



# MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

## COVID-19 Interrupted Competition Guidance

This document provides guidance related to situations where teams are precluded from practice and competition due to health and safety concerns for students or coaches and, as a result, competitions are impacted.

Regular Season Competition	
Unable to Compete Due to COVID-19	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the contest is unable to be rescheduled, it shall be deemed no contest.</li> </ul>
Recommended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams should reschedule the contest on a mutually agreeable date.</li> </ul>
Decision not to Compete or Suspended Contest Due to COVID-19 Concerns	
Required:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a team or individual withdraws from competition before or during a contest due to concerns related to COVID-19, it is initially determined to be a no-contest.</li> </ul>
Recommended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns should be discussed among the administration of participating teams with the goal of scheduling the contest on a mutually agreeable date.</li> </ul>

Co-ops
If a school within the co-op is unable to compete, other schools within the co-op may continue to have in-person competition and training.

Postseason Competition
If a team is unable to compete for any reason once postseason begins, that team will be eliminated from the postseason.
The medical and verifiable emergency replacement policy for each sport remains in effect.
<b>Team Competition:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an advancing team is unable to compete, the team will not be replaced by a previously eliminated team.</li> <li>Once seeding occurs for section contests, re-seeding will not take place due to a team being unable to compete.</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Competition:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If an advancing individual is unable to compete, the individual will not be replaced by a previously eliminated individual.</li> <li>Once seeding occurs for postseason contests, re-seeding will not take place due to an individual being unable to compete.</li> </ul>

## Officials

Requirements for Requesting and Gaining Approval of an Emergency Waiver for Ineligible or Less than the Minimum Required Number of Officials

- When eligible/registered officials are not available, the Board of Directors may in case of **emergency** grant any member school a limited number of waivers. Unless a waiver is granted, only eligible/registered officials may work in a varsity contest. If ineligible officials are used and/or if the minimum number of officials are not used, without the school having received a waiver from the MSHSL office, the game will still count but the following will occur: **Official will be suspended from completing the registration/eligibility process, Assigner and Activities/Athletic Administrator will be censured and the school will be fined \$250 for the first occurrence.**

### Process to Follow When an Emergency Exists Prior to the Contest

- Make every attempt to find another official - including contacting local assigners and/or putting out an all-call.
- The waiver process is available when a contracted official notifies the school prior to the contest that they are unable to honor their contract because of an emergency, i.e., illness, family emergency, weather conditions, etc.
- The activities director or coach of the host school must contact the League Office BEFORE the contest to request a waiver for use of an ineligible official or less than the minimum required. The League Office will provide a written response via e-mail.
- **Waivers will not be granted after the competition. If approval is not requested/granted prior to the beginning of the contest, the event will count as a legal contest and the penalties listed above will be applied.**

## Head Coaches

The MSHSL interpretation of Minnesota Statute 122A.33; Head Coach licensure requires schools to have a licensed head coach, acting as the head coach, at all contests. Further, a coach who does not meet the requirements of MS122A.33 should not be listed as the head coach of the program. A coach absence due to COVID does not exempt the team from the State statute.