

Videotaping and Photographing Standard Operating Procedures

These regulations shall be administered by contest managers.

Regular Season Contests

1. It is permissible for a school or a school representative to videotape or photograph regular season contests (including previews and scrimmages) of the team or individuals from one's own school.

Videotaping and Photographing by Spectators

1. Spectators taking videos or photos at LCMR contests shall not interfere with the view of a contest by other spectators, nor will spectators or their equipment take additional space in seats that have been purchased. No spectators shall be provided "media" access to videotape or photograph an event, nor will spectators and/or their equipment be permitted in any playing area. In addition, no sources of power will be provided for spectators' video or photo equipment.
2. All photographs and videos taken by spectators at LCMR contests are for personal use ONLY.

Flash Photography

1. Authorized media representatives, who have been approved for credentials by contest managers or the NJSIAA, shall be permitted to use electronic lighting equipment (includes both strobe lights and flashes mounted to cameras) throughout the course of a given activity in all sports. In addition, electronic lighting is NOT permitted to be used in the following situations: in basketball in the free throw lane area (behind the background); in golf during and a few seconds before the swing; and in swimming immediately before the start of a race so as to not interfere with the starter's signal.
2. In the sport of volleyball, electronic lighting is not permitted at any time during contests, and electronic lighting is only allowed during regular-season contests in gymnasiums that do not meet the minimum lighting standards of 1600 ASA (film speed) at 500th of a second at an aperture of f2.8. If those lighting conditions apply, flash photography may be used, but not when a student-athlete is serving. During regular-season volleyball contests, photographers must work with school administrators any time prior to the start of a match to test equipment and have the light meter reading verified. The reading can then be used for future matches in the same facility in the same season without retesting.
 - a. Requests to use strobe lights mounted to fixed positions shall be honored:
 - as facility space permits
 - newspapers that cover their hometown competing teams (daily newspapers, followed by weekly newspapers)
 - newspapers that cover the site of the host facility (daily newspapers, followed by weekly newspapers)
 - media which is national, regional or statewide (wire services) in scope
 - all other media (internet sites, specialty publications, etc.)

3. Photographers approved to use strobe lights mounted to fixed positions shall ensure contest managers that such lights are mounted and secured safely.
4. To ensure safety, photographers shall meet with contest managers no less than one hour before game time.
5. As a courtesy, contest managers shall inform participating coaches and contest officials that photographers have been approved to use strobe lights in fixed positions.
6. Photographers are expected to use good judgment when placing strobe lights in fixed position so that such lights do not interfere with a participant's execution of a play. In the sport of basketball, for example, strobe lights shall not be mounted directly behind the backboard.

Positioning: In basketball, photographers and videographers are prohibited to position themselves behind the backboard (within the free-throw lane area).

1. Photographers may position themselves along the baseline outside the lane area of the court (and are permitted to use electronic lighting as specified in Section 6-c).
2. Photographers for other sports shall be placed in positions in accordance with National Federation of State High School Associations National Rules. In the sport of football, field hockey and soccer, photographers shall be positioned behind the restraining line, which is two or more yards from the sidelines and end zones. In volleyball, photographers shall not be positioned in an area that could be "in play." When a soccer match goes to penalty kicks (after overtime), photographers may position themselves on the field in the midfield area if approved by the site manager or media coordinator. In addition, photographers shall not be positioned in the team boxes between the 25-yard lines. In baseball and softball, photographers are prohibited from being in live ball areas unless a photographer's area (typically with a paint or chalk line) has been established by the game manager and approved by the officials before the game.
3. Officials have the authority to remove any member of the media for not staying in or keeping their equipment in designated dead ball areas. In the sport of golf, photographers are not permitted to take photos while a player is addressing his/her ball and during his/her swing unless the photographer is at such a distance away from the player that no audible noise can be heard by the player. In the sports of volleyball, track and field, swimming and tennis, contest officials have additional authority to decide where photographers may position themselves based on the layout of the facility or competition area.

Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems ("Drones")

1. The use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), Most commonly referred to as drones, is not permitted anywhere within the entire athletic facility. This includes both indoor and outdoor contest.