

Sporting Activities Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are all sporting activities participants, coaches, officials, and volunteers required to wear masks and facial coverings at all times?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there still a medical exception to masks and facial coverings for sporting activities?

A: Yes, the exemption still exist as written in the [facial coverings order from the Secretary of Health](#). While the Secretary of Health's proclamation on face coverings does provide exemptions, nevertheless, it's a local decision to make more restrictive, or in this case not allowing exemptions because of misuse. Some local health districts require documentation before an exemption can be granted. Please check with your local public health office.

Q: Why isn't my kid's school allowing school sports athletic training event though the state's reopening plan currently allows it?

A: Each school district in the state has the power to make its own decisions on when to return to play under the state's guidelines. If a district does not believe they can safely return to play even though state rules allow it then it is within their purview to delay sports training.

Q: Now that the "pause" has ended on January 11th has the travel advisory changed?

A: The travel advisory has not changed. You can see the travel advisory here.

Q: Can a high school pay for testing student athletes in order to get a waiver from the Healthy Washington plan?

A: There are no exceptions or waivers to the Healthy Washington plan. A school district cannot institute testing or procedures in order to accelerate into a later phase than the region they are in at this time.

Q: In phase 2, are we still required to stick to the 500 square per person? Or does it move simply to 25% of the fire code occupancy without the spacing?

A: In Phase 2 it switches to a straight 25% without the square footage requirement.

Q: For gymnastics in Phase 1, can we have a couple of judges watch and score our groups of 5 in our own home gyms? Our athletes will do their routines 1 at a time and meet or exceed all COVID State mandated guidelines. They will not be competing against any other athlete, rather just getting a score for their routine they perform. No other teams would be permitted in our facility.

A: That activity as described would be allowed under current Phase 1 guidelines as long as the total indoor capacity does not exceed 1 per 500 sq ft.

Q: What are the requirements for being consider outdoors with temporary structures?

A: Please the document on [Open Air and Outdoor seating](#).

Q: What is a definition of “buffer zones?”

A: We don't have a strict definition of buffer zones. Volleyball teams have used the net to separate practicing cohorts. Soccer teams have put cohorts in different parts of the field. What we don't want is cohorts basically practicing on top of each other in the same space since that defeats the purpose of a cohort.

Q: Can you clarify the language around tournaments for who is considered a sanctioned statewide scholastic athletics organization?

A: The one organization that meets this definition is the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

Q: The guidance says everyone must wear a mask. Does this mean even athletes or participants performing a practice or training or class or competing?

A: Yes.