2021-22 Skowhegan HS Winter Athletic Guidelines

Daily health screening is a requirement of everyone who attends high school winter sports practices and games. Whenever someone is sick or symptomatic in any way, they should stay home...always err on the side of caution, please.

Athletes:
- All winter athletes are strongly recommended to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or be participating in COVID-19 pooled testing at the high school.
- When inside the school building, all athletes must wear a mask 100% of the time when they are not actively participating in a practice or a game. This includes when in the locker room, in the training room, waiting for practice to start, on the bench during the game, sitting in the stands watching a game, walking in the hallways, etc.
- When riding on a school bus, athletes must wear a mask 100% of the time.
- When athletes are actively participating in a practice or a game, masking is not required, and is therefore optional.
- All athletes are encouraged to have their own water bottle, and if they don’t have one then one will be provided for them. There are water bottle refill stations in or near all locker rooms. During basketball games there will be full water coolers behind team benches that can be used to refill water bottles as well.
- Athletes will be allowed to use the locker rooms and to utilize lockers for safe storage of items on site. We are not allowing athletes to shower in the locker room again this winter. We simply want athletes to change and get in and out of the locker room as quickly as possible
- No pregame or postgame handshakes between athletes, officials and/or coaches.
- These rules are in effect at our home facility and at any away facility that we visit, unless the away facility rules are stricter, in which case we will need to follow the rules of the away facility. There may be times that we will need to follow the rules of the visiting team during our home event as the only way that the event can happen.

Coaches, Event Workers & Media:
- All coaches, event workers and members of the media are required to wear masks 100% of the time when they are inside of the high school facility, even if vaccinated. The only exception to this mask rule is for the varsity game live stream announcer who will not be required to wear a mask while performing his in-game announcing.
- Coaches must wear a mask 100% of the time when they are on a bus.
- These rules are in effect at our home facility and at any away facility that we visit, unless the away facility rules are stricter, in which case we will need to follow the rules of the away facility. There may be times that we will need to follow the rules of the visiting team during our home event as the only way that the event can happen.
Officials:
- Officials must wear a mask 100% of the time inside the building when they are maneuvering around the facility, around others, watching a game, etc.
- Masking is optional for officials when together in their isolated changing room space.
- **Masking is optional for officials when they are actively officiating their own game, which includes the time that they stretch, warm-up and do pre-game meetings.**
- **Officials are asked to wear a mask when walking from the changing room to the game location before the game and at halftime.**

Spectators:
- All spectators are required to wear a mask 100% of the time when inside the high school facility. Spectators will not be allowed to enter the gym without their mask on properly (covering their mouth and the nose) and it should remain on properly for the entire time that they are inside the high school facility.
- **This year we will not be selling concessions and we will not be allowing food or drink in the gym during home games.**
- For now, we are planning to allow unlimited home fans into the gym for home games. We will have home fans sit in the bleacher sections on the side opposite the team benches. If home fan numbers become too much to handle, then we will need to adjust the plan. Visiting fans will be restricted to family members only and visiting fans will sit in the bleacher section behind the visiting team bench.

Facility:
- No food or drink will be allowed inside of the SAHS gymnasium this year. This is primarily to eliminate the need for spectators to pull their mask down to eat or drink while inside the gym.
- We will not be selling concessions for home events this year.
- We will be live streaming all home basketball games. The live streaming will be done from the one bleacher section that is left empty…the bleacher section behind the home basketball bench.
- Team videographers can also set up in this vacant section behind the home basketball bench to video the game.
- If it is necessary to live stream home wrestling matches, we should be able to do this. With smaller meets this year, we do not expect to have any restrictions on wrestling match fans (home or away), aside from all fans being required to be masked properly while inside the high school.