

Penquis Superintendent's Region Winter Sports 2021-22 COVID-19 Guidelines

*The following guidelines have been developed by Penquis Superintendents as a common framework for the upcoming winter sports season's regular season play, including all middle school and high school (sub-varsity and varsity level) competition. These guidelines will be followed by each school as a **minimum baseline** to ensure equity and consistency across the region for athletic competitions with the hope for our student athletes to have the winter sports season they deserve. The document is a fluid set of guidelines that will be revisited regularly by the Penquis Superintendent group.*

Masking

- Indoor Sports: Universal masking of all athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators are required for all indoor sports while community spread is at a high (red) or substantial (orange) level as identified by the [US CDC County View](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home) for Penobscot & Piscataquis Counties (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>). This includes all middle, sub varsity, and varsity levels. Penquis will meet to revisit guidance as necessary .
 - Failure to comply with universal mask mandates may result in an individual's removal from the venue and may result in a forfeit of the match for the team represented by the individual.
 - While universal mask measures are in place for indoor play, food and drink will be prohibited in the same gymnasium where the athletic competition is taking place. Those schools who wish to set up a separate location for eating and drinking, may do so but are encouraged to secure 6 foot distances between individuals. There is no restriction for food and drink for outdoor events.
- Outdoor Sports: Universal masking of all athletes, coaches, referees, and spectators is optional for all outdoor sports regardless of the community spread level as identified by the [US CDC County View](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home) for Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>). This includes all middle, sub varsity, and varsity levels.
 - Note: Schools will need to ensure that facilities used by ski teams (ski lodges and other buildings) either comply with the indoor mask mandates or those facilities are not to be used by our athletic teams.

Fan Attendance

- Spectators will be required to wear masks during all indoor activities
- Capacity: This will be a local decision based on the school facility and administrative Determinations.
- Schools should ensure communications with opposing schools regarding local policy and expectations.

- Spectators at events occurring in outside (leased) facilities will follow guidelines for these facilities.

Concessions

- Concessions will be prohibited inside gyms.

Cheerleaders/Pep Band

- Cheerleaders may attend home games only.
- Due to space constraints, pep bands will not attend indoor games.

Vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination is highly recommended for all athletes and coaches as a measure to reduce serious illness and limit the number of required quarantine individuals on the team due to close contact.

Pool Testing

- Where schools have pooled testing programs available, participation is highly recommended for all athletes and coaches as a measure to proactively identify individuals who have COVID-19, to reduce spread to teammates, and limit the number of required quarantine individuals on the team due to close contact.

Tournament Play

- Tournament/Post-season play will be guided by MPA and hosting facility rules.

Outside Facility Use

- Schools will follow guidelines for each outside facility used for regular season competitions.

Coach Reminders

- Athletes and coaching staff must remain universally masked at all times, including on the bus, during the competition, and in locker rooms.
- Please remind athletes and coaching staff to step away at least 6-feet when lowering the mask to take a drink of water.
- Remind athletes and coaching staff to regularly wash and sanitize hands, especially when exiting and entering the competition.

Other considerations

- Locker rooms will be accessible to both home and away teams.
- When competing against teams with more stringent guidelines these will be followed.