



ACHA RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES – 2021-22 SEASON

August 2021

COVID-19 / DELTA VARIANT – It is crucial that you keep in contact with your institutions Sports Administrator regarding school policies and Return to Play guidelines for the 2021-22 season. As you know, the Delta Variant is very concerning and at the forefront of many school administrators with classes started shortly.

The ACHA considers the health and safety of its student-athletes, coaches, teams, and fans to be of paramount importance. With close to 475 members in 48 states and 2 provinces, the ACHA recognizes that your respective institution is best equipped with staff, policies, local and regional information, and services to keep your student-athletes safe and in compliance with state and local regulations.

The ACHA's policy regarding the pandemic situation is simple, our members and teams must follow your institutions' policies and Return to Play guidelines to be eligible to compete during the 2021-22 season. The ACHA will only allow members to compete this season if your institution permits you to do so. If there are additional restrictions that your institution requires you to follow in order to compete, the ACHA requires you to do so.

In addition to your institutional policies and requirements, here are some ***Risk Mitigation Practices for Student-Athletes and Other Athletic/Team Members*** that we encourage you to follow:

- Ask your Sports Administrator if any educational communication plan or seminar is available to attend or information for you to present to your Team about COVID-19 and best practices to stay safe during the season and school year.
- Learn what your institutions requirements and recommendations are for the following and hold a Team Meeting to review:
 - o Masks / Face Coverings – who, where, when?
 - o Temperature /Symptom Checks – requirements? Where to go if symptoms?
 - o Quarantine & Isolation Requirements – out of state, international students, etc
 - o Mental Health Support and Resources – where to go, who to ask?
 - o Restrictions for Vaccinated and Unvaccinated students
 - o Physical Distancing
 - o Access to PPE
 - o Athletic Facilities Use and Restrictions if any
 - o Policies for Athletic Training Facilities, Locker Rooms and Equipment Rooms
 - o Training or Practice Equipment
 - o Local (off-campus) Rinks Policies and Restrictions
 - o Hydration and Water
 - o Team Travel Considerations
- The ACHA requires your student-athletes and staff to follow ALL your institutions policies and Return to Play requirements. Furthermore, you must have permission from your Sports Administrator to be permitted to compete for the 2021-22 season.