2021-22 Skowhegan Middle School Winter Athletic Guidelines

Daily health screening is a requirement of everyone who attends middle school winter sports practices and games. Whenever someone is sick or symptomatic in any way, they should stay home...always err on the side of caution, please.

Athletes:
- All winter athletes are strongly recommended to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or be participating in COVID-19 pooled testing at the middle school.
- When inside the school building, all athletes must wear a mask 100% of the time when they are not actively participating in a practice or a game. This includes when in the locker room, waiting for practice to start, on the bench during the game, sitting in the stands watching a game, walking in the hallways, etc.
- When riding on a school bus, athletes must wear a mask 100% of the time.
- When athletes are actively participating in a practice or a game, masking is not required, and is therefore optional.
- All athletes are encouraged to have their own water bottle, and if they don’t have one then one will be provided for them. There are water bottle refill stations in the gym lobby.
- Athletes will not be allowed to use the locker rooms. Athletes must change prior to loading the bus for away contests. We are not allowing athletes to shower in the locker room.
- No pregame or postgame handshakes between athletes, officials, and/or coaches.
- These rules are in effect at our home facility and at any away facility that we visit unless the away facility rules are stricter. In that case, we will need to follow the rules of the away facility. There may be times that we will need to follow the rules of the visiting team during our home event otherwise the event would be cancelled.

Coaches and Event Workers:
- All coaches and event workers are required to wear masks 100% of the time when they are inside of the middle school facility, even if vaccinated.
- Coaches must wear a mask 100% of the time when they are on a bus.
- These rules are in effect at our home facility and at any away facility that we visit unless the away facility rules are stricter. In that case, we will need to follow the rules of the away facility. There may be times that we will need to follow the rules of the visiting team during our home event otherwise the event would be cancelled.
Officials:
- Officials must wear a mask 100% of the time inside the building when they are maneuvering around the facility, around others, watching a game, etc.
- Masking is optional for officials when together in their isolated changing room space.
- **Masking is optional for officials when they are actively officiating their own game, which includes the time that they stretch, warm-up, and do pre-game meetings.**

Officials are asked to wear a mask when walking from the changing room to the game location, before the game, and at halftime.

Spectators:
- All spectators are required to wear a mask 100% of the time when inside the middle school facility. Spectators will not be allowed to enter the gym without their mask on properly (covering their mouth and the nose), and it should remain on properly for the entire time that they are inside the high school facility.
- **We will not be selling concessions, and we will not be allowing food or drink in the gym during home games.**
- For now, we are planning to allow 1 fan per athlete at our home games. Due to the size of our gym, we will not be allowing visitor’s fans.

Facility:
- No food or drink will be allowed inside of the SAMS gymnasium this year. This is primarily to eliminate the need for spectators to pull their mask down to eat or drink while inside the gym.
- We will not be selling concessions for home events this year.
- We will attempt to live stream all home basketball games.