



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO  
GOVERNOR, MAGA'HAGA'

JOSHUA F. TENORIO  
LT. GOVERNOR, SIGUNDO MAGA'LÁHI

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT



ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR  
DIRECTOR

LAURENT SF DUENAS, MPH, BSN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY G. AGUON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

October 12, 2021

**DPHSS Guidance Memorandum 2021- 29**

**RE: Non-Scholastic Organized Sports, Training, and Competition Relative to Executive Orders No. 2021-19 and 2021-20**

The purpose of this document is to require organized sports to implement COVID-19 mitigation measures, including vaccination requirements for training and competition, in accordance with Executive Orders No. 2021-19 and 2021-20, during the current Pandemic Condition of Readiness 3 (PCOR 3), which was declared by Executive Order No. 2021-16 on July 21, 2021. It is issued in furtherance of DPHSS's authority as provided in the *Islan Guåhan Emergency Health Powers Act*, in particular 10 GCA § 19601, which provides that DPHSS shall use every available means to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to ensure that all cases of contagious disease are subject to proper control and treatment.

This memorandum supersedes DPHSS Memorandum 2021-08 (Organized Sports, Non-Contact Training and Competition) and does not apply to school-sanctioned or non-organized sport activities. Unless mentioned elsewhere, school-sanctioned sport activities shall continue to adhere to DPHSS Guidance Memorandum 2021-23, while unorganized sports activities shall be considered as a "congregation" and must adhere to DPHSS Guidance Memorandum 2021-24.

All sports organizations may implement more stringent measures than the standards provided herein, such as physical barriers, social distancing, and limited occupancy, and are strongly encouraged to require their employees, coaches, participants, and spectators to download the Guam COVID Alert.

Organized contact and non-contact sport activities are authorized to resume training and competition, and spectators are authorized to attend these sporting events, subject to the requirements set forth below.

This memorandum is effective immediately.

**A. Definitions**

1. "Congregation" or "Social Gathering" shall mean a meeting for a common and singular purpose of more than one person where the individuals are not members of an "immediate family unit" or "single household unit." This does not include "funeral ceremony" (both

religious and non-religious); regular operations in “places of worship”; and meetings of businesses, organizations, or government agencies held for the purpose of carrying out official business of such entities in their place of business, provided that food and drinks are not consumed on site.

2. “Organized Contact Sports” shall mean a planned sports activity, either for training or competition, that requires close proximity (i.e., within 6 feet) between participants and may make it more difficult to maintain physical distancing. Examples include, but are not limited to, wrestling and basketball.
3. “Face Mask” shall mean a material that covers the nose and mouth and can be secured to the head with ties or straps or wrapped around the lower face. Face masks with exhalation vent(s), valve(s), or any device that allows unfiltered release of exhaled breath are highly discouraged.
4. “Face Shield” shall mean a personal protective equipment designed and worn to protect the wearer’s entire face from hazards or potentially infectious materials. Face shields may be used in addition to a “face mask,” but not in lieu of.
5. “Organized Non-Contact Sports” shall mean a planned sports activity where participants can maintain 6 feet physical distancing and any contact is incidental to the activity during training, practice, try outs, and competition, such as:
  - a. Baseball;
  - b. Board sports (bodyboarding, longboarding, skateboarding, surfing);
  - c. Cricket;
  - d. Croquet;
  - e. Cross country;
  - f. Cue sports (carom billiards, pool, snooker);
  - g. Cycle sports (BMX, mountain bicycling, road bicycling);
  - h. Darts;
  - i. Golf;
  - j. Gymnastics;
  - k. Motorsports (ATVs, drifting, motorcycles, track racing);
  - l. Paddling sports (kayaking, stand up paddling);
  - m. Racket sports (badminton, table tennis, tennis);
  - n. Shooting sports (archery, practical shooting);
  - o. Softball;
  - p. Strength sports (bodybuilding, powerlifting, strongman, weightlifting);
  - q. Track and Field;
  - r. Volleyball;
  - s. Water sports (diving, fishing, swimming); and
  - t. Any other sport determined as non-contact by the Department of Public Health and Social Services.

6. "Spectator Pod" shall mean a group of people that only sit or stay with members of their own group.
7. "Unorganized Sports" shall mean any game or sport activity that is not regulated by a governing body, league, or organization, such as pick-up games. These activities are considered as a "congregation" or "social gathering."
8. "Vaccinated" and "Vaccination" shall mean having received the first shot of a recommended series of vaccination with a vaccine authorized to prevent COVID-19 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including by way of an emergency use authorization, or by the World Health Organization (WHO). A list of FDA-authorized vaccines is available at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>. A list of WHO-authorized vaccines is available at <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines>.

#### **B. Face Mask Requirements for Non-Scholastic Organized Sports, Training, and Competition**

1. All participants must wear a face mask that covers the nose and mouth when not actively participating in an athletic activity.
2. Non-participants, such as coaches, officials, instructors, and employees must wear face masks at all times.
3. Spectators shall be required to wear face masks at all times, but may remove their face masks when actively eating or drinking, provided they remain in their respective spectator pod, as provided in Section C(5) below.
4. Except as provided in Section B(5) below, the use of a face shield or goggle as a substitute for a face mask is prohibited; however, the items may be worn for eye protection with the face mask.
5. Certain populations, including those with certain medical conditions, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or asthma, may not be able to wear a face mask. The wearing of face shields may be one suitable alternative for these individuals. In addition:
  - a. Most individuals, including those with disabilities, can tolerate and safely wear a face mask. However, a narrow subset of individuals with disabilities might not be able to wear a mask or cannot safely wear a face mask.
  - b. Those who cannot safely wear a face mask for example, a person with a disability who, for reasons related to the disability, would be physically unable to remove a mask without assistance if breathing becomes obstructed, should not be required to wear one.

- c. For the remaining portion of the subgroup, organizers should make individualized determinations as required by Federal disability laws to determine if an exception to the face mask requirement is necessary and appropriate for a particular individual.
- d. If an individual with a disability cannot wear a face mask, that individual must maintain physical distance, or adhere to other public health requirements.

### **C. Physical Distancing Requirements for Non-Scholastic Organized Sports, Training, and Competition**

1. The governing body, league, or organization organizing a practice, training, and competition must provide physical guides, such as tape in the dugouts, benches, restrooms, concession areas, or other shared or athlete staging areas, and signage, to ensure that individuals remain at least six (6) feet apart.
2. All persons are prohibited from congregating in the parking lot or near the field, gym, or sports complex/facility before and after games.
3. Participants must maintain 6 feet of separation from others when not on the field of play or when engaged in play/activity, whenever possible, including when traveling in a bus.
4. Coaches, officials, and participants who are not from the same household must maintain at least six (6) feet social distancing from other individuals.
5. Spectator pods shall be limited to no more than four (4) individuals per athlete. Each spectator pod must be seated at least six (6) feet from other spectator pods, and members of separate pods shall remain distanced from members of other pods for the duration of the activity.
6. Distance between spectator pods is measured between outermost individuals of each pod.
7. Participants and coaches should avoid unnecessary physical contact, such as high-fives, handshakes, fist-bumps, and hugs.
8. Consider conducting team meetings virtually or outdoors as much as possible.

### **D. Health and Hygiene**

1. Participants, coaches, officials, and spectators should practice the following behavior to keep from contracting and spreading infectious illnesses:
  - a. Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, before and after practices and games, after adjusting face mask, and before and after sharing equipment or gear.

- b. Cover cough and sneeze with a tissue. Used tissues must be thrown away and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - c. When hand washing stations are not available, there must be a sufficient supply of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol available for use.
  - d. Participants should bring their own equipment and gear, if possible (e.g., rackets, gloves, balls, and helmets), to minimize sharing of equipment and gear between participants.
  - e. Participants, coaches, and officials should bring their own personal beverages and containers. Consider labeling water bottles with the person's name.
2. The following activities are prohibited:
- a. Spitting;
  - b. Sharing of towels, clothing, or any items used to wipe face or hands;
  - c. Sharing of food, drinks, and utensils; and
  - d. The use of water fountains and other shared self-service devices (i.e., water cooler dispensers).

## **E. Cleaning and Disinfecting**

1. Conduct thorough cleaning and disinfection of the entire athletic facility, including chairs, furniture in meeting rooms, locker rooms, weight room equipment, bathrooms, and athletic training room tables, daily when in use using disinfectant cleaning supplies. CDC guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting can be found at the website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.
2. Use commercial-grade, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered household disinfectant (<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0>). If unavailable, bleach solutions can be used, if appropriate for the surface, by mixing 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) of bleach (5% - 6% hypochlorite concentration) per 1 gallon of water, or 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.
3. Clean and disinfect highly touched surfaces, equipment, gear, shared objects, and equipment between each use. Equipment and gear should be inspected frequently for damage and tears, and be replaced whenever necessary due to the inability to properly clean and disinfect such items.
4. Consider using a checklist (e.g., date, time, and name of individual) to document thorough cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces, equipment, and common areas of the facility.



## **F. Ventilation**

1. Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, such as by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk (e.g., allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to individuals occupying the facility. Consider conducting the activity in a location with greater ventilation and air exchange, outdoors versus indoors, and where it is possible to maintain physical distance from others.
2. Take steps to minimize air from blowing from one person directly to another individual if fans and other mechanical ventilation systems are used. Consider using portable high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan or similar filtration systems to enhance air cleaning.

## **G. Health and Safety of Participants, Coaches, Officials, and Spectators**

1. Participants, coaches, officials, and spectators are prohibited from attending or participating in a practice, training, and competition, if they tested positive for COVID-19 and are infectious, waiting for COVID-19 test result, showing COVID-19 symptoms, or a close contact with a person who has tested positive for, or who has symptoms of, COVID-19.
2. Participants should notify coach or staff member if not feeling well.
3. Participants, coaches, and officials must be screened for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, close contact or caring for someone with COVID-19, and temperature check (if higher than 100.3° Fahrenheit), upon arrival for training and competition. Written responses to screening questions must be recorded and maintained for a period of 30 days from the date of screening and must be readily available to DPHSS, when requested.
4. Any person with, or reporting, COVID-19 symptoms is prohibited from participating in workouts and should contact his or her primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
5. Participants and coaches must report to practice, training, and competition in proper attire with personal protective equipment and immediately return home to shower at the end of the workout.
6. Participants, coaches, and officials are strongly encouraged to shower and wash their workout clothing immediately upon returning home.
7. Spectators must be screened upon entering indoor facilities. A written record must be maintained by the establishment or sponsor of event for a period of 30 days after the event, which provides the following information that must be readily available to DPHSS, when requested:

- a. Date and time of the visit of every individual;
- b. Name of individual(s); and
- c. Individual's phone and/or email.

## **H. Vaccination Requirements**

1. Organized sports and competitions must require all coaches, participants, spectators, and employees sixteen (16) years plus one (1) month of age or older to show acceptable proof that they have received at least one shot of a recommended series of vaccination pursuant to DPHSS Guidance Memorandum 2021-24 prior to every sporting event. This requirement may be satisfied by keeping copies of such acceptable proof on record for a period of 30 days after the event.
2. In the event a coach or participant described in H.1. above declines to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or fails to provide proof of such vaccination, they will be required to undergo and submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test once weekly. However, if this is a one-time sporting event, a proof of negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 7 days prior to the date of the event, must be presented to the sponsoring organization. The organization must maintain records of such test results for a period of not less than 30 days, and provide such records to DPHSS upon request.

## **I. Signage**

Signs must be posted at the entrance and throughout the facility that promote behaviors that prevent the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19, which must be communicated through images and pictures for coaches, participants, officials, spectators, and other persons to observe. Signs must also alert spectators and employees to the vaccination requirement and inform them that they are required to be vaccinated.

## **J. Recommendations**

1. Prior to participating in the sport event, the following is recommended:
  - a. Bring extra face masks and hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.
  - b. Prioritize participating in outdoor activities over indoor activities.
  - c. If using an indoor facility, allow previous groups to leave the facility before entering with team.
  - d. Schedule practices and games to allow time for cleaning and/or disinfecting of the indoor facility.
  - e. If at an increased risk for severe illness or having existing health conditions, extra precautions and preventive actions be taken during the activity or choose individual or at-home activities.
2. Make plans to reduce risk:
  - a. Choose outdoor settings as much as possible.
  - b. Select a larger playing area to promote social distancing.

- c. Choose facilities that have high ceilings with mitigation measures that improve ventilation by opening doors and windows and use portable air cleaners that have HEPA filters.
  - d. Limit interaction with others.
  - e. If choosing to remain indoors, keep activities as brief as possible to avoid prolonged exposure to individuals from different households.
3. Advice for Participants:
- a. Assess your own risk for infection from COVID-19 based on your teammates' behavior on and off the field, such as:
    - If they are attending gatherings without wearing face masks,
    - Not practicing physical distancing, and
    - Engaging in other risky behaviors, which places the entire team at risk.
  - b. Be fully vaccinated, if eligible.
4. Advice for Parents/Guardians:
- a. Help child follow mitigation measures off the field.
  - b. Speak to child's coach and encourage measures that minimize the spread of COVID-19, such as practicing outside instead of inside and limiting attendance at practices and games.
5. Advice for Coaches, Organizers, and/or Sponsors:
- a. Have smaller team sizes to decrease number of participants (and ultimately, the potential for spread of the virus).
  - b. Limit team to a core group of participants by restricting non-team players from joining and not adding new members during the season.
  - c. Maintain rosters of participants, family members, coaches, and ancillary staff who attend each practice and game, and have current contact information for everyone.
  - d. If a COVID-19 exposure occurs, timely notify all affected, including DPHSS.

For further questions, please contact the Division of Environmental Health at 671-300-9579 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, or email, [dphss-deh@dphss.guam.gov](mailto:dphss-deh@dphss.guam.gov).

  
**ARTHUR U. SAN AGUSTIN, MHR**  
Director