



City of Virginia Beach

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
PHONE: (757) 385-4242
FAX: (757) 427-5626

MUNICIPAL CENTER
BUILDING 1, ROOM 234
2401 COURTHOUSE DRIVE
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23456-9001

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Robert M. Dyer, Mayor
and Members of City Council

Subject: Sports Tournament Guidelines – COVID-19 Phase III

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council:

Attached for your information are the guidelines for Sports Tournament Play in the City of Virginia Beach under Phase III COVID-19 as authorized by Governor Northam. These guidelines cover the roles and responsibilities of City staff as well as tournament organizers.

City staff will immediately begin working with our network of various sports tournament organizers, providers, and sponsors to familiarize them with our operational practices. This action will aid an organizer's ability to gain a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities when conducting a sports tournament in the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

While we are excited to welcome back sports tournament play in an environment dominated by an aggressive coronavirus pandemic, we shall remain vigilant. We will continue to monitor the recent spike of positive COVID-19 cases impacting residents and visitors in the City of Virginia Beach. To this end we will modify or reduce service levels or program offerings when necessary to err on the side of securing sustainable health and safety of our constituency.

Should you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Kirschman, Parks & Recreation Director, at 757-385-1122 or MKirschman@vbgov.com, or Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager, at 757-385-1125 or KChandle@vbgov.com.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Leahy, P.E.
Acting City Manager

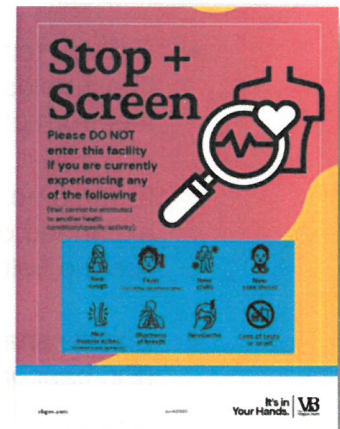
Attachment (1)

C: Kenneth L. Chandler, DSL, ICMA-CM Deputy City Manager
Steven R. Cover, Deputy City Manager
Ronald H. Williams, Jr. Deputy City Manager
Michael Kirschman, Parks & Recreation Director

Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation
Guidelines and Outline of Responsibilities
For the Safe Return to Athletic Tournaments During COVID-19 VA Phase III

Parks and Recreation shall:

- Allow the return of softball, baseball, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer, kickball, ultimate, flag football and 7v7 non-contact football. We will not permit tackle football, rugby or any other high contact sports.
- Post signage at field entrances that state no one with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 or known exposure to a COVID-19 case in the prior 14 days is permitted in the facility (standard City signage).
- Post signage to provide public health reminders regarding physical distancing (ex: standard City signage, as well as banners along fences, within bathrooms, etc. reminding instructors, participants, and spectators to practice and maintain 10 feet of physical distance, per state guidelines for indoor & outdoor recreation sports).
- Provide routine cleaning of bathrooms, ensure soap and cleaning supplies are available, and provide an increased level of disinfection (at least every 2 hours) of high contact bathroom areas and hard surfaces such as door knobs, light switches, etc.
- Enlarge the player dugouts at the softball fields to include the bleacher area immediately adjacent to dugouts to provide additional space for increased distancing between players. (Bleachers to be closed to spectators.)
- Turn off water fountains.
- Monitor compliance with all current guidelines by tournament directors and teams (below) and notify tournament director immediately of any issues.



Tournament directors shall:

- Ensure coaches, officials, tournament staff, players and spectators adhere to Virginia Safer at Home Phase III Guidelines.
- Conduct daily screening of coaches, officials, staff, and players for COVID-19 symptoms prior to admission to the venue/facility. Children should be screened per CDC guidance. Adults should be asked if they are currently experiencing fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or a sense of having a fever, a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition, a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity.

- Ensure anyone experiencing symptoms are not permitted to play or permitted in the facility.
- Enforce and ensure no gatherings of greater than 250 persons per field.
- Require players, spectators, and officials to refrain from high fives, handshakes, and other similar physical contact.
- Enforce no spitting or eating of sunflower seeds or other similar products.
- Enforce the ten feet of physical distancing guideline between players and officials, where practicable.
- Enforce ten feet of physical distancing between spectators from different households. Spectators can line the fields with chairs, etc. but should remain ten feet from other spectators during games.
- Enforce no spectator use of bleachers (bleachers to be used by teams for expanded dug out/team area). Spectators will be permitted to bring chairs and line the fields, ensuring physical distancing between households.
- Ensure shared game items are disinfected between use to the extent practicable. (Ex: baseball/softball periodically disinfected or replaced during games.)
- Inform all teams they are expected to wipe down the player benches/stands and high touch points in these areas prior to vacating the area at the conclusion of a game
- At the multi-purpose rectangular fields, ensure teams are not on the same side of the field. Teams must remain on opposite sides of the fields.
- Inform all in attendance associated with their event if an individual is incapable of maintaining physical distancing on their own (ex: young child), they must be accompanied at all times by someone who can ensure physical distancing is maintained (ex: to a food truck, to the restroom, etc.).
- Enforce no tailgating or congregating in the facility or parking lot before or after games. Teams will be required to exit the field and facility within 15 minutes of the game ending.
- All scheduled games are to be adequately staggered to prevent “stacking” or large congregations of players, teams and spectators. There should not be two teams and associated spectators playing on the field while two teams and their respective spectators are waiting nearby to get on the field. Sufficient time is to be built into the game scheduling to permit game play and the exit of all players and spectators prior to the next set of teams and spectators arriving.
- Seven days prior to the first date of use the tournament director is to submit to the Sports Management office the proposed staggered game time / field schedule for approval. The schedule must reflect enough time between games to

allow for safer ingress and egress of all and prevent stacking as mentioned above. Sports Management Office will approve the final game schedule.

- Acknowledge in writing the understanding that failure to comply with any of these guidelines could result in delaying or temporary stopping of games, cancellation of the tournament and/or denial of future field use requests.



Links:

[CDC considerations for youth sports](#)

[Virginia Safer at Home Phase III Guidelines](#)

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