

YOUTH SPORTS GUIDELINES

These guidelines are effective June 15, 2020 in St. Louis County. In accordance with DPH's Order for Amended Business and Individual Guidelines for Social Distancing and Re-Opening Order dated May 29, 2020 and effective June 1, 2020, these guidelines may be replaced or modified by DPH based on new scientific information and local information including the trajectory of influenza-like illnesses, cases of COVID-19, and any other information deemed relevant to protect public health in St. Louis County.

Guiding Principles

Playing sports with or against other individuals during this time holds an inherent risk that someone may become infected and, in turn, spread the virus to other individuals in their household or community. Please consider this risk when allowing your child/teenager to participate in organized sports. Teams, clubs, and organizers must be familiar with recommendations from their national, state, and local governing bodies regarding illness (including but not limited to COVID-19). Resuming participation before public health authorities advise that it is safe to do so may create increased liability if an athlete is injured at a time when participation in practices or competitions may not be recommended.

The information regarding SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the COVID-19 illness, is changing rapidly. As a result, guidance given nationally and within our community is subject to change. The recommendations provided in this document will be reviewed and updated based on new scientific information and local circumstances, including COVID-19 testing capacity and state and local health department recommendations.

- **Lowest risk:** Performing skill-building drills or conditioning at home, alone or with family members.
- **Increasing risk:** Team-based practice.
- **More risk:** Within-team competition.
- **Even more risk:** Full competition between teams from the same local geographic area
- **Highest risk:** Full competition between teams from different geographic areas.

Requirements

- At this time youth sports activities are generally not permitted if these activities involve more than 10 people (including coaches) in a single space. If a team with more than 10 members can be divided among different spaces, do not mix the participants during practice. Social distancing is required and 6 feet distance must be applied at all times.
 - Given the large scale of ice rinks, soccer fields, baseball fields and other large outdoor fields, up to 34 players are allowed on the field or ice at one time. Players should be separated into groups as much as possible and maintain 6 feet distance at all times. All other requirements of other sports activities apply.
- Athletes, coaches, officials, referees, and umpires shall undergo a health screening and temperature check prior to starting any sports activity.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

- Screening times and practice or competition start times must be spaced out to limit overlap or intermingling of athletes coming and going.
- Hand hygiene is essential. Organizations and facilities shall promote frequent and effective hand hygiene by supplying ample hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) dispensers and hand-washing stations stocked with soap and water.
- The use of locker rooms is not recommended. If they must be used, proper social distancing must apply within the locker room (i.e. only every 3rd locker used, etc.). Proper area for equipment storage and cleaning is recommended.
- No unnecessary individuals (managers, extra coaches, non-participating athletes, etc.) shall be present at events.
- There shall be no spectators allowed at any workouts or practices. Parents shall remain in a separate area. No congregating shall be allowed in the parking lot or fields. A drop-off line for practices is recommended to avoid unnecessary exposure.
- Do not share water bottles. An individual athlete may use their own water bottle, which should be clearly marked with their name. Cups used for water should be single-use and disposable.
- Coolers must be properly sanitized after each use, and each team or group shall have its own cooler. Follow CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting coolers.
- Ice towels shall be used only once, then discarded or washed properly.
- Avoid whirlpools or cold/hot tubs. If they are required in an emergency, follow best practices.
 - Have a cold water immersion tub on-site or within 5 minutes of the field.
 - Have ice towels ready on the field for cooling during breaks and for covering the head in the event that an athlete has an exertional heatstroke and needs to be immersed. CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting should be followed.
- Avoid team huddles.
- Avoid handshakes, fist bumps, or other unnecessary physical contact.
- Coaches, officials, referees, and umpires must wear face masks when possible.
- Any shared equipment must be disinfected with EPA certified products between each use.
- Any jerseys used during these workouts must be washed daily and not shared among players.

Special Considerations for Athletes and Coaches

- Athletes and coaches should consider delaying their participation in sports and activities if they have any of the following conditions:
 - Diabetes
 - Chronic lung disease, including asthma
 - Severe obesity (BMI>40)
 - Chronic kidney disease
 - Heart conditions
 - Pregnancy
 - Immunocompromised (e.g. any transplant recipient, needing immunosuppressant medications (e.g. steroids, biologics, etc.), patients receiving chemotherapy, etc.)
 - Age greater than 60 years

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Screening

- Every coach and athlete must be screened when they enter the campus or facility where the sporting activity will occur. They should wear a face mask for the duration of the health screening if possible.
- Designate a consistent person to provide healthcare screenings. This person must wear a face mask and gloves when screening others.
 - Screen each individual by asking if they have experienced any of the following symptoms within the past 24 hours:
 - Fever (temperature greater than 100.4)
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
 - Sore throat, different than your seasonal allergies
 - New loss of smell and/or taste
 - Diarrhea or vomiting
 - Ask if they have a household or close contact who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks.
 - Check each person for fever using a thermometer. 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and above is considered a fever.
- If an athlete, coach, or official reports affirmative to any of the above COVID-19 screening questions or has a fever they shall be sent home immediately. If a child's parent(s) is not present, escort them to a designated isolation room or area away from others and have them wear a mask. The athlete, coach, or official shall not be allowed back until they are symptom-free.
- After the athlete, coach, or official is screened, they should receive an indicator that signifies that they have been screened (i.e. colored wrist band, sticker that changes daily, mark on hand) with the current date and initials of the screener. Athletes do not need to wear masks during play.
- If the individual has health-related questions, they shall consult with their health care provider.
- Individuals returning to sports after a COVID-19 diagnosis must consult with their medical provider and local public health department.

Permitted Activities

- Sports with low contact frequency are permitted at this time for youth.
 - These include diving, extreme sports, rodeo, water skiing, adventure racing, bicycling, canoeing or kayaking, field events (high jump, pole vault, javelin, shot-put), golf, horseback riding, skating (ice, in-line, roller), skateboarding, weight lifting, windsurfing, surfing, badminton, golf, orienteering, fishing, riflery, rope jumping, running, sailing, scuba diving, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track.

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- At this time youth high-frequency of contact sports activities are not permitted.
 - These include baseball, basketball, bodybuilding, boxing, bowling, cheerleading, crew/rowing, dance team, fencing, floor hockey, field hockey, gymnastics, tackle/flag/touch football, ice hockey, lacrosse, martial arts, racquetball, rugby, soccer, softball, handball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, water polo, wrestling.
- While these high-frequency contact sports activities are not permitted at this time, socially distanced skill development or practices related to these sports is permitted if:
 - No more than 10 individuals, including coaches, are permitted in a single space. If a team is larger than 10 and can practice in different spaces (such as different halves of a field or court), do not mix the participants during practice.
 - Given the large scale of ice rinks, soccer fields, baseball fields and other large outdoor fields, up to 34 players are allowed on the field or ice at one time. Players should be separated into groups as much as possible and maintain 6 feet distance at all times. All other requirements of other sports activities apply.
 - 6-foot social distancing is required and must be applied at all times.
 - Equipment must not be touched by more than one player unless the equipment is sanitized after each player's use.

References

- CDC Cleaning and Disinfection Tool. CDC.gov. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/ReOpening_America_Cleaning_Disinfection_Decision_Tool.pdf. Last reviewed May 7, 2020.
- **CDC Handwashing Guidelines.** CDC.gov. <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html> Last reviewed April 2, 2020.
- Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 (Interim Guidance). CDC.gov. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>. Last reviewed April 30, 2020.
- Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. Whitehouse.gov. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Guidelines-for-Opening-Up-America-Again.pdf>. Published April 16, 2020.
- **State of Missouri Novel Coronavirus Analytics.** Health.mo.gov. <https://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/novel-coronavirus/pdf/analytics-update.pdf>. Published May 5, 2020.
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