

Summer 2020 Reopening Guidelines for Outdoor Sports In the City of New Bedford

In response to public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, all mandatory guidelines must be followed before any activities can take place. The City of New Bedford is following Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandates.

PHASE TWO MANDATORY MEASURES

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Group size is limited. Programs must separate participants into groups of no more than 10 participants, including coaches and staff. Larger playing areas and surfaces, may be used by more than one group of 10 at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be spaced at least 20 feet apart while sharing a playing surface or field.

Inter-team games, scrimmages, and tournaments shall not be permitted for any organized sports activities. Scrimmages, organized games and tournaments are not allowed for contact sports in Phase II and activities must be limited to no-contact drills and training exercises.

Contact sports (e.g., basketball, football, baseball, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, hockey and other sports where ordinary play puts players in direct contact or close proximity) must limit activities exclusively to no-contact drills and practices.

Face Coverings and Masks: All visitors to parks and open space, as well as those participating in outdoor education programs should comply with *COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible*. The order requires any person over the age of 2, whether indoors or outdoors, to wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others, unless they have a medical condition preventing them from doing so.

Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Visitors, spectators, volunteers and staff must wear face coverings. Operators are encouraged to mark off spectator/chaperone viewing sites to allow for social distancing. Spectators of youth sports and youth summer sports camp should be limited to one adult chaperone per athlete.

Referees, umpires and other officials are not required for practices and cannot be present in Phase II.

Participants and coaches/instructors/counselors must be kept in the same small group (cohorts) with dedicated coaches or other staff.

If any equipment is provided by the operator, operators must minimize equipment sharing, and clean and disinfect shared equipment at the end of a practice session using a product from the list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against the novel coronavirus.

Personal equipment may not be shared and must be dedicated to an individual player throughout the season. Personal equipment includes all gear that is worn by players (e.g., gloves, helmets, masks, skates, footwear, pads, etc.).

No shared food or drink may be provided during any activities for participants or spectators (e.g., concession stands or team snacks). No use of public water bubblers, fountains or bottle fillers if present on site. Participants and spectators should only drink from their own containers.

Organizers should ensure that athletes arrive dressed for practice and leave immediately after practice: no recreational play or loitering is allowed

Participants and coaches must achieve proper hand hygiene at the beginning and end of all activities, either through handwashing with soap and water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

To participate or attend, organizers should ensure that participants, volunteers, coaches and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days. Current list of symptoms is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

If any individual develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the activity, they should promptly inform organizers and must be removed from the activity and instructed to return home.

Restroom facilities shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with Centers for Disease Control guidance and best practices linked here: *EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices*. Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.

Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 33. Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase II, they must still comply with all federal, state and local laws.

In addition to the above requirements, you may want to refer to CDC-recommended best practices

For complete guidance visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html>. This guidance includes a description of risk levels for various activities outlined below.

- **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.

ASSESSING RISK:

- **Physical closeness of players, and the length of time that players are close to each other or to staff.** Coaches can also modify practices so players work on individual skills, rather than on competition. Coaches may also put players into small groups (cohorts) that remain together and work through stations, rather than switching groups or mixing groups.
- **Minimize equipment sharing**, and clean and disinfect shared equipment between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- **Attention should be given to maintaining [social distancing](#) by increasing space between players on the sideline, dugout, or bench** during times when players are not actively participating in practice or competition. For younger athletes, youth sports programs may ask parents or other household

members to monitor their children and make sure that they follow social distancing and take other protective actions.

- Parents and coaches should assess level of risk based on individual players on the team who may be at [higher risk for severe illness](#), such as children who may have asthma, diabetes, or other health problems.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- Youth sports teams should consider competing only against teams in their local area (e.g., neighborhood, town, or community).

Additional General Public Health Guidance

ATHELETIC FIELDS:

- Users should sanitize hands before and after play, not share equipment, and clean and wipe down equipment.
- When engaged in play, users should avoid touching other users' equipment in separate areas.
- Users waiting to utilize a section or area of the field should wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated the facility to ensure proper social distancing and prevent accidental contact of other users' equipment.
- Users should not engage in pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS:

- Users should abide by social distancing standards for bathroom lines and follow any established visual guidelines for maintaining a 6 ft distance in all restroom facilities.
- In advance of the initial opening of public restrooms, the managing entity should adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines pertaining to the cleaning and disinfection standards of operating procedures for interior spaces and that social distancing can be maintained.
- The managing entity should have the facilities cleaned at least once daily by staff and perform deep cleaning and disinfection services at least once per week and should follow the EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices.
- Restroom facilities should contain hand washing and/or sanitizer stations, and the public should use these stations following the use of the facilities.