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

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES ALLOWED DURING PHASE III, STEP 1

Risk Level: Sports and recreation activities are categorized as “Lower Risk,” “Moderate Risk,” and “Higher Risk.”

- **Lower Risk** sports and recreation activities are characterized by sports or activities that can be done with social distancing, or sports or activities that can be done individually. Examples: batting cages, 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 contact, but with protective equipment or mitigating measures in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants (e.g., wearing masks, modifying play). Examples: Baseball, softball, crew, sailing, track and field, running clubs, team swimming, volleyball, dance class, fencing, field hockey, no-contact lacrosse, soccer.

- **Higher Risk** sports and recreation activities are characterized by sports that involve close, sustained contact between participants, lack of significant protective barriers, and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Examples: Football, wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice-hockey, competitive cheer, martial arts, ultimate frisbee.

Type of Play:

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)
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 games 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.

Sports and activities included in the **Lower Risk** category can participate in Level 1, 2, 3, 4 type of play.

Sports and activities included in the **Moderate Risk** category can participate in Level 1, 2 and 3 type of play.

Sports and activities included in the **Higher Risk** category can participate in Level 1 type of play.

**Tournaments:** 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:** No more than 25 players on any surface/playing areas for team/group sports. No more than 100 people including participants, players, coaches, volunteers, spectators 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 participants, players, coaches, volunteers and spectators to maintain at least six feet social distancing, recognizing that for some moderate risk sports intermittent 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 limitation applies to any applicable activities on land. No spectators allowed for sports and activities played by individuals 18 years and older.
- For facilities with multiple fields, surfaces, courts, organizers should set Competition and Tournament schedules with a buffer to prevent the overlap of participants and to allow for disinfection of equipment and cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, if necessary. Games should end in a draw if time expires.

**SAFETY MEASURES**

1. **Social Distancing**

- For team and group sports, no more than 25 players or participants per playing surface/area/court at any one time. The number of coaches/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 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 single playing surface, court or field.
- Spectators must maintain distance of at least 6 feet between spectator groups.
- Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible.
- Access to equipment storage and office space should be limited to organization officials. First aid kits should be available at the playing area or court rather than in an office, where possible.
- Face coverings and social distancing of six feet is required when participants are not actively engaged in an activity (e.g., on bench, huddles, breaks, locker rooms, pre/post practice).
- Dugouts can be used only if they are thoroughly cleaned before and after every use and six feet of distance can be maintained.
**Activity Organizers** must require facial coverings to be worn while engaged in a moderate risk sport/activity where intermittent contact might occur and it is safe to do so (i.e., baseball/softball player while at bat/on base, volleyball).

Activity Organizers should consider other mitigating measures to reduce the likelihood of respiratory particular transmission between participants for moderate risk sport/activities (i.e., having runners in every other lane).

Sportsmanship should continue in a touchless manner – no handshakes/slaps/fist bumps.

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.

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.

**II 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).

- 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.

**Operations**

- Organizers should stagger activity start and end times to limit contact between all visitors as much as possible.

- Organizers must keep a log of all persons (name and phone number or name and email address) who attend the event to facilitate contact tracing, including staff, participants and spectators.

- Organizers should encourage all persons not to attend if they are feeling ill.

- 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.

**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 be granted a permit to conduct small group activities on this field or court.

Organization _____________________________________

Representative name and position: ________________

Signature: ________________________________________ Date: _____/_____/_____

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**Official use only:**

Risk category (check 1):  **Low Risk** _____ **Moderate Risk** _____ **High Risk** _____

Type of play approved (check all that apply):

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Date

Signature (Weston Recreation Department representative) Date