

Slinger Gridiron COVID-19 Safety Procedures

8/31/2020

The health and safety of our athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers remains our highest priority. The guidelines set forth by the Wisconsin All-American Youth Football League and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) will be followed and the below safety procedures highlight significant parts of these guidelines. Links to these guidelines will be found on the Slinger Gridiron web page.

- 1. Each team will have a Safety Coach in attendance to ensure compliance with this policy and procedures at each practice and game.**
- 2. Participants (athletes [football players and cheerleaders], coaches and other volunteers) with signs and symptoms of communicable disease will not be able to participate in practices and games.**
 - a. It is the responsibility of coaches, parents and athletes to assess how they are feeling before practice/games and not attend if ill. The head coach or team Safety Coach should be contacted if any athlete develops new (above their baseline) or unexpected signs and symptoms of communicable disease which include:
 - i. Fever (≥ 100.4)
 - ii. Cough or Shortness of Breath
 - iii. Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - iv. Sore Throat
 - v. Abdominal Pain
 - vi. Chills/Shakes
 - vii. Muscle/Joint Pain
 - viii. Severe Headache
 - ix. Weakness or Fatigue
 - x. Loss of Smell or Taste
 - xi. Runny Nose/Congestion
 - b. COVID exposure screening & symptom screening will occur at each practice and game. An attendance roster will be developed for each game/practice.
 - c. Temperature checks will only occur if it's required by an away team's organization/facility.
 - d. Participants who exhibit any new or unexpected signs or symptoms (above their baseline) listed above will be provided a mask to wear and be isolated away from athletes until parent arrives.
 - i. Participants who exhibit any new or unexpected signs or symptoms (above their baseline), regardless of a positive test, are suspected to have COVID-19 or have a positive test without symptoms will not be able to participate until:
 1. At least 10 days have passed since positive test; AND
 2. No fever (fever is temp of 100.4°F or more) without the use of fever-reducing medicine for at least 24 hours; AND

3. No COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.);
 - ii. Written medical clearance from a health care provider (MD, DO, APNP, PA) allowing return must be provided to the Safety Medical Director.
- e. Participants who have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case will need to self-monitor under the direction of their local public health department. Those doing self-monitoring of symptoms may not attend practice/games for 14 days from the last date of exposure.
- f. The Safety-Medical Director will assist as the liaison for COVID-19 related exposures, reporting and other notification.
- g. Athletes that miss practices and games will not be impacted punitively (less playing time).

3. All participants will practice good personal hygiene while participating in Slinger Gridiron activities.

Hand Hygiene

- Hand hygiene will be accomplished through the use of hand sanitizer and will be done at scheduled intervals, including:
 - Before and after practice/game.
 - After coming off the field/After a cheer routine and prior to using a personal water bottle.
 - After removing their mouthguard and before putting it back in.
 - Other times at the discretion of the Safety Coach.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided during practice and games; however, participants are encouraged to bring his/her own hand sanitizer. It's preferred that the sanitizer is secured to a water jug if possible.
- Hand sanitizer should not be used on football gloves. Football gloves should be removed on sidelines prior to hand sanitizer use.

Respiratory Etiquette/Mouthguards

- Respiratory etiquette will be followed at all times.
 - All participants should be encouraged to cough/sneeze into a tissue or elbow if tissue is not available.
 - There should be no spitting or blowing one's nose onto the field.
 - Masks are not required when events occur outdoors, but may be used by participants. Neck gaiters are not allowed to be used during football contact.
 - Mouthguards should be handled minimally and only be removed after coming off of the field on sidelines.

Mouthguards must be secured to the helmet and should be washed/rinsed at home after each use.

Water Jugs/Bottles

- Athletes must bring individual water jugs, clearly labeled with the athlete's name.
- NO water bottles will be shared or provided by Slinger Gridiron.
- We encourage parents to send the athlete with plenty of water to last the entire practice or game.

General Hygiene & Laundering

- Disposable equipment (disposable towels, cups, disinfectant wipes) to support hygiene will be provided by Slinger Gridiron for use during practices and games.
- All athletes should shower after practices and games.
- Jerseys and athlete equipment (including football gloves and poms) should be labeled with the athlete's name and cleaned at home on a regular basis. Football gloves and poms should be wiped down after each practice. Normal laundering steps are sufficient for uniforms.

4. Social distancing should be maintained whenever possible

- Social distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible on and off of the field/cheer area.
- All athlete equipment should be placed along the sideline and should be separated by 6 feet.
- Athletes should return to their areas while not on the field/doing a cheer routine and maintain 6 feet distancing to the fullest extent possible.
- Spectators and parents will not be allowed at practices.

5. Clean and disinfect the environment and equipment

- a. Cleaning and disinfection supplies will be provided to each team and equipment should be disinfected after every practice or game. Equipment should be allowed to air dry after disinfection.
- b. All practice equipment will be kept by the team coaches between games/practices.

6. Concession Stands:

- a. Volunteers inside of concession stands and apparel stands should wear face coverings in compliance with [Governor Evers' Face Covering Order](#).
- b. Money will be handled by a dedicated volunteer or vendor employee.
- c. Gloves will be worn for food handling and frequent hand hygiene will be performed as needed and after the removal of gloves.

7. Practice or Game Exposure Follow-up:

- a. The Safety Medical Officer will be the primary contact for COVID-19 exposures that occur during the youth football season. The Safety Medical Officer will coordinate exposure and reporting with Slinger Gridiron Board, local public health, AAYFL & Slinger School District if applicable.

References:

1. WIAA Return to Fall Sports Guidelines-
<https://www.wiaawi.org/Portals/0/PDF/Health/Covid/WIAA-Return-to-Fall-Sports.pdf>



2. AAYFL Return to Play Guidelines-
AAYFL Return to Play 8.26.2020.pdf