

**Johnson City Board of Education Special Called Meeting
August 5, 2020 5:00 PM**

Central Office

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

{{Speaker: Agenda Item Speakers}} {{AgendaItemEnd}}

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PURPOSE OF MEETING

A. Discussion regarding Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 55, TSSAA regulations and other factors regarding contact sports.

B. Athletic Training Protocols for Covid-19 procedures

C. Northeast Tennessee School Systems Scholastic Activities Return to Play Plan

2. COVID-19 Sports Regulations

3. ADJOURNMENT



STATE OF TENNESSEE
EXECUTIVE ORDER
BY THE GOVERNOR

No. 55

**AN ORDER TO FACILITATE AND RESPOND TO CONTINUING EFFECTS OF COVID-19
BY AMENDING PRIOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

WHEREAS, each Tennessean should continue to protect themselves and others by following applicable health guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities to slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including practicing effective social distancing, personal hygiene measures, and usage of face coverings; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 remains a threat to our citizens, our healthcare systems, and our economy, requiring ongoing regulatory flexibility to cope with continuing effects and risks due to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recommended the establishment of certain nursing facilities for residents who become COVID-positive in order to protect other residents and provide additional flexibility for health care system capacity; and

WHEREAS, measures should be taken to promote the safety and health of teachers, school administrators, staff, volunteers, and students and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in K-12 schools and institutions of higher education, which are designed to keep schools open and promote student success; and

WHEREAS, athletics should continue because they are an important part of education and community and provide many benefits for student-athletes, though commonsense precautions must be taken due to COVID-19 as part of any athletic activity; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-2-107, and other general emergency and management powers of the Governor under law, the temporary suspension of selected state laws and rules and the other measures contained herein are necessary to facilitate the response to the ongoing effects of the emergency resulting from COVID-19.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Tennessee Constitution and other applicable law, do

hereby declare that a state of emergency continues to exist in Tennessee and accordingly order the following:

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 36, dated May 12, 2020, as extended by Executive Order No. 50, dated June 29, 2020, is amended by adding the following new paragraphs:

- 23.6 Commercial driver licenses with medical cards are extended until September 29, 2020. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-413, are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to delay the cancellation of a Class A, B, or C driver license with a medical card issued for more than ninety (90) days that is set to expire between March 12, 2020, and September 29, 2020. Class A, B, and C driver license holders affected by this suspension will have until September 30, 2020, to submit a new medical card to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to avoid cancellation. Renewal requirements shall return to their original schedule in subsequent years. Any Class A, B, or C driver license that was downgraded between July 1, 2020 and the date of this Order shall be converted back to the previous license class if the sole reason for the downgrade was the expiration of Executive Order No. 36. Drivers who, since their last medical certificate was issued, have been diagnosed with a medical condition that would disqualify the driver from operating in interstate commerce, or who, since their last medical certificate was issued, have developed a condition that requires an exemption or Skill Performance Evaluation from FMCSA are not covered under the suspension in this paragraph.
- 23.7 CDL Expiration Extension. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 55-50-311, 55-50-336, and 55-50-337, are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to delay the expiration of all valid Class A, B, C, PA, PB, and PC driver licenses that are set to expire between March 12, 2020, and September 29, 2020. Class A, B, C, PA, PB, and PC licenses shall instead expire on September 30, 2020. Any Class A, B, C, PA, PB, or PC driver license that was downgraded between July 1, 2020 and the date of this Executive Order shall be converted back to the previous license class if the sole reason for the downgrade was the expiration of Executive Order No. 36.
- 34.1 Designation and Payment for Certain Nursing Facilities as “COVID-19 Skilled Nursing Facilities/Units.” The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Titles 4, 68, and 71 and related regulations and policies are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to provide the Department of Health and the Division of TennCare the necessary authority and discretion to select, designate, and reimburse certain nursing facilities, or units within certain nursing facilities, as “COVID-19 Skilled Nursing Facilities/Units”.
- 34.2 Medicaid Payments to “COVID-19 Skilled Nursing Facilities/Units.” The provisions and requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-5-105, are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to permit the Division of TennCare to implement additional acuity-based payments for Medicaid members in nursing facilities designated as “COVID-19 Skilled Nursing Facilities/Units”.

- 38.2 Licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors can practice telemedicine. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-1-155(a)(1), and any other state or local law, order, rule, or regulation that would limit the application of this Paragraph 38.2 are hereby suspended, retroactively to March 26, 2020, when Paragraph 38.1 suspended provisions of law to permit telemedicine by other licensed health care providers, to the extent necessary to allow telehealth or telemedicine services to be provided by an alcohol and drug abuse counselor licensed under Title 68. This suspension does not otherwise alter or amend an alcohol and drug abuse counselor's scope of practice or record keeping requirements.

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 38, dated May 22, 2020, is amended by deleting Paragraphs 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e. and substituting instead the following:

- c. Local education agencies and schools shall, notwithstanding any orders or provisions to the contrary, have the authority to permit, but are not required to permit, school-sponsored sporting events and activities, provided that all such activities, including practices and games or competition, must be conducted in a manner consistent with COVID-19-related regulations adopted by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association. Non-school-sponsored athletics, including practices and games or competition, must be conducted in a manner consistent with guidance from the Tennessee Economic Recovery Group (i.e., Tennessee Pledge), including further and updated operational guidance to be forthcoming. Collegiate and professional sporting events and activities must be conducted pursuant to the rules or guidelines of their respective governing bodies.

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 38, dated May 22, 2020, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

- 12.1 Waiver of application fee to expand premises. The provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 57, and related rules and other state or local laws, orders, rules, or regulations are temporarily suspended to the extent necessary to waive the \$300.00 application fee for restaurants, limited service restaurants, and all other establishments licensed under Title 57, Chapter 4, that apply to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission to expand the boundary of their premises covered under such license to sell alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption in response to COVID-19.

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 53, dated July 1, 2020, regarding limited liability protection for health care providers and hospitals, is amended and extended by adding the following language to the end of Paragraph 4:

This Order is hereby extended for thirty (30) days, and shall continue in effect until 11:59 p.m., Central Daylight Time, on August 30, 2020.

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 54, dated July 3, 2020, regarding local government authority concerning face coverings, is amended by deleting Paragraph 8 and substituting instead the following:

8. Term and effective date. This Order shall be effective upon execution and shall remain in effect until 11:59 p.m., Central Daylight Time, on August 29, 2020.

Effective immediately, Executive Order No. 54, dated July 3, 2020, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

9. Face coverings in schools and higher education institutions. Local education agencies, schools, and institutions of higher education are strongly encouraged to implement a policy requiring the use of face coverings by students and staff, with appropriate exemptions, and consistent with any policies issued by the Tennessee Department of Education. No policy, local order, or official may prohibit a student, teacher, school employee or contractor, or visitor from voluntarily wearing a face covering except to the extent that such face covering presents a safety or security risk.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my signature and caused the Great Seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed this 31st day of July, 2020.



GOVERNOR

ATTEST:



SECRETARY OF STATE



Athletic Training Protocols for Covid-19 procedures

These protocols are recommendations to use when appropriate. None of these recommendations will compromise our best Standard Practice Acts for athletic training. Guidelines should be used and implemented where feasible, but care and protection for the athlete is still the primary focus.

Acute injuries and emergency situations overrule all these recommendations.

Lightning policy is to be followed regardless of social distancing. Do the best you can, but get to safety is priority 1.

Heat illness/exhaustion, are also problems that require immediate attention. Use any means necessary to cool and hydrate the athlete regardless of social distance and covid recommendations. Ice towels and ice immersion are 100% acceptable and recommended in these situations.

Athletic Trainers are recommended to wear masks inside while doing taping and treatments or rehab and evaluations. It is also recommended to wear face covering when working with teams at games on the sideline and or bench when interacting with athletes.

I. Treatment and Rehab

Limit occupants in training room to acceptable ratios for your space. (different for each school and site within school)

Athletes and all who enter must wear a mask. Limit parent and "friend" entrance due to space and social distancing guidelines.

Temperature checks are required for athletes receiving treatment or in for longer than 2/3 minutes of taping or wound care.

Athletes should wash hands or use sanitizer upon entry.

Maintain 6' social distance as much as possible.

Recommend ice and first aid supplies be available for athletes to use on own outside the training room area when feasible. This will be for those individuals who have already been evaluated and determined what they need.

Clean tables and equipment between each individual use. This can be done by the athletic trainer or the athlete.

Schedule times for individual teams to come in for treatment and evaluation where possible to limit cross contamination within sports. I.E. 3-3:30 football; 3:30-4 Volleyball 4:00 -4:30 soccer 4:30-5 Cross Country, etc.

Limit therapy and treatment to In-Season athletes only (except for acute injuries) due to time and space constraints.

Consider outside PT or home exercise programs for chronic and rehab purposes, with re-evaluations every 7/10 days as needed.

II. Taping and First -Aid

Taping is recommended in order of practice availability. (players who are full practice go 1st, those who are limited in practice 2nd, those out of practice last) This is just to facilitate practices once all teams are starting at same times.

Limit taping to only acute injuries and or those with Doctor's orders. Recommend bracing for chronic needs over taping to cut down on traffic in training room area.

Set up a station for taping and minor first aid outside the immediate treatment area where feasible.

III. Hydration practices

Players are encouraged to bring their own water to practices and games. It is recommended to be a one-gallon cooler size for best use. It may be refilled by designated person/persons as needed, with a pitcher from a cooler or from water horse or cow.

Hands free water horses are allowed and recommended for refills and individual drinking if someone forgets their own water bottle. Also, please encourage at home regular hydration to prevent heat issues.

Allow water cow for games and or practices to be primarily used for refills, but also for individual use were necessary or preferred by the sports medicine staff. When used for refills it will preferably be done by 1-2 designated people, who must wear mask and use hand sanitizer between segments of use. The cows should also be sanitized after each day of use and prior to the next use.

Water bottles for timeouts are acceptable, but only to be used by the designated people. They must individually provide the water to the athlete. The players shouldn't touch the bottles. Keep bottles away from players when not used for timeouts.

Iced down individual bottles of water or gatorade can be used on sideline or locker room, but be sure they are not sharing bottles at any time.

Cups can be another method to use at games or practice, but they are one time and throw away. They are not to be used by different people at any time.

For games, each team is responsible for how they will provide hydration to their teams in all sports. There will no longer be home teams providing water for visiting teams. It is up to the individual teams to determine how they will provide water at away contests for their teams. It is still highly recommended that players provide their own water source, and to have it clearly marked.

IV. Combating non-emergency heat issues

Ice baths are still needed available for emergency situations.

Ice towels are not to be used unless a medical emergency. Recommend water bottle sprayer to cool athletes in place of ice towels. Hose or pitcher also acceptable. Disposable towels or paper towels could be used for non-emergency cooling.

Promote and give frequent water breaks throughout practice. Make sure coaches are encouraged to give unscheduled breaks in addition to scheduled breaks throughout practice.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE SCHOOL SYSTEMS SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES RETURN TO PLAY PLAN

i. TRANSPORTATION

- Buses
 - Complete temperature checks prior to boarding bus
 - Possible protocols
 - Require riders to wear masks
 - Distance riders when possible
 - Use extra buses
- Parent Transportation
 - Communicate TSSAA catastrophic insurance coverage to all stakeholders
 - Follow district rules for parents transporting student-athletes
 - Complete temperature checks upon arrival at the venue

ii. SPECTATOR CARE

- Guideline Communication
 - Post entry guidelines outside and inside the facility
 - Remind spectators about distancing and mask wearing frequently using the PA
- Temperature Checks
 - Communicate temperature check protocols to spectators prior to the event
 - Require masks for temperature checks
 - Develop a process of dealing with those individuals whose temperatures are too high
 - Possible protocols
 - Provide a shaded cool down area for spectators at temperature checks
 - Keep security at temperature checks to help deal with unhappy patrons
 - Use multiple entrances to thin the crowds
- Restrooms
 - Develop a plan to limit the number of spectators in the restroom
 - Develop a plan to disinfect the restroom during the event
- Concessions
 - Require mask for service
 - Designate waiting areas that allow for distancing
 - Develop a plan for money handlers
 - Possible protocols
 - Use prepackaged food and drink
 - Use mobile product distributors in the stands
 - Use multiple food stations
 - Use online ordering
- Ticket Sales

- Develop a plan that limits contact between spectators and gate workers
- Limit entry to one quarter to one third stadium capacity
- Possible protocols
 - Presell all tickets giving parents priority (limit the number of tickets per player)
 - Send a set number of tickets to the visiting team
 - Accept no passes
 - Use online ticketing (GoFan)

iii. **MEDIA**

- Entry
 - Require media to make contact with the home school prior to gameday regarding entry
 - Require masks for media members entry
 - Possible protocols
 - Limit the number of media members for each game
 - Identify a set media area
- Interviews
 - Require interview coordination to be done through the athletic director or his/her designee
 - Designate media location for post game interviews
- Press Box
 - Require press box passes/identification
 - No press box hospitality
 - Possible protocols
 - Use the press box strictly for operations, no media
 - Limit the number of radio stations per school

iv. **ATHLETE/SCHOOL PERSONNEL CARE**

- Temperature Assessments
 - Teams will be responsible their own temperature assessments
- Locker Rooms
 - Sanitize locker rooms well before and after the presence of the visiting team
 - Communicate with the visiting team about the locker room situation prior to gameday
 - Possible Protocols
 - Use locker rooms primarily as restrooms
 - Create team space outside the locker room using easy-up tents
 - Require masks in the locker rooms
 - Arrive at games dressed, just add helmet and shoulder pads (not feasible for some trips)
- Sidelines
 - School personnel only on the sidelines
 - Possible Protocols
 - Limit squad size on Friday nights
- Equipment Cleaning
 - Continue protocols already in place from the Return to Action Plan

- Disinfect balls during the game periodically
- v. **Protocol for Positive Test**
- Follow CDC guidelines already established
 - Allow health department to guide the contact tracing process
 - Use all resources available for contact tracing including video

COVID-19 Sports Regulations

The following regulations will be in place for all sports until further notice. **Regulations 1, 2, and 4 include the CDC's latest isolation/quarantine measures approved by the Tennessee Department of Health for the management of COVID-19 in schools.** These regulations do not guarantee safety, but they are meant to encourage safe practices that will maximize our ability to engage in sports competition during the COVID-19 pandemic. While much about COVID-19 and its spread remains unknown, our collective hope for continuing sports competition depends on the willingness of every member school to apply and enforce these regulations.

1. **Temperature checks are required for all coaches, players, and team personnel prior to every practice.** Anyone whose temperature measures 100.4 or greater must be sent home immediately and may not return to participation until he/she provides documentation that they have tested negative for COVID-19 or obtained a medical evaluation by a physician verifying that COVID-19 is not the cause of his/her fever.
 - **Isolation for COVID-19:** Any student or staff who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 must isolate at home for a period of 10 days from the onset of their symptoms (or from the date tested if asymptomatic) AND must be fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) AND have improvement in symptoms for at least 24 hours.
 - **Quarantine for exposure to COVID-19:** Any student or staff who has been in close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer) of a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must quarantine at home for a period of 14 days from their last exposure to that individual.

2. **No coach, player, or team personnel may participate in practice or a contest without first completing appropriate COVID-19 screening.** Persons should not participate while ill. If the answer is “YES” to any of the following questions, the coach, player, or team personnel may not participate until obtaining an evaluation by a medical provider verifying his/her fitness to safely do so:
 - Have you had any of the following symptoms in the past 7 days?
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Shaking chills
 - Chest pain, pressure, or tightness with exercise
 - Fatigue or difficulty with exercise
 - Racing heart rate
 - Unusual dizziness
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - Unusual rash or painful discoloration of fingers or toes
 - Do you have moderate to severe asthma, a heart condition, diabetes, chronic kidney or liver disease, or take medication or have a medical condition that weakens your

immune system? (details are not required; the purpose of the question is solely to ascertain whether the individual is high risk for severe symptoms).

- Have you or a family/household member been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19 infection or been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the past 14 days?

Each coach, player, or team personnel member must be asked these questions before the first practice in which he/she participates, and again on at least a weekly basis.

A printed list of the questions should be given to each coach, player, or team personnel member with instructions that the questions are continuing throughout the season. If at any time the answer to any question becomes “YES,” the individual should promptly inform the head coach or team trainer and should obtain an evaluation by a medical provider before further participation.

- **Isolation/Quarantine:** Any student or staff who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or has been in close contact of a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must follow the isolation/quarantine requirements in Regulation No. 1 above.
3. **No scrimmages, jamborees, 7-on-7 practice, or other types of practice with other teams is permitted.** Team versus team competition may take place only at official contests. [*Off-season practice in contact sports such as basketball, wrestling, etc., remains restricted to non-contact conditioning work consistent with the Governor’s order.*]
 4. **At contests all coaches, players, team personnel, officials, administrators, and fans must have their temperatures checked before entering the facility.** No one whose temperature measures 100.4 or greater may be admitted. Any coach, player, and team personnel refused admission under this regulation may not return to participation until providing documentation that he/she has tested negative for COVID-19 or obtained a medical evaluation by a physician verifying that COVID-19 is not the cause of his/her fever. For spectator screening areas, if a line forms or is anticipated to form, ensure 6 or more feet of separation between persons or household groups (e.g., ground markings and/or announcements).
 - **Isolation/Quarantine:** Any student or staff who has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or has been in close contact of a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 must follow the isolation/quarantine requirements in Regulation No. 1 above.
 5. **At each contest the following symptom checklist shall be posted prominently** at the spectator entrance(s) instructing that anyone who is experiencing any of these symptoms during the preceding 7 days must not be admitted:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

- Shaking chills
 - Chest pain, pressure, or tightness with exercise
 - Fatigue or difficulty with exercise
 - Racing heart rate
 - Unusual dizziness
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
 - Unusual rash or painful discoloration of fingers or toes
6. **At contests in localities where fan attendance is permitted, member schools are encouraged to limit fan attendance to a number that will allow adequate social distancing (e.g., 1/4 to 1/3 of typical seating capacity, depending on the characteristics of the particular venue) and should mark/designate bleachers or seats in order to promote social distancing among spectators.** Member schools must facilitate compliance with any applicable state or local order limiting gathering sizes for participation in public events. In consultation with local health providers, member schools in areas experiencing high virus transmission should consider further limitations on attendance (e.g., family members only, or no spectators). Limit informal gathering in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.
 7. **Member schools will require that all fans wear facial coverings at all times while on-site (except children under age 2) and maintain social distancing (six feet, or the equivalent of two empty seats between themselves and other fans) from anyone other than those living in the same household.**
 8. The temperature check and questionnaire requirements of Items 1 and 2 above, as well as the social distancing requirement of Item 7, **shall also apply to members of a school band or pep band, cheerleaders,** or other similar student groups attending a contest in a supporting role. Due to the potential increased risk of virus transmission during certain activities, the use of school bands at contests is discouraged. If the band is present, limit to a halftime performance or relocate the band from the stands to other available areas away from crowds and increase the amount of physical distance between band members. Increase the amount of physical distance between cheerleaders as well as between cheerleaders and other persons if projected voices are to be used.
 9. **If a public address system is in use for a contest, the host school will make public service announcements at various times during the contest to remind those in attendance to use masks and maintain physical distancing.**
 10. **The host school is responsible for providing staff to engage in frequent cleaning and sanitizing of restroom facilities during contests.**
 11. **Concession stands are discouraged** because they tend to invite gatherings of people in close quarters. If a member school chooses to operate a concession stand at a contest, signage or other appropriate markings must be in place to encourage customers to maintain

physical distancing while standing in line. Where possible, schools that choose to operate concession stands are encouraged to arrange for call-in orders in order to reduce the number of people gathering to stand in line and to limit the number of concession workers. All concession stand workers must wear facial coverings and must maintain as much physical distance as possible in the confines of the concession stand.

12. **All coaches must complete the free NFHS online course “COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators,”** before the first contest (preferably as soon as possible). Administrators with athletic responsibilities are also encouraged to complete the course. The link to access the course is here: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/covid-19-for-coaches-and-administrators>.

In addition to these regulations, TSSAA has developed the accompanying rules modifications and guidelines for returning to competition generally and for the specific fall sports. Those rules modifications and guidelines, like these regulations, do not guarantee the safety of participants and fans but are designed to encourage the member schools to engage in safe practices. The knowledge base related to COVID-19 is evolving. TSSAA may modify the regulations, rules modifications, and guidelines as more about COVID-19 is learned. All coaches and administrators are encouraged to check the TSSAA website regularly for any modifications to these regulations, rules modifications, or guidelines. TSSAA regulations are minimum regulations. Each member school is encouraged to remain apprised of local conditions and to consult with local health authorities in order to determine whether more rigorous standards are needed. The decision about whether and how athletic competition can be safely conducted is the responsibility of the administration of the school.