

**2020-2021****MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**

Wrestling

Guidance and information is subject to change based on the most current information, directives from state government and health department officials and member school feedback.

Wrestling

- Start date: Monday, January 4, 2021
- First competition date: Thursday, January 14, 2021
- Last date of regular season competition: Saturday, March 6, 2021
- First date of post-season contests: Monday, March 8, 2021
- Season end date: Saturday, **March 27, 2021**
- Total weeks including postseason: 12
- Maximum number of regular season events: 16
- Maximum number of events per week: 2
- Maximum number of matches for each student-athlete: 32
- Increase to 3 contests per week during the final two regular season weeks to make-up contests due to COVID-19 or weather-related postponements.
- Duals and triangulars only.
- No invitationals or tournaments.
- **No interscholastic scrimmages.** No jamborees.
- Opponents: Conference, Section, Regional or local teams as defined by the school.
- Competitions with opponents from bordering states are allowed when less than 50 miles one way and when determined as local. Competitions of greater distances may be approved by the MSHSL with supporting rationale. Any out of state competition must follow MSHSL guidelines for competition types.
- If practice begins after January 4, 2021, the first competition may be held on the 10th day after the beginning of practices. (Bylaw 411.10)

Wrestling Guidance and Information

| General Guidelines | |
|---|--|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All student-athletes must be provided with a copy of the MSHSL COVID-19 Notice. • Athletic programs must follow the identified protocols for student-athletes or coaches who have tested positive, are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 diagnosis or have had exposure to an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. • Educate student-athletes about physical distancing, handwashing and sanitizer use, and other immune system protocols. • Any person who has had a fever or cold symptoms in the previous 24 hours should not be allowed to take part in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate healthcare professional. • Pods must be no larger than 25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pods include student-athletes and managers. ○ Coaches do not need to be included in the pod count of 25 if they remain physically distanced and masked. ○ Pods are small groups of student-athletes always working out together. This will ensure limited exposure if someone develops an infection. • Student-athletes who are not participating in practice or a contest must maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet between student-athletes. This includes those on benches, sidelines etc. • Activities directors and coaches are responsible for assuring that their teams maintain physical distancing, masking and other requirements. |
| Recommendations and Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social activities and congregation of student athletes outside of practice and contests should not take place. • Carpooling of student-athletes should be discouraged. • Sportsmanship should have a constant presence in all school-based athletics. • Teams are encouraged to find appropriate methods of demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect towards others within the physical distance guidance. • Additional care should be taken when addressing contest officials with questions or seeking interpretations. At no time, other than in the natural course of competition, should a coach or student-athlete violate the required physical distance with an official. Any coach or student-athlete who verbally interacts with an official must do so with a mask on and at a safe distance. |

Locker Room Use

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever possible it is recommended that locker rooms not be used. • If locker rooms are to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student-athletes must only enter the locker room with their designated pod (Varsity, JV, B-Squad, etc.) ○ The locker room must be completely empty prior to it being utilized by a new pod. ○ Student-athletes must maintain social distancing of 6 feet. ○ Student-athletes must wear an appropriate mask/face covering. ○ If the locker room is not large enough to provide appropriate social distancing of 6 feet for the entire pod, then the pod must be divided into smaller groups that allow proper social distancing. ○ The locker room must be sanitized after the complete pod has exited. • If student-athletes are in distance learning they should arrive at school for practice dressed for practice. • If student-athletes are in distance learning they should arrive at school dressed in uniform ready for competition. • It is recommended that student-athletes shower at home after practice or competition. However, if school showers are to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student-athletes must maintain social distancing of 6 feet. ○ If the locker room is not large enough to provide appropriate social distancing of 6 feet for the entire pod then the pod must be divided into smaller groups that allow proper social distancing. |
|-----------------|--|

Masks/Face Coverings

Mask/Face covering guidance and information is available in:
[Mask/Face Covering Guidance and Information](#)

Practice

Practice: Preparation

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually or as a team, student-athletes must confirm that they are symptom free. These confirmations can be aligned with the CDC’s “Coronavirus Self-Checker” or current recommendations. • A record must be kept of all student-athletes and team personnel at each practice session to allow for contact tracing. • Avoid grouping of athletes at start and end of practice or during transitions. Stagger start times for practices and team meetings. • Frequently touched objects and areas must be cleaned and sanitized frequently. |
|-----------------|---|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and sanitization of spaces and equipment must take place between groups. • Provide hand-sanitizer in easy-to-access areas including the entrance/exit. • Drinking fountains must not be utilized. • Sharing of water bottles is not allowed. • Student-athletes must wear their own clothing. No sharing of clothing is allowed. • Spectators are not allowed at practices. • Avoid switching of training partners per day to limit transmission. Training partners may include 3 wrestlers when there is an odd number of wrestlers. • Training partners must train in a single 10 x 10 area with 6 to 10 feet of separation between training areas. • If the size of the practice area cannot accommodate 10 x 10 training areas for all pairs, then multiple practice/training sessions must be held. • If multiple practice sessions are held daily the practice area must be sanitized between sessions. |
| <p>Recommendations and Considerations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practices should start with skill development practices that allow student-athletes to maintain social distance from members of other households for the first week or two of practice. This may help slow initial disease transmission on the team and ease back into practice for those who have not had much physical activity during the pause. • Consider how contact in the sport can be modified and decreased. • No social activity or congregation of students should take place. • Student-athletes should provide their own pre-filled, labeled water bottles. • Student-athletes' bags and equipment should be placed 6 feet from other's bags. Student-athletes should store their gear in bags (as opposed to a community pile or tossed on the bench.) |
| <p>Practice: Equipment</p> | |
| <p>Required</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and sanitization of equipment must be done before and after practice. • There is to be no sharing of equipment to the extent that it is possible. • Wrestling mats must be sanitized before/after each practice. • Student-athletes should wash any personal safety or medical equipment after every practice or competition. This includes braces, wraps, etc. |
| <p>Recommendations and Considerations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that personal prep areas are to be set up prior to practice - Cones or other markers should be set up at least 6 feet apart so student-athletes have a specific place for their own bag, water bottle, etc. One cone or marker should be assigned per student-athlete. • Student-athletes' bags and equipment should be placed 6 feet from other's bags. Athletes should store their gear in bags (as opposed to a community pile or tossed on the bench.) |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No touch distribution and collection methods of equipment are encouraged. |
|--|---|

Practice

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student-athletes and coaches must wash hands thoroughly or use a hand sanitizer at the beginning and end of practice. Clean frequently touched objects and areas frequently. Student-athletes must maintain the recommended six feet of distancing between individuals and should not be in contact with each other. Cleaning and sanitization of spaces and equipment must take place between groups. There is to be no sharing of equipment to the extent that it is possible. At the conclusion of practice, student-athletes must leave the venue as soon as is possible. All wrestlers must use simple soap and water wipes to cleanse the body following practice or competition. Coaches should use alternative methods of instruction other than demonstration with a student-athlete. If coaches have wrestling contact with a student-athlete, contact should be limited to one wrestler, and the coach will then count as a part of the pod of 25. |
|-----------------|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| Recommendations and Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No social activity or congregation of students should take place. Student-athletes should shower immediately when they arrive at home. |
|---|---|

Competition

Competition: Site Set Up

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See MSHSL Event and Facility Management Guidance and Information for additional requirements. Seating for student-athletes, coaches, table workers, and judges must be physically distanced. Areas for video, web-streaming or broadcast must be designated prior to the contest. Benches or chairs must be set up to provide physical distancing of 6 feet between coaches and student-athletes. The scorer’s table must be limited to essential personnel. Social distancing must be adhered to by all personnel and masks/face coverings must always be worn. Essential personnel are defined by the host school. More information is included in the MDE Guidelines. Evaluate the needs of meet personnel and reduce the number whenever possible. Signage, flags, etc. must be used to designate spectator areas. |
|-----------------|--|

- Visiting team personnel (scorer) are not deemed essential personnel and may not sit at the official scorer's table. An alternative location should be provided by the home team.
- If spectators are permitted at the event, they must not have access to student-athletes and must be restricted to areas outside of the competition area.
- Team benches should be isolated from spectators or other non-essential personnel by a minimum of 12 feet. Team benches must be only available to members of that specific team, and not a shared/common space.
- Competitive pods (Varsity, JV, B-Squad, C-Squad teams) may remain in the gym for their school's competitions. Masks must be worn and social distancing must be maintained.
- Plans to control entry and exit of all athletes must be developed and communicated.
- For Triangular events the host school will wrestle the first and third match.
- For Triangular events and when permitted, fans may only attend the match in which their school is wrestling.
- Team Benches
 - Limit the number of bench personnel to observe social distancing of 6 feet or greater.
 - Team benches must be only available to members of that specific team, and not a shared/common space.
 - Bench personnel not in the contest must adhere to mask/face covering and social distance requirements.
 - Create separation between the team bench and spectator seating.
 - Use staggered benches for teams to achieve proper social distancing.
 - When a triangular is held, benches and chairs must be sanitized between matches.
- Scorer's Table
 - The host must sanitize the table before the contest and between JV and varsity matches or between matches in a triangular.
 - The scorer's table is limited to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, timer, and announcer.
 - Social distancing of 3 to 6 feet must be adhered to by all personnel and masks/face coverings must be worn at all times.
 - Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and shall not sit at the official scorer's table. An alternative location should be provided by the home team.
 - Place scorer's table sufficiently away from the mat to allow for social distancing from participants.
 - Paper and writing utensils should not be shared among individuals.

Competition: Pre-contest

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| <p>Required</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A record should be kept of all participants at each contest. • The host team must communicate information with the visiting team ahead of time, including entrance information, area to store items, etc. • Student-athletes, coaches and other team personnel must be screened daily. Each team is responsible for their own screening. • The home team must communicate information to the visiting team ahead of time. This includes entrance information, areas to store items etc. • Pre-contest handshakes, fist bumps, or hugs are not allowed. • Pre-contest conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must be limited to one coach and one captain from each team, head referee and assistant referee (if applicable). ○ Must take place away from other participants, with one coach and one captain from each team positioned on each side of the referees(s). ○ May not include handshakes. ○ Handshakes, fist bumps or hugs should not occur between student-athletes and officials. ○ If applicable: the coin toss will be conducted by the official who is the owner of the coin. Only this individual will handle the coin. • Teams will remain socially distanced for the playing of the National Anthem. • Team introductions may take place; social distancing must be maintained. • Pre-contest handshakes or fist bumps should not occur between student-athletes and officials. • Student-athletes must use hand sanitizer prior to their competition. • Mats should be sanitized between team matches. It is the home team's responsibility. • Visiting schools may not arrive more than one hour prior to the first dual. • Warm-ups shall be limited to 30 minutes. • Warm-ups at the match must be social distanced and alternative spaces may be necessary for warm-ups. • Weigh Ins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Weigh-ins must take place at each team's home school before the team travels for an away competition. The weigh-ins must take place during the window of time defined as 30 minutes prior to the departure of the first team traveling until 60 minutes prior to the first match. ○ All weigh-ins must be recorded on paper using the TrackWrestling weigh in sheet and be brought to the meet. ○ All weigh-ins must be witnessed by and certified by a school administrator who is not a coach, or by an administrative designee of the administration who is not a wrestling coach. ○ Weigh-ins must be done in accordance with all other NFHS rules. • Skin checks must be performed by an official and must take place at the match as soon after a team arrives as possible. |
|-----------------|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Recommendations and Considerations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas for video, web-streaming, or televising should be designated prior to the contest and sanitized. • Additional signage may be necessary to identify restricted spectator areas. See Signage for Facilities and Events. |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;">Competition: Contest</h2> | |
| <p>Required</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing must be maintained during time-outs. • Towels should not be shared. Individual towels should stay in each student-athlete's designated bench area and should not be handled by any individual other than that athlete • Competitive pods (Varsity & JV) may remain in the venue for other competitive pod contests as long as masks/face coverings are worn at all times and competitive pods are separated from spectators by a minimum of 12 feet. • If consecutive competitions are taking place in the same venue between different teams, the venue should be sanitized and every seat in the team bench area should be cleaned and sanitized. • Officials are not expected to monitor physical distancing: each person is responsible to provide space between themselves and others. • Coaches must provide direction to their student-athletes regarding social distancing and other safety protocols. • Officials will have no physical contact with either student-athlete during competition, including off the mat situations (wrestlers must stop on the whistle), in fall observations, and when stopping potentially dangerous holds. Zero Touching by the Referee. • Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet between the wrestlers and assistant referee (if applicable). • The Referee will raise the colored arm band to signify the winning student-athlete. The student-athlete may raise their own arm to indicate victory. • Ankle bands must be sanitized between each match. Multiple sets of ankle bands are recommended. • Teams should not huddle after each match and prior to the next match. • Mat Sanitization: Mats must be sanitized as follows for dual and triangular events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before warm-ups ○ At the conclusion of warm-ups prior to the first dual on the mat ○ After the conclusion of the dual ○ Repeat the process above for each dual |
| <p>Recommendations and Considerations</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before, during, and after competition, student-athletes, coaches, judges and personnel should wash their hands as frequently as possible. • The student-athletes may shake hands prior to each match start and at the conclusion. Handshakes are not required; fist bumps and other acknowledgements are acceptable. • A clean uniform is recommended for each match when a student-athlete participates in two matches in a triangular. |

| Competition: Post-Contest | |
|--|---|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team celebrations or congratulations must be no-touch and should be done with appropriate physical distancing. • Awards ceremonies must not be held. • Teams must remove trash and belongings from their area. • Post-contest handshakes, fist bumps or hugs are not allowed. • Awards ceremonies must not be held. • Teams' post-contest meetings must be brief and must observe social distancing. • Team personnel must leave the venue as soon as possible. |
| Recommendations and Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams and coaches should consider ways to show post-game appreciation for opponents and officials. • No extra-curricular or social activity should take place after the contest. No social congregation after competition. • Air exchanges should take place at least one time per competition for indoor facilities. |
| Competition Playing Rules Adjustments | |
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weigh-ins are required to be held at the home school for each team and should be witnessed and verified by a school administrator who is not a member of the coaching staff. |
| Recommendations and Considerations | |
| Officials | |
| Uniform and Equipment | |
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officials should bring their own equipment. • Masks/face coverings are required the entire time the official is in the facility. • Whenever possible it is recommended that locker rooms not be used by officials. • If locker rooms are to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Officials must maintain proper social distancing of 6 feet. ○ Officials must wear an appropriate mask/face covering ○ The locker room must be sanitized after the officials exit • The host site shall provide an area for officials to store their belongings. |
| Recommendations and Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic whistles are permissible and recommended but not required. • Officials may wear a face shield in addition to a mask/face covering. • Whistle coverings are permissible and recommended. • Officials may wear gloves – including medical latex gloves, work gloves or gloves designed specifically for officiating. |

| Pre-Contest, Contest and Post-Contest | |
|--|--|
| Required | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officials must leave the venue asap following the contest• Schools must have officials' information to do contact tracing if necessary. Officials shall provide a copy of their profile page from Arbiter with contact information and the eligibility badge visible. |
| Recommendations and Considerations | |

Resources:

- [COVID-19 Sports Practice Guidance for Youth and Adults](#)-Minnesota Department of Health
- [COVID-19 Youth and Adult Sports Guidance](#) Minnesota Department of Health
- [CDC Sports Guidance](#)
- National Federation of State High Schools Association



Minnesota State High School League

COVID-19 NOTICE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In accordance with governmental directives, the MSHSL will offer certain activities subject to compliance with local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines. The Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education and the MSHSL have developed guidance and requirements related to youth sports, use of school facilities and modifications of MSHSL activities designed to keep participants safe and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Even with these measures, the MSHSL cannot guarantee that student-athletes or other individuals participating in organized athletic activities ("Participants") will not be exposed to COVID-19. Participants and their parents/legal guardians should consider the risks before participating in any MSHSL activities. It is a shared responsibility to protect everyone from COVID-19 and Participants should follow State/CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of exposure, including but not limited to the following:

- Stay home as much as possible;
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people if you are in public places;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds;
 - Always wash your hands after being in a public place;
 - Always wash your hands after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
 - If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze. Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Throw used tissues in the trash;
- Wear masks/face coverings that cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides of your face.

In recognizing the serious nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the positive impact that participation in MSHSL fine arts activities and athletics has on student-athletes, participants, it is imperative that student-athletes and families know and understand the following:

1. Participating in MSHSL activities is **voluntary**.
2. While participating in MSHSL activities, all laws as well as MSHSL and school rules, guidelines, and protocols related to COVID-19 must be followed.
3. Participant acknowledges the contagious nature of COVID-19, and the Participant understands that there is risk of injury and/or illness from participating in MSHSL activities, including the risk to have direct or indirect contact with individuals who have been exposed to and/or diagnosed with COVID-19.
4. Participant agrees that if he/she is exposed to, or infected by, COVID-19 during the period of participation, they will immediately cease participation and follow Minnesota Department of Health protocols for schools and activities. The MSHSL Graduated Return to Sport protocol is recommended following a diagnosis.
5. Participant has signed a separate Eligibility Statement connected to general participation in MSHSL athletics/activities and agrees that the terms of that statement are wholly incorporated into this document and that the terms of this document are incorporated into the Eligibility Statement.

Additional information regarding Activity Participation and COVID can be found at:

- health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sportsguide.pdf,
- health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf
- www.mshsl.org
- www.nfhs.org