

**RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020, 7:00 AM**

Pursuant to Gov. Baker's Executive Order dated March 12, 2020 modifying the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee, to ensure the safety of all participants, held its meeting remotely via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84109344168>, Meeting ID: 841 0934 4168.

*Members present: Alex Cobb, Trevor MacDonald, Michelle Callanan, Melissa Crocker, Charlie Hipwood, Mark Ferris, Ben Polimer, Mike McGrath, Christopher Fitzgerald.*

*Members absent: John Power, Kristin Barbieri*

The meeting began at 7:05 AM.

**Resident Comments:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes from the June 19 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Outdoor classrooms, tents and potential impact on fields**

Mr. Cobb and Mr. Polimer discussed the intent of Weston Public Schools to use tents for outdoor classrooms at the beginning of the school year. Currently, two tents are planned and sited at each school, tents are 20'X20' and 20'X40' and will not impact underground utilities, irrigation lines, or athletic fields. More tents are being considered as planning continues.

**Field use review under COVID guidelines; fall use policies**

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed the process for user groups signing off and committing to complying with current guidelines as outlined in Attachment 1. This was developed in conjunction with the Town's Emergency Management Team. Weston Little League has been playing games withing these guidelines, signs were posted and areas marked to encourage social distancing and compliance with the guidelines. Mr. Hipwood remarked how the efforts were helpful and that Little League events are going well.

Recreation met with Soccer earlier this week to discuss safety with carrying out practices and competitions. Soccer will also follow the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association guidelines which go beyond state requirements and include changes to the game such as:

- No intentional heading the ball
- No throw-ins – ball must be passed in by the foot from out of bounds
- Corner kicks – ball cannot be kicked into the penalty area
- No standing shoulder-to-shoulder

At the time, soccer was still considering whether to have a competitive season or not.

There was discussion about the Flag Football organization forming in town. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that he met with the leader of this group and impressed upon him the procedure for obtaining fields, that the organization needs to be recognized by the state, and its likely they won't be able to play games per current guidelines. Ms. Crocker clarified that this organization would be subject to the \$15 per hour per field rate because they were not expected to contribute to field maintenance in another fashion.

### **Updates**

Memorial Pool – Mr. Fitzgerald stated that the pool was closed for the summer due to concerns related to safety around the COVID-19 limitations, finances, and the failure of a pump that is critical to pool operation. A Recreation Commission meeting was held on June 16 to hear public concern around the pool closing and to build a citizens' committee to help build support for the pool project. The RMPSC briefly discussed the planned renovation, Mr. Cobb encouraged the Recreation Commission to seek design funding at the soonest available time so that the RMPSC can begin lining up other projects.

### **High School / Middle School Feasibility**

Nothing changed since last meeting. Town meeting is tentatively scheduled for September.

### **Burchard Park Maintenance**

Memo submitted to the town, all parties are considering ways to approach request.

### **Pickleball and Bocce**

These items were mentioned at the Select Board meeting. Mr. Fitzgerald spoke of a proposed bocce court as part of an Eagle Scout project years ago. Timing was not right as they wanted to build it just outside of the COA section of the Weston Community Center; the construction of the existing soccer field had just been put under contract so the area was off limits. Could be re-visited but need to consider recess from Field School taking place in the area.

Pickleball is being offered through Recreation this summer within COVID restrictions. There was interest among the committee in considering pursuing pickleball courts after the pool project.

### **High School Graduation, impact on fields**

The high school graduation took place as a drive-through ceremony on Field 3. Minor damage took place, nothing requiring extensive work, everything went well.

### **Next meeting:**

Friday, September 18, 7 AM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 AM.

# **POLICIES FOR ORGANIZED YOUTH AND ADULT SPORT ACTIVITIES ON FIELDS AND COURTS**

*State of Massachusetts COVID-19 Re-opening Phase III, Step 1.*

*Weston Recreation Department, 20 Alphabet Lane, Weston, MA 02493, 781-786-6260,  
westonma.gov/recreation*

In consideration Governor Charlie Baker’s phased in re-opening plan, some organized youth and adult sports activities will be permitted on Weston fields during Phase III, Step 1. Permits will be considered for established organized youth and adult sport groups and applicable activities organized through the Weston Recreation Department. Permits for individuals will not be considered. Organized youth and adult sport groups demonstrate they can meet and enforce all Phase III, Step 1 requirements below before being permitted for field use. For further information, view the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities – Phase III, Step 1:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/safety-standards-for-youth-and-adult-amateur-sports-activities-phase-iii-step-1/download>

## **I. LIMITATIONS ON RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES DURING PHASE III, STEP I**

### **A. RISK LEVEL OF SPORTS**

Sports and recreational activities are categorized as “**Lower Risk**,” “**Moderate Risk**,” and “**Higher Risk**” based on the risk of transmission of COVID-19 inherent in the sport or recreational activity itself as traditionally played.

- **Lower Risk** sports and recreation activities are characterized by sports or activities that can be done with social distancing and no physical contact, or sports or activities that can be done individually. Examples: tennis, pickleball, swimming, catch, disc golf, golf, individual biking, surfing, horseback riding, individual sailing, fishing, hunting, motor sports, no contact exercise classes, gymnastics, cross country, individual crew.
- **Moderate Risk** sports and recreation activities are characterized by sports or activities that involve intermittent close proximity or limited, incidental physical contact between participants. Examples: Baseball, softball, crew, sailing, track and field, running clubs, team swimming, volleyball, dance class, fencing, field hockey, girls’ lacrosse, soccer.
- **Higher Risk** sports and recreation activities are characterized by sports or activities for which there is a requirement or a substantial likelihood of routine close and/or sustained proximity or deliberate physical contact between participants and a high probability that respiratory particles

will be transmitted between participants. Examples: Football, wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice-hockey, competitive cheer, martial arts, ultimate frisbee, boxing, pair figure skating.

## **B. SPORTS & RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ALLOWED BY RISK LEVEL DURING PHASE III, STEP 1**

The risk associated with an activity is also dependent on the type of play. The following types of play are defined by level from least to greatest risk.

The following types of play are defined by level from least to greatest risk.

- **Level 1:** Individual or socially distanced group activities (no-contact workouts, aerobic conditioning, individual skill work, and drills)
- **Level 2:** Competitive Practices (Intra-team/group games, contact drills and scrimmages)
- **Level 3:** Competitions (Inter-team games, meets, matches, races, etc.)
- **Level 4:** Tournaments (Outdoor only)

In Phase III, Step 1, through this Expansion 1 sports and recreational activities are subject to the limitations and guidelines set forth below:

- Sports and activities included in the **Lower Risk** category can participate in **Level 1, 2, 3, and 4** type of play.
- Sports and activities included in the **Moderate Risk** category can participate in **Level 1 as traditionally played**. Level 2 and Level 3 play are only allowed if the Minimum Mandatory Standards for Modification to Play are met.
- Sports and activities included in the **Higher Risk** category can participate in **Level 1 as traditionally played**. Level 2 and Level 3 play are only allowed if the Minimum Mandatory Standards for Modification to Play are met.

## **C. MINIMUM MANDATORY STANDARDS FOR MODIFICATION TO PLAY**

All Facility Operators and Activity Organizers of **Moderate** and **Higher** risk sports and activities **must** develop and implement sport-specific modifications to play to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among participants.

There will always remain an inherent risk in participating in sports. To plan activities and implement modifications to minimize risk, Facility Operators and Activity Organizers must consider the following:

- ❖ Identify measures that can be implemented to significantly limit contact and increase physical distancing. Modify play and practice as much as possible to keep players spaced 6 feet apart for the majority of a game or practice.
- ❖ Shorten activities, practices, and game play or perform the activity with fewer participants to the extent possible.
- ❖ Modify the activity or sport to reduce the sharing of equipment or to allow for cleaning of shared equipment between participants.
- ❖ Incorporate protective equipment in a safe manner to further reduce the spread of respiratory particles.

Notwithstanding the above considerations, the below minimum standards for modifications **must** be met in order for **Moderate** and **Higher** risk sports to engage in **Level 2** or **Level 3** play. See the Appendix for additional representation of the below guidance.

### **i. Mandatory Modifications for Level 2 and Level 3 Play**

In order for **Moderate** and **Higher** risk activities and sports to engage in Level 2 and Level 3 play, Facility Operators and Activity Organizers must:

- **Modify Play to Limit Contact or Increase Distancing for Participants** where there is intermittent close participant proximity and/or sustained face to face contact between participants. Modifications should strive to keep participants 6 feet apart for the majority of play and must eliminate all deliberate contact. Such modifications include, for example:
  - **Stagger Starts:** In race-like activities where players typically start or finish together, modifications must include staggered starts to avoid close contact. Starting lines should also be adjusted to allow for 6 feet distancing between participants at the start (e.g., have runners in every other lane, spacing competitors on start line 6 feet apart). If space is limited, staggered start times should be used to allow appropriate spacing for participants for each starting group.
  - **Eliminate Deliberate Contact:** Deliberate close contact must be eliminated. Deliberate close contact includes but is not limited to collisions, body checking, tackling, blocking, and racing/riding in packs.
  - **Minimize Intermittent Contact:** Game situations that result in intermittent close physical or face-to-face contact must be modified or eliminated, including: restarts, face-offs, throw-ins, scrums for the ball/puck, or similar activities. These activities may be allowed if face masks are used during contact (e.g., face-offs could take place with face masks worn by each player involved).

Those activities and sports that **cannot** modify play as outlined above cannot engage in **Level 3** play but may be able to participate in **Level 2** play **IF** they can incorporate the below modifications. This determination will be made by the Weston Recreation Department and/or the Weston Emergency Management Team.

## ii. Mandatory Modifications for Modified Level 2 Play (for Sports that Cannot Modify Play to Limit Contact or Increase Distancing)

**Moderate** and **Higher** risk activities and sports that cannot implement the mandatory modifications as described above, can participate in modified **Level 2** play. **Level 2** play can take place for sports with close physical or face to face contact using a cohort concept for competitive contact practices or training, provided that Facility Operators and Activity Organizers meet the following minimum requirements:

- Training activities must be performed in “cohorts” of the same small group of individuals that performs all training activities together and without interacting with other individuals or cohorts.
- Cohorts can be **no larger than ten (10) participants** and the same cohort assignments must be used for every training session or class. Participants cannot be a member of multiple cohorts, nor can cohort assignments rotate.
- Training areas or boundaries must be marked so that training **cohorts are separated in all directions by at least 14 feet**. Class sizes should be capped by the number of available training areas based on the size of the facility and in no event more than 25 people on a playing surface.
- A cohort can compete against other cohorts if each cohort performs separately from other cohorts (e.g., pair figure skating, or small group synchronized swimming) and no contact occurs between cohorts.

## D. LEVEL 3 AND LEVEL 4 PLAY – COMPETITION AND TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS

For the purposes of these policies, a “**Competition**” is defined as multiple participants or two teams competing against one another in a single contest. A competition includes inter-team games, matches, shows, meets, and races.

A “**Tournament**” is a formal contest that consists of multiple competitions or a series of games (such as a “double-header” or “play day”) between multiple persons or teams, that might include multiple stages, played in a condensed period of time, such as over the course of a single day or multiple days in a row. For the avoidance of doubt, a series of games is still a tournament even if there is a lack of an overall prize, scores, eliminations, brackets, or otherwise.

In Phase III, Step 1, only outdoor Tournaments are allowed for **Lower Risk** Sports.

Competition and Tournament Organizers must adhere to the following:

- **Outdoor Competitions & Tournaments Capacity Limits:**

- No more than 25 players on any surface/playing area for team/group sports.
  - No more than 50 people excluding players, coaches, referees, or facility/activity workers in the aggregate in, on, or surrounding any surface/playing area or start/finish lines at any one time, provided that there is adequate space for all players, coaches, referees, facility/activity workers and spectators to maintain at least six feet social distancing, recognizing that for some moderate and high-risk sports intermittent and limited contact may occur for players.
  - Spectators must wear facial coverings and maintain six feet of social distance at all times.
  - For competitions and tournaments in the water, the aforementioned limitations apply to any applicable activities on land.
  - No spectators are allowed for sports and activities played by individuals 21 years and older.
- **Multiple Playing Surface Capacity Limits:**
    - For facilities with multiple fields, surfaces, courts, etc. the above capacity limitations for Outdoor Competitions & Tournaments and Indoor Competitions shall apply per playing field, surface, court, etc. provided that there is adequate spacing for at least six feet social distancing for all individuals, including those at adjacent fields, surfaces, courts, etc.
    - Activity Organizers should set Competition and Tournament schedules with a time buffer to prevent the overlap of competitions at any one time and to allow for disinfecting of equipment and cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, if necessary. Games should end in a draw if time expires.
    - For facilities with multiple fields, surfaces, courts, etc. Facility Operators and Activity Organizers should mark off designated areas for spectators for each field, surface, court, etc. to minimize the overlap of spectators from adjacent fields, surfaces, courts, etc.

## **II. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND FACIAL COVERINGS FOR ALL SPORTS**

While limiting proximity of participants is the first line of defense to reduce the risk of transmission, Facility Activity Organizers must require facial coverings to be worn by all participants except:

- During high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities, swimming, water polo, water aerobics or other sports where individuals are in the water; or
- When distancing of 6 feet or more is possible between participants whenever feasible; or
- For individuals that are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability

Otherwise, Activity Organizers must require facial coverings to be worn while engaged in an activity wherever possible. Some sports by their nature involve intense aerobic activity throughout play. For these sports, it is required that players use facial coverings when possible, taking frequent breaks when they are out of proximity to other players using caution to avoid touching the front or inside of the face covering by using the ties or ear loops to remove and replace. For example, soccer players should have facial coverings with them at all times, and where possible play with the facial covering on, removing it for long runs down the field, for plays without close contact, and in the goal; baseball/softball batters must wear facial coverings while at bat; lacrosse or hockey players participating in face-offs must wear facial coverings. Participants for all sports must wear facial coverings on the bench at all times and in any huddles or time-outs.

Coaches, staff, referees, umpires, and other officials are required to wear facial coverings and maintain social distancing of 6 feet from players, coaches, spectators, and other persons at all times.

### **III. REQUIRED SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

#### **A. Social Distancing**

- ❖ For team and group sports, no more than 25 players or participants can be on a single playing surface/area/court at any one time. The number of coaches and staff should be limited. Larger playing areas and surfaces, such as athletic fields, tracks, facilities that have multiple courts or playing areas, may be used by more than one group of 25 at one time, provided that adequate social distancing and group separation can be maintained. To ensure group separation, groups must be spaced at least 14 feet apart while sharing a single playing surface, court or field.
- ❖ Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible.
- ❖ **Dugouts, benches & bleachers are allowed to open only if six feet of distance can be maintained between each participant at all times** and they can be thoroughly cleaned before and after every use.
- ❖ Sportsmanship should continue in a touchless manner – no handshakes/slaps/fist bumps.
- ❖ If social distancing is not possible in an athletic facility, chaperones/spectators may be asked to wait outside the facility until an activity is completed.
- ❖ Activity Organizers should ensure that individuals are not congregating in common areas or parking lots following practices or events.
- ❖ Once athletes have completed their competition or activity, they must leave the area if another team is taking the field or using the playing surface to ensure adequate space for distancing.

#### **B. Hygiene Protocols**

- ❖ Organizers must ensure that any shared personal equipment is disinfected before use by each individual using a product from the list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against Covid-19. Personal equipment includes all gear that is worn by players (e.g., gloves, helmets, masks, skates, footwear, pads, etc.).
- ❖ Organizers should minimize sharing of equipment, and clean and disinfect all 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 ([epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19)).
- ❖ No shared food or drink may be provided during any activities except by concessions and food service providers following the Safety Standards for Restaurants.
- ❖ Participants and spectators should only drink from their own containers. Organizers must provide individual, dedicated water bottles for children if they do not have their own.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Participants are to arrive dressed for practice, game or event and leave immediately after. No congregating in common areas or parking lots following practices or events.

#### **C. Operations**



- ❖ Organizers should encourage all persons not to attend if they are feeling ill.
- ❖ To participate or attend, organizer must ensure that participants, volunteers, coaches and spectators must show no signs or symptoms of COVID-19 for 14-days. Signs and symptoms include but are not limited to:
  - Fever or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - Other information found 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.
- ❖ Organizers of activities are responsible for following all guidelines and creating a safe environment for participants.
- ❖ Organizers must educate all participants and spectators on the applicable protocols for relevant activity, protocols for entering / leaving facility, and any other hygiene requirements.
- ❖ Organizers in coordination with operators must ensure that hand sanitizer is available to all players.

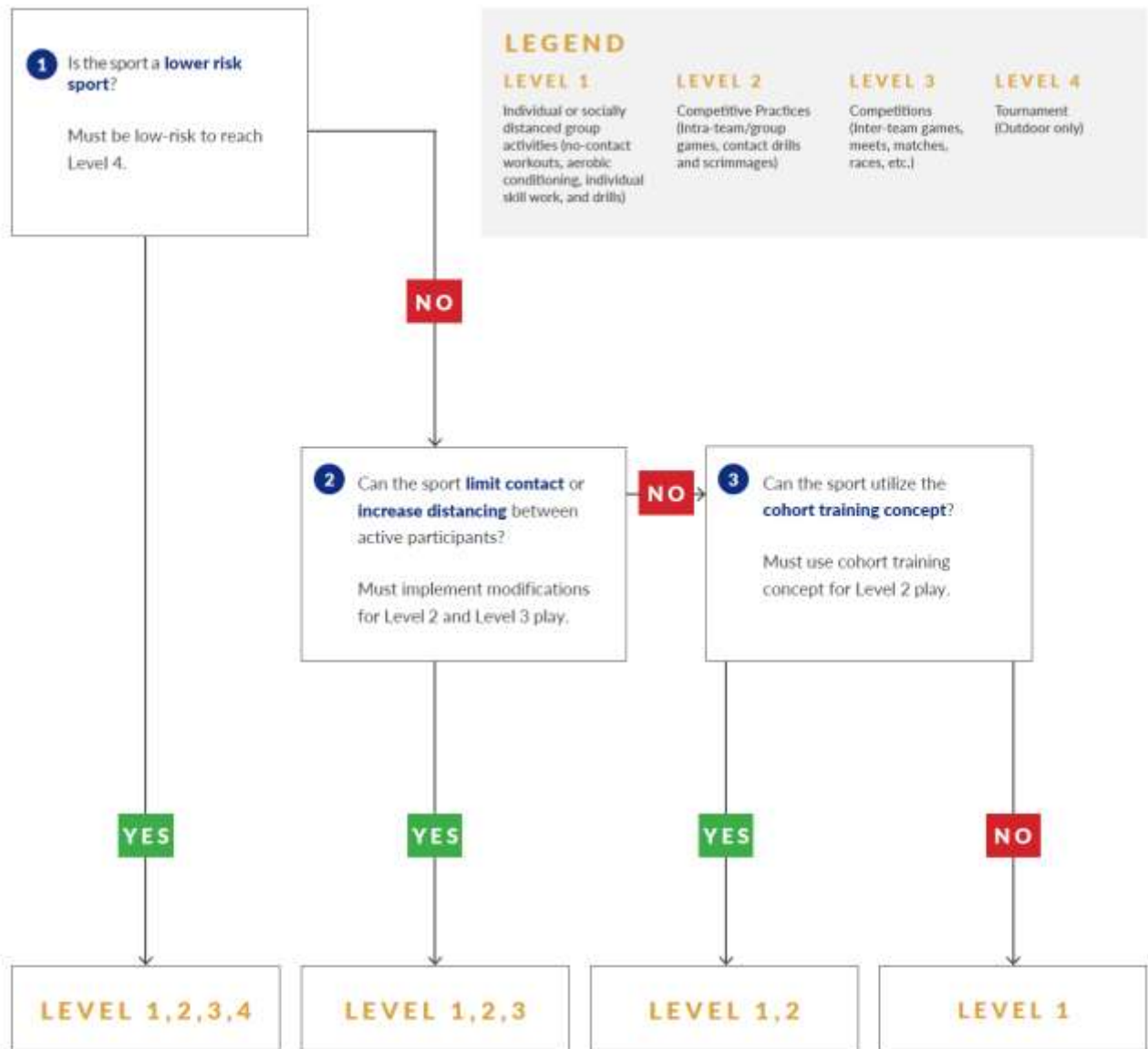
#### **D. Cleaning and Disinfecting.**

- ❖ Organizers should disinfect any shared equipment before and after every clinic, practice, and game.
- ❖ Organizers should assess the cleanliness and disinfection protocols being employed at the facility they are using for athletic activity. If cleanliness is low, or any other concerns arise, organizer should immediately stop any ongoing athletic activity until such time as operator can show that conditions have been brought up to the standards outlined in this guidance.
- ❖ Organizers should understand the cleaning and disinfection protocols employed at the facility they are using and should raise any issues to the operator or Local Board of Health.

#### **Bathroom use:**

If use of a bathroom on site is requested, cleaning and disinfecting protocols must be coordinated between the organizer, Weston Recreation Department, and/or the Weston Emergency Management Team, Facilities Department, Board of Health and any other applicable department. If Town staff is needed to help carry out protocols, additional charges may be incurred.

The Organization agrees to abide by, enforce, and take sole responsibility for complying with all COVID-19 related limitations, including ones not listed here as COVID-19 related safety practices continue to evolve, in order to be granted a permit to conduct small group activities on this field or court.



**1**

**Lower risk sports include:**

- Sport activities are **done individually**
- Sport activities are **conducted with 6 ft social distancing** and **no physical contact**

Examples: Fishing, hunting, motor sports, no-contact exercise classes, pickleball, tennis, swimming, disc golf, golf, surfing, horseback riding, gymnastics, cross country, individual biking, individual sailing, individual crew

**2**

**Required modifications:**

- Where players typically start together (e.g., start / finish of running events) modifications must include staggered starts or equivalent to avoid close contact
- Deliberate close contact must be eliminated including: body checking, tackling, blocking, racing/riding in packs or similar activities engaged deliberately
- Game situations that result in intermittent close face-to-face contact (where players are within 6 feet of one another) must be modified or eliminated, including: restarts, face-offs, throw-ins, scrums for the ball/puck, or similar activities. These activities may be allowed if face masks are used during contact (e.g., face-off could take place with face masks worn by each player involved).

**3**

**The cohort concept is described as:**

- Cohorts can be no larger than **ten (10)** participants. Cohorts must workout together in all practices. Participants cannot be a member of multiple cohorts.
- Cohorts must be **separated by 14 feet**. Class sizes should be capped by the number of available training areas, based on the size of the facility. In no event should there be more than 25 people on a playing surface.
- A cohort can compete against other cohort, if each cohort performs separately from other cohorts (e.g., pair figure skating, or small group synchronized swimming).

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Representative name and position: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Official use only:

Risk category (check 1): **Low Risk** \_\_\_\_ **Moderate Risk** \_\_\_\_ **High Risk** \_\_\_\_

Type of play approved (check all that apply):

**Level 1** \_\_\_\_

**Level 3** \_\_\_\_

**Level 2** \_\_\_\_

**Level 4** \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Weston Recreation Department representative)

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date