2020-21 R.I. INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE RETURN TO EDUCATION-BASED ATHLETIC COMPETITION

Modifications and Considerations for Field Hockey

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- In accordance with RIIL and RIDOH guidance, responsible parties must ensure a distance of at least six feet is maintained among individuals at all times, whether indoor or outdoor, unless safety or the core activity (e.g. practicing, playing) requires a shorter distance. If a shorter distance is required, Athletes are required to wear cloth face coverings/masks per RIDOH guidelines. During play when spacing between players is greater than 10 ft athletes may momentarily take brief face covering relief. The default expectation is that the mask will be on. In addition, coaches, trainers, spectators and all other individuals who are not engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering per RIDOH guidelines.
- No hugging, shaking hands, or fist bumps.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment including balls.
- Ball Retrievers should be placed on the opposite side of the team bench.
- Balls – Each player should bring their own ball or use the same school-issued ball during practice. Skill training, conditioning, agility, etc. can be done with the one player/one ball concept. Balls should be sanitized before and after each practice/game.
- All individuals located in the bench area shall observe social distancing of 6 feet.
- Bench area may be extended to the 15 for teams with 30+ players. Coaches are still restricted to remain between the 45 and 25. There must still be 5 yards between the sideline and the bench area.
- Players choosing to use a penalty corner mask should not share their mask with other individuals.
- The requirement for mouth guards and goggles remain in place.

PRE- AND POST-GAME CEREMONY

- Suspend handshakes prior to and following the pre-game conference.
- Eliminate handshakes before and after the match.
- Limit attendees to one official, the head coach from each team, and a single captain from each team.
- Move the location of the pre-game conference to center of the field. All individuals should maintain a social distance of six feet during the conference.
CONSIDERATIONS FOR OFFICIALS:

- No stick inspection by officials. The head coach is responsible to verify that all participants have legal equipment (stick, goggles, mask).
- Bring personal hand sanitizer. Wash hands frequently.
- Do not share equipment.
- Follow social distancing guidelines. Consider six feet minimum distance when carding or talking to others (players, coaches, other officials).
- Consider using electronic whistle.
- Do not shake hands and maintain social distancing guidelines during pre- and post-game ceremonies.
- Use of radios to communicate with partner is permissible.
- Limit the table to essential personnel, including the home team scorer and timer. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential and may need to find an alternative location. Space availability at the table is a variable in determining the number of individuals permitted at the officials’ table and observing social distancing requirements.
- If a team member is carded, it is recommended to mark a location of where the individual is to stand that is socially distant from the officials’ table.

BALL INDIVIDUALS:

- Encourage social distancing of 6 feet. When possible, four additional game balls can be placed behind each goal. Ball holders are encouraged to use their feet or wear gloves to return balls to designated areas or field players.
- Game balls must be wiped down or sprayed with appropriate disinfecting products by the game administrator at the beginning of the game, during timeouts, at halftime, and at the end of the game.

SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES:

- Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the substitute, officials and/or teammate(s) by encouraging substitutions to occur closer to the center line.

PRE-GAME, QUARTER, HALF-TIME AND POST-GAME CEREMONY:

- No pre-game introduction line. Send players to their field positions for introductions.
- Coaches shall hold pre-game, quarter, half-time and post-game meetings socially distant and off the playing surface, where possible.
- No post-game shaking hands.
CONSIDERATIONS FOR COACHES:

- Communicate your guidelines in a clear manner to students and parents.
- Consider conducting workouts in “cohorts” of same students always training and rotating together in practice to ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.
- Keep accurate records of those athletes and staff who attend each practice in case contact tracing is needed.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

- Students are responsible for their own supplies
- Students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing), and individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home.
- Bring own water bottle.