



This document provides guidance and recommendations for schools, administrators, coaches and statewide media personnel to follow in an attempt to safely cover competition and student-athletes from a media standpoint. Game administrators are responsible for informing all participants of any local guidelines for coverage that might exist.

The AIA recommends the following items for media to follow for safe coverage of all events:

- Wear a mask or face covering before entering the event and keep it on for the duration. If it becomes uncomfortable, find an area away from participants and fans to remove the mask for a few minutes before putting it back on and continuing coverage. A mask should be worn through the duration of the postgame interview process. It is also recommended that the student-athletes wear masks during the interview process.
- Make sure all cell phones and laptops are charged fully before attending event. This will prevent the need to find an outlet.
- Schools should create and identify postgame interview areas. AIA recommendations for interview areas per sport are listed in this document, however, event administration will have final say on placement and manner.

As stated in other documents, all working media must have their AIA media credentials on their person and visible at all times.

Portions of these recommendations could be used for state championship events.

Just like the fall sports season itself and the guidelines set forth by the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, this document may be adjusted as necessary.

## 2020 Golf and Cross Country Recommendations

- Identify an area by the awards station/mix zone at the clubhouse for interviews. Put up signs or school/team banners to indicate where the interviews can take place
  - If cross country is participating in a park, or if the golf course clubhouse awards area is not available, identify a large tree or group of trees near the 18<sup>th</sup> hole or finish line. Put up signs or school/team banners to indicate where interviews are to take place.
  - Interviews should not be conducted in the immediate proximity of the last hole or at the finish line.
- Please follow golfers and runners from a safe distance. If setting up at a certain vantage point along the course, please make sure you are not encroaching on spectators or coaches, and that others may be able to view the action.
- Media looking to cover an event should contact home/host athletic director and athletic secretary via e-mail notifying that outlet may be there for coverage. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

## 2020 Swimming & Diving Recommendations

- Identify an area away from the diving boards to conduct interviews.
  - No media allowed within team areas located anywhere on a pool deck. Meet administrator/host should help media track down athletes needed for interviews from within these areas.
- No media allowed behind the blocks or on the sides of the pool. Photos will be allowed from the lane stations on the spectator side of the pool. Be mindful of turn judges.
  - Meet official and judges will have final say for allowances of media on deck.
- Media looking to cover an event should contact home/host athletic director and athletic secretary via e-mail notifying that outlet may be there for coverage. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

## 2020 Fall Soccer Recommendations

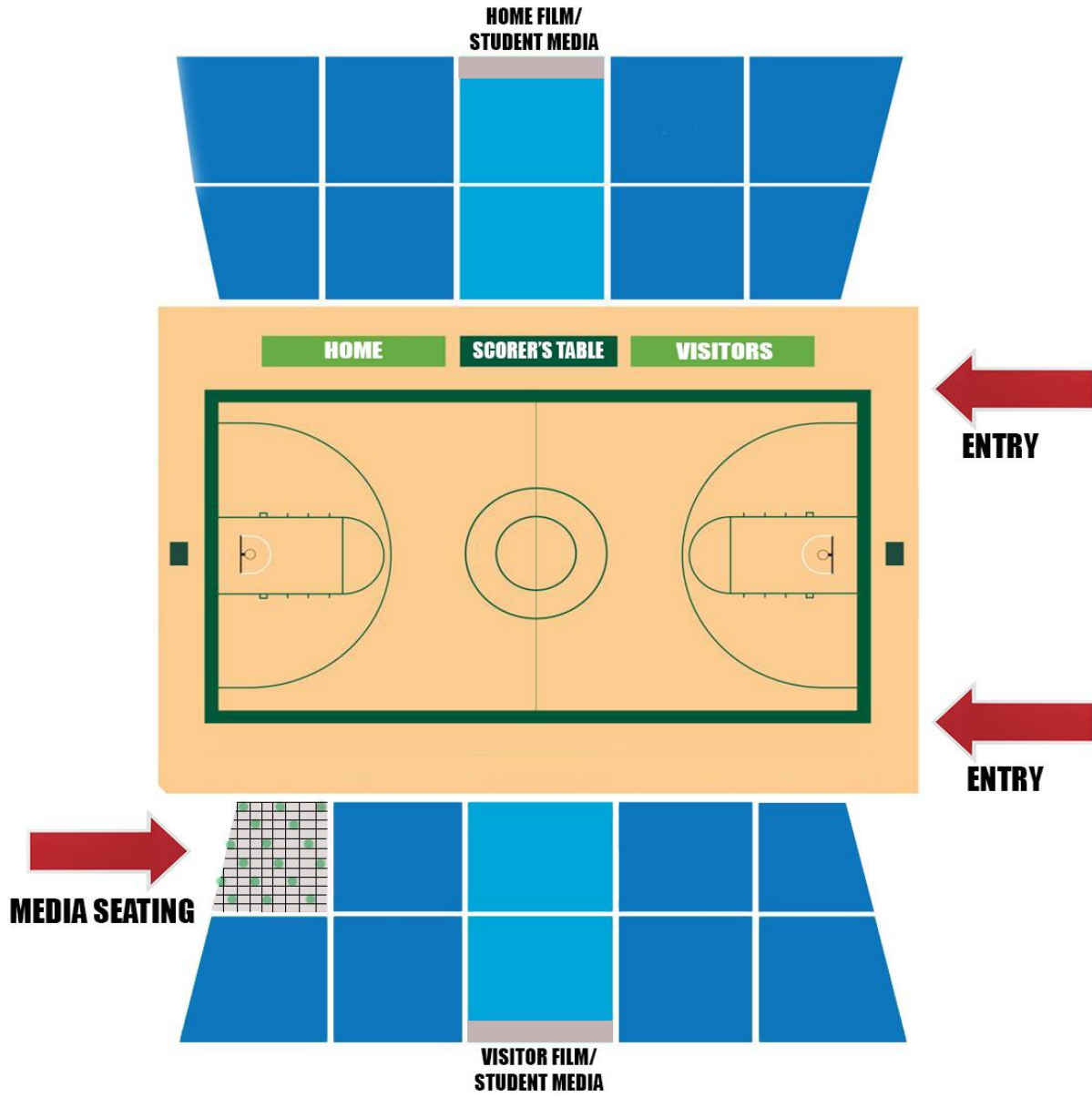
- Schools should identify a section for media to sit at the event. Preferably the corner on ground or lower level concourse closest to the fence that allows media onto the field. Allow media to sit in every third seat per row.
  - Every other row should be blocked off to allow for distancing. Seating available could be, for instance, row 1 and seats 1, 4, 7, and so on. Then row 3, and seats 2, 5, 8, and so on. Then row 5 and seats 3, 6, 9, and so on.
- Postgame interviews should take place along the center line on each team's side of the center circle
  - Each team should identify one individual who can share team and individual stats with members of the media conducting interviews. That individual should be around the center line where interviews are taking place. Members of the media should try to keep stats as best they can.
- Media should not walk through or congregate behind the team benches. If action shifts from one side of the field to the other, media should walk around the back of the team benches and not stop until reaching the other side.
- Any area along the touch lines that is not encroaching in a team bench area would be recommended for any media, including photographers and videographers. The touchline across the field from team benches would be optimal.
  - Media should not encroach a team near its bench until after the event has ended. This includes time outs, team huddles or dead periods in between competition.
  - The press box should be off limits to all non-school personnel.
- Media looking to cover an event should contact home/host athletic director and athletic secretary via e-mail notifying that outlet may be there for coverage. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

## 2020 Badminton and Volleyball Recommendations

- Schools should identify a section for media to sit at the event. Preferably the far corner away from the gym entrance on floor level across from the team benches. Allow media to sit in every third seat per row.
  - Every other row should be blocked off to allow for distancing. Seating available could be, for instance, row 1 and seats 1, 4, 7, and so on. Then row 3, and seats 2, 5, 8, and so on. Then row 5 and seats 3, 6, 9, and so on.
  - Photographers and videographers should be able to collect what they need from the traditional areas behind the endlines while not interfering with the course of play.
  - School and student media covering the event for a story should be located with their team manager/videographer at the top of the stands. If school or student media members need photographs or video, they can be situated in the same location behind the endlines as other media, but should return to the area at the top of the stands when possible.
- The scorer's table and team benches should be off limits to all non-team personnel. Media should keep stats themselves to the best of their abilities. If stats are needed after an event, one member of the home team should be identified as the person to provide that information. This meeting should take place away from the scorer's table and team bench areas following the event.
- The area along the endlines should be used for post-event interviews. Home team members should use the endline closest to their bench, and the visitors the endline closest to their bench.
  - Interviews should not be conducted in the gym lobby/entryway or in a hallway adjacent to the gym.
- Media should not encroach a team near its bench until after the event has ended. This includes time outs, team huddles or dead periods in between competition.
- If a school originates a broadcast, it should do so as it traditionally does. Non-school broadcast outlets should be given the first two rows of media seating area. Broadcasting outlets must make sure they have all appropriate cables and cords to connect from that seating area. Broadcast outlets should make arrangements ahead of time with equipment being used and any additional items that the school may have to provide (ie. Tables, chairs, etc).
  - If a non-school broadcast takes place from the media seating area, non-broadcast media should then start sitting in row 4 and follow the seating chart outlined above.
- Media looking to cover an event should contact home/host athletic director and athletic secretary via e-mail notifying that outlet may be there for coverage. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

**Diagram on the following page**

### Badminton and Volleyball Gym Diagram



## 2020 Football and Recommendations

- Schools should identify a section for media to sit at the event. Preferably the corner on ground or lower level concourse closest to the fence that allows media onto the field. Allow media to sit in every third seat per row.
  - Every other row should be blocked off to allow for distancing. Seating available could be, for instance, row 1 and seats 1, 4, 7, and so on. Then row 3, and seats 2, 5, 8, and so on. Then row 5 and seats 3, 6, 9, and so on.
- On the field, media should be allowed by the green sections on the following chart. This is based off the model that teams will utilize the team box from “10 to 10.” In this scenario, media is encouraged to utilize the area around the two-yard buffer behind the back of the end zone and just in front of the track from the 10-yard line to the end zone.
  - Game officials come further back off the sideline inside the 10, and with teams spread to the 10, it would be safest for media to be back closer to the track.
    - If the field does not have a track, then far enough back from the field as not to interfere with players and officials as possible.
  - If a team does not opt to spread its team box from “10 to 10” then media should be allowed on the sideline traditionally from the 25-yard line toward the 10, where media would then move further back from the sideline to accommodate for officials.
- Media should not walk through or congregate behind the team box. If action shifts from one side of the field to the other, media should walk around the back of the team box and not stop until reaching the recommended zone on the other side.
  - The press box should be off limits to all non-school personnel.
- Postgame interviews should take place along one goal line, to be identified by game administrators. Media would bring those to be interviewed to the goal line...hashmark to sideline for each team closest to their sideline.
  - Each team should identify one individual who can share team and individual stats with members of the media conducting interviews. That individual should be around the goal line where interviews are taking place. Members of the media should try to keep stats as best they can.
- Schools may allow for traditional “in-house” broadcasts of their games should it require access within, on top or around the press box. Additional non-school broadcasts approved by schools are recommended to be placed outside the press box with access to power in an area separated from fans at the game administrator’s discretion.
  - Broadcasts occurring within the press box should only be allowed if proper safety and health guidelines can be followed.
- The coin toss can be covered, but it is suggested that all media come no closer than 10 yards. Media can stand either 10 yards behind the coin toss or along either 40-yard line.
- Media looking to cover an event should contact home/host athletic director and athletic secretary via e-mail notifying that outlet may be there for coverage. Member school contact info can be found at <http://aiaonline.org/schools>.

**Diagram on the following page**

### Football Field Diagram

