

Slinger Gridiron Safety Procedures

7/29/2021

The health and safety of our athletes (football players/cheerleaders), 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. Participants (athletes, 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 should be contacted if any player 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. Athletes will not be able to participate if they are unable to attend school due to symptoms listed above.
- c. School and public health guidance will be followed for return to activity.
- d. Athletes/coaches/volunteers who have a positive COVID-19 test with or 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. Improvement in COVID symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath, etc.);
- e. Athletes/Coaches/Volunteers who have been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case should follow the recommendations set forth by the local public health department. Those directed to quarantine by the health department may not attend practice/games until cleared following local public health department guidelines (14 days since exposure or after appropriate negative test).
- 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).

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

Hand Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer will be available to coaches, volunteers and athletes and should be done at scheduled intervals, including:
 - Before and after practice
 - After coming off the field and prior to using personal water bottle
 - After removing mouthguard.
 - Other times at the discretion of coach or safety volunteer.
- 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 should be followed at all times.
 - All participants should be encouraged to cough/sneeze into a tissue or elbow if tissue not available.
 - There should be no spitting or blowing one's nose onto the field.
 - Face coverings are not required, but may be used at the discretion of athletes, coaches or volunteers.
 - Mouthguards should be handled minimally and only be removed after coming off of field on sidelines.
 - Athletes must have mouthguards that secure to helmet and should be washed/rinsed at home after each use.

Water Jugs/Bottles

- Athletes must bring individual water jugs, clearly labeled with the player's name.
- NO water bottles will be shared or provided by Slinger Gridiron.
- We encourage parents to send the player 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 player equipment (including football gloves) should be labeled with the athletes name and cleaned at home on a regular basis. Football gloves should be wiped down after each practice. Normal laundering steps are sufficient for uniforms.

3. Social distancing should be maintained whenever possible

- Social distancing should be maintained to the greatest extent possible off of the field.

4. 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.

5. Concession Stands:

- a. Money will be handled by a dedicated volunteer or vendor employee.
- b. Gloves will be worn for food handling and frequent hand hygiene will be performed as needed and after the removal of gloves.

6. Practice or Game Exposure and Injury Follow-up:

- a. The Safety Medical Officer will be the primary contact for communicable disease exposures that occur during the youth football season. The Safety Medical Director will coordinate exposure and reporting with Slinger Gridiron Board and local public health.
- b. The athletic trainer at each event will report player injuries to the Safety Medical Director. Each player injury will be investigated for opportunities which in turn will be reported out to the board of directors.

References:

1. WIAA Return to Fall Sports Guidelines-[Guidelines-Return-2021-Fall-Sports.pdf \(wiaawi.org\)](#)