Media Guidance and Information

- This guidance is for site administrators, coaches at member schools, and media personnel to ensure safe competition and coverage of League activities, the participants and their communities.
- Following protocols and risk-mitigating guidelines are crucial to assuring the safety of event participants.
- For further guidance, consult your district’s COVID-19 plans, as well as information from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education.
- Site administrators are responsible for informing all media personnel of any local guidelines for coverage that may exist.
- For further League assistance, contact Tim Leighton attleighton@mshsl.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Media Guidance and Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Outdoor Events:</strong></td>
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<td>- Media members count toward the 250 (or 25%) spectator count.</td>
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<td>- Number of official media is determined by the host site.</td>
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<td><strong>Indoor Events:</strong></td>
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<td>- Up to one streaming provider with essential personnel only.</td>
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<td>- Two radio broadcast stations. (No more than one per school/team.) (Preference given to registered MSHSL Radio Partners and Community Media Systems)</td>
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<td>- Two print media. (No more than one per school/team.) To include no more than one reporter and one photographer. (Preference given to those with longstanding coverage of the school and team.)</td>
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<td><strong>General Guidelines:</strong></td>
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<td>- Site administrators must know if media are present.</td>
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<td>- Media must communicate in advance of attendance for accommodation information and protocols.</td>
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<td>- Site administrators will determine when the venue will be open to the media and when it will close.</td>
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<td>- Upon arrival, site administrators will review restrictions and protocols with reporters and photographers.</td>
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- Media members should try to keep game statistics to the extent possible.
- Media should not encroach on participants, team benches, coaches or spectators.
- Interviews with coaches and participants must be done virtually.
- Media members at League events are expected to fulfill a “pool reporter” role and share gathered materials from the venue with other media.

**Event Access:**
- Press box access for media is under local control in consultation with the League.
- Press box seating will be based on occupancy ratios.
- Locker rooms are not accessible for media.

**Additional Considerations:**
- Complimentary refreshments for the media are not available.

**Face Coverings/Masks**
- Media personnel are required to wear face coverings/masks at all times and must practice social distancing.
- If a mask becomes uncomfortable or problematic for a media member, a site administrator will direct them to an area far away from student-participants and game personnel for temporary relief.

**Activity Specific Guidelines:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
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| Swim & Dive | - Media are not allowed within team areas either on the pool deck or elsewhere in the venue.  
- Media are not allowed behind the starting blocks or on the sides of the pool.  
- Photographers must not interfere with lane judges.  
- Site administration may designate an individual to share race times and statistics with media. |
| Cross Country| - Media are not allowed on the course during races.  
- Site administration may designate an individual to share race times and statistics with media. |
| Soccer      | - Media should not walk through or congregate behind the team benches.  
- Photographers must be at least five yards behind the sidelines and end lines for camera positions.  
- Media members are not permitted on the field of play.  
- Photographers may not shoot from behind the goals.  
- Site administrators should identify a section in the stands for media to sit during the event. The recommendation is in a corner on ground or |
lower level closest to a fence that allows media on the field. Where applicable, allow media to sit in every third seat per row.
- Every other row in the media area should be blocked off for proper physical distancing.
- A statistician from the home team may be the designated individual to share game statistics.

**Volleyball**
- Every other row in the bleachers in a designated section across from team benches is the recommended media zone.
- The scorers table and team benches are off limits to non-team personnel.
- A statistician from the home team may be the designated individual to share game statistics.

**Football**
- Site administrators will identify a section for media to sit during the event.
- On-field access for media: From the 10-yard line to the end line at the back of the end zone in all four corners of the field.
- Media personnel are not allowed in the 80-yard stretch between the 10-yard lines on each side of the field.
- If a team does not opt to use the “10 to 10” then media are allowed on the sideline traditionally from the 25-yard line toward the 10. A site administrator must approve this move.
- Media should not walk through or congregate behind the team box.
- A statistician from the home team may be the designated individual to share game statistics.

**Girls Tennis**
- Reporters and photographers must be at a safe distance so as not to interfere with participants, coaches or spectators.
- A statistician from the home team may be the designated individual to share game statistics.