

2020-21 KSHSAA SPIRIT CONSIDERATIONS

As of 11/12/2020 and 12/2/20

With support of the KSHSAA Executive Board, the KSHSAA Sports Medicine Committee, and the results from the NFHS Aerosol Disbursement Study, we offer this document as guidance to the member schools of the KSHSAA to consider for the 2020-21 interscholastic winter season. The considerations outlined are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging physical distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate and reasonable protective equipment. With the considerations the KSHSAA believes these reasonable accommodations will help with risk mitigation for Spirit during this school year.

KSHSAA understands and appreciates the influence that Spirit Squads provide to teams and school spirit and support their continued inclusion at basketball games and wrestling matches as deemed appropriate.

Each school district should discuss the following considerations for Spirit squads and make determinations on what is the safest approach for students, coaches, and spectators in 2020-21.

Face Coverings at Winter Athletic Events for Spirit (Cheer and Dance) and Pep Band Participants

KSHSAA Board of Directors Approved the following on November 19, 2020:

All participants (including but not limited to athletes, coaches, officials, spectators, support staff and all others attending/participating in school activities) shall wear a face covering in the manner it is intended to be worn (for purpose of COVID-19 risk mitigation) while at the event venue and for duration of the event.

Interpretation for Spirit (Cheer and Dance) and Pep Bands:

All Spirit (Cheer and Dance) and Pep Bands participants and their coaches and directors shall wear a face covering in the manner it is intended to be worn (for purpose of COVID-19 risk mitigation) while at the event venue and for duration of the event. The only exceptions include the following:

- When Spirit (Cheer and Dance) participants are on the playing surface during full time outs, quarters, and halftime. NO stunting with masks per NFHS Rule.
- Pep band participants who play wind instruments while performing.
 - Bell covers for all wind instruments are recommended.
 - Masks with slits are recommended for wind instrument players.

Basketball Games

- Schools should allow a maximum of 8 cheerleaders or less on the end line at one time.
- Cheerleaders must be positioned at a minimum 6 feet (prefer 8 feet) back from the end line. If the gym does not allow cheerleaders to remain 6 feet back from the end line, they should be repositioned, possibly to the front rows of the student section.
- Dance teams spaced in stands and social distancing.
- Cheerleaders above the maximum 8 on the baseline, should have priority to the first row of the student section of the stands.
- All cheerleaders/dancers may be on the court during 60 second full timeouts, at quarter, and halftime.

- 6 feet distancing between cheerleaders and officials should always be maintained.
- Masks are recommended, but absolutely NO stunting with masks.
- No visiting before/after game or half-time between school squads.
- These groups should always remain separate from game participants and remain away from the fans or non-group members.

Wrestling Matches

- Cheerleaders should only be allowed to cheer when one mat is being used. Examples: Duals, Tournament Championship finals and State Championship finals.
- Schools should consider allowing a maximum of 6 cheerleaders.
- Must always be at least 10 feet away from the mat.
- 6 feet distancing between cheerleaders.
- No visiting before/after game or half-time between school squads.
- These groups should always remain separate from game participants and remain away from the fans or non-group members.