting, capacity limits, expectations, water bottles etc.

## **20. COACHES MEETING:**

Host committee must conduct the coaches' meeting online for OFSAA fall events.



**SPORT SPECIFIC COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:**

**OFSAA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS - FALL 2021**

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do not require masking during the round of play.</li><li>● Require masking while indoors (e.g., change rooms, meeting rooms, club house).</li></ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do not require masking while outdoors if physical distancing is in place.</li><li>● Require masking while indoors (e.g., change rooms, meeting rooms, club house).</li></ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are not permitted.</li></ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Pre/Post Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Players will not shake hands before or after the round.</li><li>● Players will minimize time on the course following their round and leave the facility in a timely fashion.</li><li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.</li></ul>



### OFSAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - FALL 2021

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do not require masking while participating in a warm up or race.</li><li>● Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms.</li></ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Officials / Marshalls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are not permitted.</li></ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Start Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Guidelines will be implemented to reduce gathering.</li></ul>
Finish Line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Guidelines will be implemented to reduce gathering.</li><li>● Athletes and teams will minimize time in the venue following the race and leave the venue in a timely fashion.</li><li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. Individual award winners will retrieve their award from the awards area. For team awards, a team designate must retrieve the team awards.</li></ul>





### OFSAA FIELD HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP - FALL 2021

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game.</li><li>● Require masking while on the sidelines.</li><li>● Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms.</li></ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Follow the Field Hockey Ontario (FHO) protocols for officials.</li></ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are not permitted</li></ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Pre-Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Players will not shake hands during coin toss and distancing will occur between teams and officials.</li></ul>
Post Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teams will not shake hands after the game. (Consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead)</li><li>● Teams will minimize time on the field following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion.</li><li>● Game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game.</li><li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area.</li></ul>



## OFSAA VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - FALL 2021

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game.</li><li>● Require masking on the bench.</li><li>● Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms.</li><li>● Require masking post game.</li></ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Follow the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) protocols for officials.</li><li>● Minor officials (lines crew, scorers) require masking.</li></ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Always require masking.</li></ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are not permitted.</li></ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Pre-Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Captains will not shake hands and physical distancing will occur between players and officials.</li></ul>
Post Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teams will not shake hands after the game. (Consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead)</li><li>● Teams will minimize time on the court following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion.</li><li>● The score table must be cleaned and disinfected between each new group of scorers.</li><li>● The benches, referee stands, and game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each match.</li><li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area.</li></ul>

## OFSAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS - FALL 2021

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game.</li> <li>● Require masking on the bench.</li> <li>● Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms.</li> <li>● Require masking post game.</li> </ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Always require masking.</li> </ul>
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow the Ontario Association of Basketball Officials (OABO) protocols for officials.</li> <li>● Minor officials (scorers and timers) require masking.</li> </ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Always require masking.</li> </ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Are not permitted.</li> </ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Pre-Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Captains will not shake hands and physical distancing will occur between players and officials.</li> </ul>
Post Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teams will not shake hands after the game. (Consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead)</li> <li>● Teams will minimize time on the court following the game.</li> <li>● The score table must be cleaned and disinfected between each new group of scorers.</li> <li>● The benches and game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game.</li> <li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area.</li> </ul>

## OFSAA FOOTBALL FESTIVAL - FALL 2021

<b>Masking &amp; Distancing</b>	
Athletes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do not require masking while participating in the warm up or game.</li> <li>● Require masking while on the sidelines.</li> <li>● Require masking while in change rooms or meeting rooms.</li> <li>● Require masking post game.</li> </ul>
Coaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Always require masking.</li> </ul>
Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Follow Football Ontario protocols for officials.</li> <li>● Minor officials always require masking.</li> </ul>
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Always require masking.</li> </ul>
Spectators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Always require masking.</li> <li>● Spectators are permitted. Must remain in the stands and cannot access the field.</li> </ul>
<b>Sport Specific</b>	
Pre-Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Players will not shake hands during coin toss and distancing will occur between teams and officials.</li> </ul>
Post Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teams will not shake hands after the game. (Consider a brief team cheer as acknowledgement instead)</li> <li>● Teams will minimize time on the field following the game and leave the facility in a timely fashion.</li> <li>● Lines crew equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each new crew.</li> <li>● The benches and game equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each game.</li> <li>● Award ceremonies will implement proper distancing between players, coaches, officials, and volunteers. A team designate must retrieve the team awards from the awards area.</li> </ul>