

## Scheduling Requirements

Following are limitations on the number of games and/or contests that may be scheduled during an activity season.

- a. Friday nights and Saturdays are primarily to be used for interscholastic activities. When possible, no more than two additional nights should be used for scheduling interscholastic activities. Students participating in extra-curricular activities shall be required to meet all minimum attendance regulations.
- b. The IHSAA Board of Directors approved the following items to provide a minimum:
  1. Loss of instructional time of participants of interscholastic activities of the IHSAA.
  2. Loss of instructional time of students of classes taught by coaches and directors.
  3. Loss of instructional time by elimination of long distance travel in the middle of the week by competitive interscholastic activities.
- c. Interscholastic activities shall be scheduled on non-school time when possible (this does not include travel time) and shall not exceed the following, but may be further limited by the local boards of trustees:
  1. Football: 9 games maximum for regular season play.  
An individual may not play in more than four quarters per day and five quarters per week. 1A and 2A football players may play in six quarters per week and five quarters per day providing they are not a varsity starter on offense or defense.
  2. Volleyball: No team or individual shall play more than 16 regular season dates. (A) A maximum of 8 dates tri-matches. Any school playing two schools on the same date must count that competition as a tri-match. (B) Two dates may be tournaments (more than 3 schools involved). (C) A team may substitute one additional tournament for 2 dates. A school desiring to play in 3 tournaments may only play on 15 dates.  
Rules for tournament play: (A) A tournament may be of any format. (B) A tournament held on Friday after 1:00 p.m. and Saturday will count as one date and one tournament. (C) A two-day tournament starting prior to 1:00 p.m. on Friday will be counted as two of the sixteen allowed dates. (D) Number of games or matches played will not be counted.
  3. Soccer: No team shall participate in more than 16 games per season. An individual is permitted to play in no more than 32 halves during regular season and no more than four (4) halves per day.
  4. Cross Country: No team or individual shall participate in more than 9 meets per season, nor exceed 2 meets per week.
  5. Swimming: No team or individual shall participate in more than 7 meets per season.
  6. Basketball: 18 games strongly recommended and not to exceed 20 games (21 if playing a 3 game tournament). 6A, 5A and 4A individuals may not play more than 80 quarters

(84 if playing a 3 game tournament) per regular season and 4 quarters per day when playing one game. 3A, 2A and 1A players may play 100 quarters per regular season. 3A, 2A and 1A players may play five (5) quarters per day when playing one game. All athletes are permitted to play eight (8) quarters per day when playing two games in one day against different schools. Any 4A, 5A or 6A basketball program may request a waiver of the 4/80 quarter limitation, increasing the number of quarters their sub-varsity players are allowed to play to 5 per night and 100 per season upon a petition, signed by the school principal and athletic director. *See Game Limitations for Individuals for details on how to request a waiver.*

7. Wrestling: An individual may compete in a maximum of sixteen dates (no match limitations). Friday after 1:00 p.m. and Saturday may count as one date. Two-day tournaments held during Christmas break when no school is in session that start at 8:00 a.m. count as only one date.
8. Tennis: No team or individual shall play more than 18 dates. Friday after 1:00 p.m. and Saturday count as one date. A two day tournament that starts prior to 1:00 p.m. on Friday will count as two dates.
9. Track: No team or individual shall participate in more than 9 meets and may not exceed 2 meets per week.
10. Baseball / Softball: A team or individual is limited to 22 games OR 20 games plus one tournament, not to exceed 24 games.
11. Golf: No team or individual shall play more than 10 matches and may not exceed 2 matches per week.
12. Cheerleading: No school or individual may enter more than four competitions during the season plus district and state competitions.
13. Dance: No school or individual may enter more than four competitions during the season plus district and state competitions.
14. Debate / Speech: No team or individual shall participate in more than ten tournaments during the season. Ex: 8 debate + 2 speech = 10
15. Drama: Competitions shall be scheduled on non-school time.
16. Competitive Music: Events shall be scheduled on non-school time.
17. Non School Time Exceptions: Requests for exceptions to the non-school time rules may be allowed in order for a school to participate in competitions where facilities or special sites are not available during non-school time. Such requests must be submitted to the Superintendent and be approved by the school trustees of the schools involved.
- d. The above standards do not apply to, nor include, district, state or national tournaments and contests.

- e. It is recommended that each of the six activity districts make an effort to restrict the number of dates scheduled for district tournament competition.
- f. YEA jamborees shall not be counted as one of the allowable regular season contests.

## Sportsmanship Rules for State Tournaments

The following rules will be in effect at all IHSAA state tournament events:

1. Face Painting Full and/or half face painting is not permitted. Partial face painting is permitted such as small markings on the cheeks, nose, or forehead. Covering the face or head with a mask, or anything that obscures identification, is not permitted. School mascots and halftime performers are excluded.
2. Posters/Banners/Signs All signs must show only positive support. Those that direct negative comments towards opponents or are unsportsmanlike or vulgar are not permitted.
3. Artificial Noisemakers Artificial noisemakers shall not be used. Exception: Cheerleaders (only) may use megaphones at football games. Artificial noisemakers are items such as (but not limited to) megaphones, air horns, bells, whistles, clickers.
4. Balloons Balloons are not permitted at any IHSAA state play in or championship event.
5. Attire Bare chests are not permitted. Shirts must be worn.
6. Inappropriate Behaviors The following are not permitted:
  - a. Throwing objects onto the playing area before, during, or after a contest.
  - b. Entering the playing area before, during, or after a contest.
  - c. Verbal harassment or derogatory remarks directed toward an opponent or official.

## Hazing

The IHSAA Board of Directors' position on Hazing in Idaho Schools is:

1. Hazing is defined as "any humiliating, potentially dangerous, or illegal activity expected of a student in order to belong to a group, regardless of his/her willingness to participate."
2. Hazing obstructs the development of good citizens, escalates the risks of participation, negates positive contributions, and destroys respect for self, others and environment.
3. Students participating in school-related activities have a right to be safe and to be free from intimidation and unreasonable embarrassment.
4. Schools should take steps to eliminate hazing from their activities by adopting and enforcing strict anti-hazing rules and written policies, in accordance with Idaho's anti-hazing law.

## Supplement Use

The Idaho High School Activities Association endorses the NFHS position on food supplements (including creatine and androstenedione). The policy states:

1. School personnel and coaches should not dispense any drug, medication or food supplement except with extreme caution and in accordance with the policies developed in consultation

with parents, health-care professionals, and senior administrative personnel of the school or school district.

2. The use of any drug, medication or food supplement in a way not described by the manufacturer should not be authorized or encouraged by school personnel and coaches. Even natural substances in unnatural amounts may have short-term or long-term negative health effects.
3. In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes, maintain ethical standards, and reduce liability risks, school personnel and coaches should **never** supply, recommend or permit the use of any drug, medication or food supplement solely for performance enhancing purposes.

## Heat Stress and Athletic Participation

Early fall football, cross country, and soccer practices are frequently conducted in very hot and humid weather. During hot weather conditions the athlete is at risk for the following:

HEAT CRAMPS - Painful cramps involving abdominal muscles and extremities caused by intense, prolonged exercise in the heat and depletion of salt and water due to profuse sweating.

HEAT SYNCOPE - Weakness fatigue and fainting due to loss of salt and water in sweat and exercise in the heat. Predisposes to heat stroke.

HEAT EXHAUSTION (WATER DEPLETION) - Excessive weight loss, reduced sweating, elevated skin and core body temperature, excessive thirst, weakness, headache and sometimes unconsciousness.

HEAT EXHAUSTION (SALT DEPLETION) - Exhaustion, nausea, vomiting, muscle cramps, and dizziness due to profuse sweating and inadequate replacement of body salts.

HEAT STROKE - An acute medical emergency related to thermoregulatory failure. It is associated with nausea, seizures, disorientation, and possible unconsciousness or coma; it may occur suddenly without being preceded by any other clinical signs. The individual is usually unconscious with a high body temperature and a hot dry skin (heat stroke victims, contrary to popular belief, may sweat profusely).

It is believed that the above-mentioned heat stress problems can be controlled or avoided provided certain precautions are taken:

1. Ensure the athlete is well hydrated prior to the start of any and all activity.
2. Acclimatization is the process of becoming adjusted to heat and it is essential to provide for gradual acclimatization to hot weather.
3. The most important safeguard to the health of the athlete is the replacement of water. Water must be on the field and readily available to the athletes at all times. It is recommended that a minimum 10-minute water break be scheduled for every twenty minutes of heavy exercise in the heat. Check to make sure athletes are drinking sufficient amounts of water.
4. Athletes should weigh each day before and after practice and weight charts checked. Generally a 3 percent weight loss through sweating is safe.
5. Observe athletes carefully for signs of trouble, particularly athletes who lose significant weight and the eager athlete who constantly competes at his/her capacity.
6. Some trouble signs are nausea, incoherence, fatigue, weakness, vomiting, cramps, weak rapid pulse, visual disturbance and unsteadiness.

7. Warn your athletes about the use of any products that contain ephedra. Ephedra speeds metabolism, increases body heat, and constricts blood vessels in the skin preventing the body from cooling itself. By making the user feel more energetic it keeps him/her exercising longer when the he/she should stop.

#### WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY

Heat Stroke - A Medical Emergency - Delay Could Be Fatal. Immediately cool body while waiting for transfer to a hospital. Remove clothing and immerse torso in ice/cold water. Immersion therapy has the best cooling rates. A plastic baby pool can be available at all practices and games, and can always be ready for immersion procedures. If not available apply ice packs in armpits, groin and neck areas. Continue cooling efforts until EMS arrives.

Heat Exhaustion - Obtain Medical Care At Once. Cool body as you would for heat stroke while waiting for transfer to hospital. Give fluids if athlete is able to swallow and is conscious.

#### SUMMARY

The main problem associated with exercising in the hot weather is water loss through sweating. Water loss is best replaced by allowing the athlete unrestricted access to water. Water breaks two or three times every hour are better than one break an hour. Probably the best method is to have water available at all times and to allow the athlete to drink water whenever he/she needs it. Never restrict the amount of water an athlete drinks, and be sure the athletes are drinking the water. The small amount of salt lost in sweat is adequately replaced by salting food at meals. Talk to your medical personnel concerning emergency treatment plans.

### Proper Procedures for Handling Apparent Concussions

#### Action Plan

If a player is suspected of having a concussion, the following steps should be taken:

1. Remove athlete from play.
2. Ensure athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health care professional. Do not try to judge the seriousness of the injury yourself.
3. Inform athlete's parents or guardians about the known or possible concussion and give them the fact sheet on concussion.
4. Allow the athlete to return to play only with permission from an appropriate health care professional.

#### Signs and Symptoms

##### **Signs Observed by Coaching Staff**

1. Appears dazed or stunned
2. Is confused about assignment
3. Forgets plays
4. Is unsure of game, score or opponent
5. Moves clumsily
6. Answers questions slowly
7. Loses consciousness
8. Shows behavior or personality changes
9. Can't recall events prior to hit
10. Can't recall events after hit

#### **Symptoms Reported by Athlete**

1. Headache
2. Nausea
3. Balance problems or dizziness
4. Double vision or fuzzy vision
5. Sensitivity to light or noise
6. Feeling sluggish
7. Feeling foggy or groggy
8. Concentration or memory problems
9. Confusion

*Information provided by the Dept. of Health & Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

### Air Quality

In the event of a high fire season and air quality is compromised, the IHSAA Sports Medicine Committee recommends that students be monitored closely, especially those with respiratory issues. All schools must have an air quality check site. For game situations, both administrations will meet before the game to determine what air quality site to use. The host school's administration will have the official site for this. The site [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) is recommended. It is suggested that in instances where the Air Quality Index is over 150, the games be suspended or cancelled.

### Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Policy

The use of unmanned aerial systems will be allowed during regular season games at member school sites, and member school sites who are hosting playoff games, with the following stipulations:

1. May not be flown over the crowd, sidelines, or playing surface at anytime.
2. May only be flown at the end of the field.
3. Game officials will have the final ruling on the use of drones as it pertains to safety and game situations.
4. All local school district policies and game management rules will take precedence in regards to usage by visiting teams.
5. They will not be allowed at college campus sites for state playoffs and tournaments.
6. Host sites will communicate their rules regarding usage of unmanned aerial systems to the visiting schools a minimum of 24 hours before game time.

All Federal Aviation Administration guidelines will supersede school and district policies. The following rules must be followed:

1. Limit the altitude to less than 400 feet above the ground.
2. Be operated using specified FAA safety guidelines. This information can be found at [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)
3. Not weigh more than 55 pounds.
4. Be operated in a manner that would not interfere with any manned aircraft.
5. Provide notification to the airport operator and the airport air traffic control tower of a planned use of an UAS within five miles of any airport.

# Lightning

## NFHS GUIDELINES ON HANDLING PRACTICES AND CONTESTS DURING LIGHTNING *or* THUNDER DISTURBANCES

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)  
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

### Proactive Planning

1. Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.
2. Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safe areas.
3. Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:
  - a. When thunder is heard or a cloud-to-ground lightning bolt is seen, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for thirty minutes and take shelter immediately.
  - b. Thirty-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or flash of lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
  - c. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.
4. Review annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel.
5. Inform student athletes of the lightning policy at start of season.