



# Reopening New York

## Professional Sports Competitions Guidelines

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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure that all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel maintain 6 ft. of distance from other individuals or groups of people, to the extent possible, and not withstanding proximity or contact that may occur during competition or other core activities.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided that certain functions at professional sports venues require being within 6 ft. of others, these functions shall be identified and a protocol for mitigation of risk for affected individuals shall be implemented.</li> <li>• Ensure that all individuals wear appropriate face coverings when in the venue at all times, except for athletes when engaged in training, warming up, or competition and broadcast media personnel when it interferes with the core activity. Athletes must don face coverings after completion of any of the above activities, or before active competition such as when standing/sitting on the sidelines.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Ensure that no live audience, fans, or spectators are allowed to attend or permitted to enter any professional sports venue, even if an outdoor venue.</li> <li>✓ Prohibit fans from congregating outside the venue and implement a security plan to safely disperse any individuals that gather outside of the venue.</li> <li>✓ Establish protocols for team staff and athletes to limit the use of frequently shared spaces, such as locker rooms, restrooms, lounges, team benches, or similar spaces, to allow for proper social distancing when not on the field of play.</li> <li>✓ Limit the number of team staff and venue staff on site to only essential personnel required to successfully stage and broadcast competition while maintaining all applicable health and safety standards.</li> <li>✓ Limit the number of individuals allowed on/near the field to only athletes, essential team staff (e.g. coaches), and others deemed necessary.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consider establishing a tier system to control movement and access within the venue for all essential personnel (e.g. tier 1, 2, 3 individuals and associated rights of access within venue).</li> <li>✓ Use ancillary seating areas (e.g. empty stands) as necessary for team staff and athletes on the sidelines.</li> <li>✓ Ensure 6 ft. of space between all lockers for team athletes to accommodate social distancing.</li> <li>✓ Ensure appropriate social distancing during all team travel to and from the venue (e.g. team buses and planes), to the extent possible. All individuals should wear appropriate face coverings when in transit.</li> <li>✓ Establish a separate entrance for team staff and athletes to limit congregation with venue personnel and to facilitate on-site health screenings.</li> <li>✓ Discourage any unnecessary physical contact that is not normally core to the professional sports activity.</li> <li>✓ Allow media personnel to be spaced out within the venue in order to limit congregation in small spaces (e.g. broadcast booths, media rooms).</li> <li>✓ Modify the use and/or restrict the number of workstations and seating areas, so that employees are at least 6 ft. apart in all directions, and enact physical barriers, in accordance with <a href="#">OSHA guidelines</a>, when distancing between workstations is not feasible.</li> <li>✓ Assign maintenance staff to pairs/small groups to limit the number of close or proximate contacts, where possible.</li> <li>✓ Stagger schedules for venue personnel to observe social distancing (i.e., 6 ft. of space) for any gathering (e.g. coffee breaks, meals, shift starts/stops).</li> </ul>



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Physical Distancing (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure that team staff and athletes on the sidelines maintain appropriate social distancing at all times, and minimize congregation.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that only team athletes and essential staff are allowed in designated team areas (e.g. locker rooms, athlete lounges, training areas, athlete medical areas).</li> <li>✓ Ensure that media interactions, including post-game interviews, always follow appropriate social distancing.</li> <li>✓ Limit in-person gatherings (e.g. team meetings, coaching briefings) as much as possible.</li> <li>✓ Establish designated areas for pick-ups and deliveries, limiting contact to the extent possible.</li> <li>✓ Develop a plan for people to maintain six feet of social distance while queuing inside or outside of the building for screening, as applicable.</li> <li>✓ If non essential amenities and communal are open, make hand sanitizer or disinfecting wipes available next to equipment near such amenities (e.g. vending machines, communal coffee stations, club houses).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prohibit the use of small spaces (e.g. elevators, equipment rooms, media rooms or vehicles, mechanical areas) by more than one individual at a time, unless all individuals are wearing face coverings.</li> <li>✓ Post social distancing markers using tape or signs that denote 6 ft. of spacing in commonly used and other applicable areas (e.g. elevator entrances, escalators, lobbies, health screening stations, etc.).</li> <li>✓ Encourage social distancing by limiting occupancy or closing non-essential amenities/communal areas that don't allow for social distancing protocols .</li> </ul>
Workplace Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Follow all applicable DOH guidance, such as:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Offices</a> for any activities taking place in offices.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Professional Sports Training Facilities</a> for any activities taking place in venue training facilities.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Personal Care</a> for any activities related to massage therapy or spas, or makeup, as applicable.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Food Services</a> for any activities related to food/beverage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Ensure that all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel receive training on COVID-19 safety, proper hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection protocols</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Consider closing concessions or food services where applicable, unless necessary to keep open for the purpose of providing food/beverages to essential personnel.</li> <li>✓ Keep maintenance of facilities to the minimum standard required to execute competitions (i.e. only allowing personnel to return who are essential to preparation of the field of play or facilities).</li> </ul>



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ensure that all individuals wear appropriate face coverings when in the venue at all times, except for athletes when engaged in training, warming up, or competition and broadcast media personnel when it interferes with the core activity. Athletes must don face coverings after completion of any of the above activities, or before active competition such as when standing/sitting on the sidelines.</li> <li>✓ If gloves are not worn, staff must perform hand hygiene before and after close contact with athletes.</li> <li>✓ Provide employees, players, and team staff within the venue with an acceptable face covering at no-cost to the employee, player, or team staff.</li> <li>✓ Allow team staff, athletes, and venue personnel to use their own acceptable face coverings or additional personal protective equipment.</li> <li>✓ Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks, unless the nature of the work requires stricter PPE (e.g. N95 respirator, face shield).</li> <li>✓ Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use and may not be shared. Consult <a href="#">CDC guidance</a>.</li> <li>✓ Implement measures to limit the sharing of objects, such as equipment, materials, and vehicles, as well as the touching of shared surfaces; or, require employees, athletes, and team staff to wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical) when in contact with shared objects/frequently touched surfaces, if practicable; or require employees, athletes, and team staff to perform hand hygiene before and after contact.</li> <li>✓ Train employees on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Encourage use of gloves and eye protection for support staff that regularly interact with athletes in close contact (e.g. trainers, physicians, conditioning coaches, ball handlers, attendants, trainers, medical staff).</li> </ul>



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
<b>Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the <a href="#">Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</a> (CDC) and <a href="#">Department of Health</a> (DOH) and maintain logs that document date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.</li> <li>✓ Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations, including handwashing with soap, running warm water, and paper towels, as well as an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that athletes perform hand hygiene before and after inserting or removing mouthguards.</li> <li>✓ Provide and encourage team and venue personnel to use cleaning/disinfection supplies before and after use of shared and frequently touched surfaces, followed by hand hygiene.</li> <li>✓ Conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the venue and more frequent cleaning and disinfection of high risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces. Refer to Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) <a href="#">products</a> identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against COVID-19.</li> <li>✓ Regularly clean and disinfect sporting equipment that is handled by multiple athletes throughout the competition (e.g. soccer balls, baseballs, tennis balls, basketballs, baseball bats).</li> <li>✓ Clean and disinfect any medical areas including tables and surfaces between each use or exam.</li> <li>✓ Ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that all athlete areas are appropriately and effectively cleaned and disinfected after the end of each practice and competition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Place signage near hand sanitizer stations indicating that visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water.</li> <li>✓ Place receptacles around the venue for disposal of soiled items, including PPE.</li> <li>✓ Collect and launder linens (towels, uniforms, clothing) on site if possible, and encourage athletes to deposit used linens in designated bins without handling by other individuals such as equipment managers or attendants.</li> <li>✓ Assign cleaning staff to certain areas of the venue (e.g. locker rooms) in order to limit cross contamination throughout the facility.</li> <li>✓ Encourage athletes to shower at their hotel or residence following a competition, rather than at the locker room provided at the venue.</li> <li>✓ Prohibit any spitting within the venue at any time and any products that require spitting (e.g. smokeless tobacco, sunflower seeds).</li> <li>✓ Remove any unnecessary communal fixtures from the venue, such as newspaper or magazine stands in favor of individual distribution upon request.</li> <li>✓ Place hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless when possible, in convenient locations, such as entrances/exits, elevators, and security/reception desks.</li> </ul>





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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Prohibit shared food and beverages (e.g. self-serve meals and beverages) and reserve adequate space for team and venue personnel to observe social distancing while eating meals.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that all saunas, hot tubs, cryotherapy chambers, or similar enclosed spaces remain closed.</li> <li>✓ Prohibit sharing of any personal items (e.g. water bottles, equipment, towels, toiletries, clothing, supplements) among team staff and athletes.</li> </ul>	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Affirm you have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines, and that you will implement them.</li> <li>✓ Post signage reminding individuals to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfection protocols.</li> <li>✓ Notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by any personnel at the site.</li> <li>✓ In the case of any team staff, athlete, or venue personnel testing positive, cooperate with the state and local health department to trace contacts. Neither competitions nor practices may proceed until contact tracing is completed and isolation of infected persons and quarantine of exposed persons are implemented by the state and local health departments as appropriate</li> <li>✓ Conspicuously post completed safety plans on site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop a communications plan for all team staff, athletes, and venue personnel that includes applicable instructions, training, signage, and a consistent means to provide personnel with information. Consider developing webpages, text and email groups, and social media.</li> </ul>



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Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Implement diagnostic testing for COVID-19 for all athletes and essential team staff with regular player access 48 hours before a competition, where feasible, given lab operating hours and turnaround time, regardless of antibody test results or history of infection.</li> <li>✓ Implement mandatory daily health screenings for team staff, athletes, and venue personnel prior to any engagement in professional sports activities, as well as for vendors where applicable (e.g. questionnaire, temperature check) asking about (1) COVID-19 <a href="#">symptoms</a> in past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 test in past 14 days, and/or (3) close or proximate contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in past 14 days.</li> <li>✓ Ensure that any personnel performing screening activities, including temperature checks, are appropriately protected from exposure to potentially infectious individuals entering the facility.</li> <li>✓ Any team staff member, athlete, or venue personnel who screens positive for COVID-19 symptoms must not be allowed to enter the venue and must be sent home or to a designated accommodation with instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing.</li> <li>✓ Designate a central point of contact, which may vary by activity, location, shift or day, responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all team staff, athlete, and venue personnel questionnaires, with such contact also identified as the party for team staff, athletes, or venue personnel to inform if they later are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, as noted on the questionnaire.</li> <li>✓ Require any team staff, athlete, and/or venue personnel to immediately disclose if and when any responses to screening questions change, such as if they begin to experience symptoms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Perform screening remotely (e.g. by telephone or electronic survey), before people arrive, to the extent possible.</li> <li>✓ Coordinate screening to prevent individuals from intermingling in close or proximate contact with each other. Follow screening best practices.</li> <li>✓ Implement pre-travel screening for any teams travelling domestically or internationally. International travel must comply with all federal, state, and local guidelines.</li> <li>✓ Temperature checks may also be conducted per U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or DOH guidelines.</li> <li>✓ Maintain a log of every person, including team staff, athletes, and venue personnel who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the facility or work area, such that all contacts may be identified, traced, and notified in the event an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means.</li> <li>✓ Refer to DOH’s <a href="#">guidance</a> regarding protocols and policies for employees seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.</li> </ul>