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CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

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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.