

February 2, 2021

Dear IE Coaches,

At the Punxatourney season opener this past weekend, it was clear that we had not stipulated and/or communicated our intent regarding the blocking restrictions for Duo & Multiple, time signal expectations and the use of visual aids as clearly as we could have. Nor were those limitations explicitly stated as "rules". Please be advised - yesterday, the MIFA Council formally adopted all of the following as COVID-related rules for the 2020-2021 IE season:

1. Duo and Multiple Performance Location Restrictions:

Performers in Same Location

- Performers must be masked
- Performers must not sing, whistle, or beatbox
- Performers must maintain a 6' distance from other performers
- Performers must be visible in frame at all times
- Each individual's performance must remain in a fixed 36" diameter circle (x-large hula hoop size)

Performers in Different Locations

- Performers must be visible in frame at all times
- Each individual's performance must remain in a fixed 36" diameter circle (x-large hula hoop size)

2. Judges are not required to give time signals (cards or hand signals) for any events other than Broadcasting, Extemporaneous, and Impromptu.

3. (in addition to the other VA rules) Digital/Projected Visuals: Competitors may use only one surface for display. An appropriate stand may be used to hold the projection surface or device.

If competitor(s) violate(s) any of these rules at an event/tournament, the following consequences will be assessed:

- First infraction: competitor(s) will receive a 4-00 for that round from all applicable judges
- Second infraction: competitors(s) will be disqualified from the event/tournament

This means participants in group events (Duo & Multiple) may not move their 36" diameter performance area. Their blocking should not have them moving their 36" diameter performance area, crossing, or otherwise coming within 6' of another performer. To be clear, these are enforceable "rules" which apply for this season. These rules have been adopted out of an abundance of caution to limit the spread of COVID-19 as well as to ensure something of a level playing field between those group events performing individually via video conference platform and those performing together in-person.

Please direct any questions or concerns related to this rule update to Danielle Tier, IE Committee Chair (copied above) and Jon Becker, MIFA Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Becker
Executive Director