**2021 State Basketball Tournament**

**Basketball Playoff Schedule**:  February 19-27

Girls: Friday, Feb. 19 – Boys: Saturday, Feb. 20

**Tournament Planning and COVID Policies**

**Attendance**:

Fan attendance restrictions.  Schools should be under 40% occupancy by SCISA policies (restricting every other bleacher/restricting the area behind each bench).  Typical state tournament attendance for an individual game is under 150 fans.  Tickets will be for one game and then the gym will be cleared.

**Admission**:

1. Admission will be for one game only.  Fans and teams will be instructed to leave after each game.  Price remains: Adults: $10 / Students: $5

**First Round Sites:**

SCISA will utilize several of the typical basketball venues for first round games. SCISA cannot over-schedule some of our first-round sites when considering in-person instruction on Friday, individual school policies and protocols, and time restraints to host multiple games. SCISA must also consider the number of officials required to complete first round games on Friday and Saturday.  If needed, SCISA may have a top-ranked school host (when appropriate considering visiting team mileage) as a COVID adjustment.

**State Basketball COVID Protocols for all sites**:

  1. Restricted number of fans.  Sumter Civic Center is at about 30% occupancy which will serve SCISA’s expected fan base. All sites will utilize reduced crowd size.

  2. Facemasks will be required of fans at all state tournament sites.  Facemasks shall be worn at all times.

  3. Tickets will be good for one game only (unless a school had both teams playing).

  4. No cheerleaders.

  5. We plan to adjust the starting times at facilities where more than one game is played. This would allow for the facility to be cleared of fans and participants from the game prior. Example: if 4 games were

      scheduled at the Sumter Civic Center, game times would be 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, & 8:00.

            \*\* SCISA reserves the right to adjust game times due to COVID cancellations:  Example: if games at the Civic Center were scheduled for 2,4, 6, & 8 and a team in the 4:00 game must withdraw, then SCISA

                  will adjust games times to alleviate the long gap in between games 1 and 3.

  6. Utilize more than one game ball.

  7. Sanitize benches and locker rooms after use.

  8. No hospitality room. We cannot create a place for people to congregate.

  9. All teams shall submit a Basketball Pre-Game Screening Form.

10. Concessions (at school sites) are not required.

Note:  At the Sumter County Civic Center, Sumter County will require a temp check prior to ticket purchase.

* Seeding:  Wednesday, February 17th.  Brackets released mid-afternoon on Wednesday.
* Additional tournament sites or higher seeds may be considered for first round.
* SCISA acknowledges that some teams may remove themselves from playoff consideration.  This may be decided for a host of reasons including a quarantine period, poor region standings and ready to begin spring sports.
* SCISA realizes that some teams may weigh the risk of exposure from other teams with their school’s quarantine protocols and elect to prepare for the state tournament instead of playing games within 7 days of the state tournament.

Seedings:  There will be many teams with incomplete region schedules due to COVID protocols.  The committee will seed using the best information available.  There is no 3rd or 4th place trophies.  Teams should have the mindset of making a championship run.  Therefore, to make it the finals, you must beat everyone in your bracket, concern over first round opponents due to the cost of COVID this year will fall on deaf ears.  Our goal was to start the season, play as many games as the medical landscape allows, and have a state tournament.  We are nearing the finish line, some battered and bruised, but we are almost to the completion of the winter sports season.  Thank you for your cooperation.

**State Championship Saturday**

4 Championships at Sumter Civic Center

2 Championships at a Site TBD

* Awards presented after each game. Facility cleared of fans for the next game.