



TO: CIF SOUTHERN SECTION PRINCIPALS
CIF SOUTHERN SECTION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FROM: ROB WIGOD, COMMISSIONER OF ATHLETICS

SUBJECT: CIF INDOOR SPORTS UPDATE

DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2021

I hope all is well with you and your families.

We have received the information below from the CIF State Office in relation to the California Department of Public Health mandate requiring masks to be worn by all participants involved in indoor sports. This updated language states that with local county health department approval, weekly testing with either PCR testing or antigen testing would allow student-athletes an exemption to wearing a mask while competing indoors. Therefore, as we proceed with our Girls Volleyball Championships, the following information is intended to clarify the situation going forward...

- 1) Unless authorized by a local health department, all participants must continue to wear a mask when competing in indoor sports.
- 2) In cases where two schools from different counties are playing, the counties of both schools must be under the same directive and guidance. Example: Both counties require masks or both counties allow for the testing option in lieu of wearing a mask.
- 3) If a local county health department allows schools within their county to utilize weekly testing in lieu of wearing a mask, that authorization only applies to their own county schools, not to schools in other counties. The county where the match is played will determine the guidance that must be followed for that match. Example: A match is in Los Angeles County and the opponent is from Riverside County. Los Angeles County requires masks and Riverside County allows for the testing option. With the match in Los Angeles County, both schools would be required to wear masks and the testing option is not allowed for either school.
- 4) In cases where two schools from different counties are playing and the local county health departments do not have the same directive and guidance, see Q and A's in the document below.

For more information on the current California Department of Public Health mask mandate, go to the link below...

[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12- Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx)

It is the responsibility of both the home team's and visiting team's administrations to enforce the current mask wearing mandate and possible testing requirements, if applicable. The match officials are not responsible for enforcing students to comply. Officials may remind the participants to wear masks. If necessary, the match official will file a report with the Southern Section office should a team fail to comply. Should a school/team fail to comply with the mask mandate or possible testing requirement that team may be removed from the playoff tournament.

I hope this information is useful to you in the time ahead and if you have any questions, or I can help you in any way at all, do not hesitate to contact our office. My staff and I are ready, willing and able to assist you in any way we possibly can.

Thank you very much for your help and support, it is truly appreciated.



RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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While the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance requires that face coverings are to be worn when playing all indoor sports unless wearing a mask during play has been determined to pose a choking hazard by a well-recognized health authority such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (currently those sports include competitive cheer, gymnastics, wrestling, indoor aquatics), the CIF has confirmed with the CDPH that if a local health jurisdiction or well-recognized health authority deems wearing a mask while participating in any other indoor sport to pose a choking hazard, then one of the following must be strictly adhered to:

- 1.) Conduct these activities outdoors; or
- 2.) Perform at least weekly screening testing with either PCR testing (1:1 or pooled PCR) or antigen testing of all individuals, including those who are fully vaccinated.

Given the limited options above from the CDPH, the CIF Sports Medicine Advisory Committee supports the position that all CIF member schools should have the option to adhere to one of those two alternatives in place of wearing a mask in all indoor sports other than those specifically mentioned by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The CIF continues to recognize the authority of the local county health departments to be more restrictive. If there is no separate local county health department guidance for youth sports (including education-based sports), schools should confer with their local county health department if they are considering the above options for any indoor sports other than those specifically mentioned by the American Academy of Pediatrics and for any other specific requirements or recommendations related to youth sports (including education-based sports). CIF member schools must comply with the guidance of the county in which they are located and the county in which the contest is played if the guidance of that county is more restrictive. Prior to a scheduled contest, the host school and visiting school should discuss any COVID-19 requirements/guidelines that a visiting team must adhere to while competing at the host school site.

Q. A contest is played between two schools from different counties. County A permits testing in lieu of mask wearing, but County B requires mask wearing. What is the correct protocol?

A. Game is played in County A, local school is not required to wear masks, but it is the responsibility of the County B school to comply with their County B requirement of mask wearing.

Q. A contest is played in County B that is more restrictive and requires masks to be always worn, and a school from County A that allows testing in lieu of mask wearing. What is the correct protocol?

A. The school from County A would be required to follow County B guidance and compete while wearing a mask.