



Mask Policy: ESM Athletics

NYSPHSAA guidance documents have established the following expectations regarding protective face coverings:

*In accordance with NYSDOH guidance (Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Sports and Recreation), if a shorter distance than 6 feet is required to participate, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings, unless players are **unable to tolerate** a face covering for the physical activity (e.g. practicing, playing); provided, however, that coaches, trainers, and other individuals who are not directly engaged in physical activity are required to wear a face covering.*

We will play schools that will have different interpretations of “unable to tolerate.” We are not in a position to determine how other schools choose to enforce this rule with their student-athletes, and it is not the duty of game official’s to be the “mask police.”

However, based on consultation with our School Physician, we are instituting the following protocols for our own student athletes at ESM:

1. ESM student athletes must wear masks at all times during practices and games.
2. If an ESM student athlete experiences physical difficulties and is unable to tolerate wearing a mask during practices and games, they must remove themselves from such activities. The student athlete may then remove their mask and must maintain a six foot social distance from other players and coaches.
3. ESM student athletes may resume participation when they indicate the physical difficulty is no longer present. If a significant physical difficulty is observed the student athlete’s medical doctor must be consulted prior to the student’s return to play.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to navigate this challenging situation. We will continue to make the health and safety of our student-athletes a priority.

Michael A. Clonan
Director of Athletics