



2020-2021 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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 at tleighton@mshsl.org

Media Guidance and Information	
Required:	<p>Outdoor Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media members count toward the 250 (or 25%) spectator count. • Number of official media is determined by the host site. <p>Indoor Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to one streaming provider with essential personnel only. • Two radio broadcast stations. (No more than one per school/team.) (Preference given to registered MSHSL Radio Partners and Community Media Systems) • 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.) <p>General Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site administrators must know if media are present. • Media must communicate in advance of attendance for accommodation information and protocols. • Site administrators will determine when the venue will be open to the media and when it will close. • Upon arrival, site administrators will review restrictions and protocols with reporters and photographers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Event Access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complimentary refreshments for the media are not available.
Face Coverings/Masks	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	
Swim & Dive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media are not allowed on the course during races. • Site administration may designate an individual to share race times and statistics with media.
Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

	<p>lower level closest to a fence that allows media on the field. Where applicable, allow media to sit in every third seat per row.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.