

IHSA Stage 1 of Return to Play

As a result of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, beginning June 6, 2020 IHSA member schools are permitted to open for voluntary strength and conditioning sessions. School districts should work with their local health departments on current restrictions in their area prior to beginning contact. Local school administration determines the permitted activities at their school. Prioritizing the health and safety of all students and staff must remain the focus of each IHSA member school.

Outdoor workouts are highly encouraged over indoor workouts, to reduce transmission.

Students are limited to 3 hours of participation per day.

These requirements must be followed when conducting voluntary strength and conditioning sessions:

- Maintain social distance by being 6 feet apart.
- Masks shall be worn when social distance cannot be maintained.
- Follow gathering guidelines of groups of 10 or less including the coach and medical personnel.
- Groups of 10 or less must be pre-determined.
- Once groups are determined, students may not switch from one group to another based upon sport. Students that participate in multiple sports for the year are encouraged to be grouped, for summer participation, in their fall sport.
- Interaction between groups shall be avoided.
- Sessions can only include weightlifting, running, and exercises designed to promote physical fitness.
- Sport-specific drills are not permitted, and sport-specific equipment may not be used.
- Implement diligent and effective cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched objects and surfaces following the [guidance of the CDC](#) and [IDPH](#).
- Coaches must maintain a daily record of what athletes are participating, when, symptoms they may present (see attachment).
 - Athletes should be monitored at start of practice for temperature >100.4F/37C or symptoms of COVID-19 (fevers, chills, cough, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell).
 - If symptoms are present they should not participate in practice and should be referred to a physician for evaluation and testing.
- Free weight exercises that require a spotter cannot be conducted while honoring social distancing norms. Safety measures in all forms must be strictly enforced in the weight room.
- Players shall bring their own water bottle, shoes, towels, and other personal equipment. The use of locker rooms, shared water coolers with cups, and water fountains will be prohibited during this stage.

It is the responsibility of each IHSA member school to comply with the above requirements. Additionally, IHSA member school sponsored camps, clinics, and open gyms are prohibited in any sport at this time.

If available, it is encouraged that an Athletic Trainer or medical personnel be available for workouts. They should be masked for any interactions with athletes and maintain 6-foot distance when feasible.

The IHSA also announced that it will no longer reference the guidelines as the Stage 2 Return To Play Guidelines, and will instead will refer to them as the Phase 4 Return To Play Guidelines, matching the verbiage used by the state in its Restore Illinois plan. The IHSA Stage 1 Return To Play Guidelines, which were implemented on June 5, will now be referred to as the Phase 3 Return To Play Guidelines for the same reason.

Resources:

<https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines3/youthsports.pdf>

<https://www.ihrsa.org/improve-your-club/safety-considerations-for-your-health-club-reopening-plan/#>

https://aiha-assets.sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/AIHA/resources/Guidance-Documents/Reopening-Guidance-for-Gyms-and-Workout-Facilities_GuidanceDocument.pdf

<https://nsaahome.org/summer-activities-update/>

https://www.nfhs.org/media/3812287/2020-nfhs-guidance-for-opening-up-high-school-athletics-and-activities-nfhs-smac-may-15_2020-final.pdf