



MEMO

TO: NYSPHSAA Section Executive Directors
FR: Dr. Robert J. Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director
RE: Interscholastic Capacity Limits Increase
DATE: May 12, 2021

Re: 3-

I have received clarification from New York State officials allowing 500 spectators at outdoor athletic events starting on May 10th and 250 spectators at indoor athletic events starting on May 19th.

It is important to note school districts and Sections can be more restrictive of the NYSDOH social gathering limits. School districts and Sections can limit spectator capacity (i.e., 2 spectators per player, etc.) and determine who is permitted access to their school district facilities.

Correspondence from state officials included the following:

“With the increase in the state’s outdoor gathering limits effective yesterday (May 10th), and indoor gathering limit on May 19, the guidance pertaining to sports and recreation is tied to those limits (500 individuals outdoors, 250 indoors). So the sports and recreation spectator limit, which applies to school sports as well, is now the greater of 2 spectators per participant OR 500 individuals outdoors/100 indoors (which will increase to 250 indoors next Wed).

The guidance is intended to be read to be automatically reflective of the state’s social gathering limits, while the 200/100 numbers simply reflect the numbers as of the date the last version of the guidance was adopted.”

The NYSDOH Guidance (March 25, 2021) includes:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/SportsAndRecreationMasterGuidance.pdf>

*“Responsible Parties must limit spectators to no more than two spectators per player **or the State’s social gathering limit**, which is 100 or fewer people in indoor non-residential settings and 200 or fewer people in outdoor non-residential settings, as of March 22, 2021. Responsible Parties may determine which spectator limit – two per player **or the social gathering limit** – facilitates compliance with health and safety protocols for their specific sports and recreation event.”*

If you have any questions, please contact me at once.