
SAFE START PROTOCOLS & AGREEMENT

Outdoor Youth and Adult Recreational Team Sports

The following guidance is based on mandates from the Centers for Disease Control, Washington State Department of Health, and Skagit County Health Department.

Sport Risk Category Guidance

For the purposes of this document, sports are defined using the following risk categories. The list below is not all-encompassing. Some sports are covered in other guidance documents, and if so those guidance documents govern those activities. If a sport does not appear on this list that does not necessarily mean it is prohibited at this time.

Low risk sports: tennis, swimming, pickleball, golf, gymnastics, climbing, skating, archery, fencing, cross country, track and field, sideline/no-contact cheer and no-contact dance, disc golf.

Moderate risk sports: softball, baseball, t-ball, soccer, futsal, volleyball, lacrosse, flag football, ultimate frisbee, ice hockey, cricket, crew, field hockey, school bowling competitions.

High risk sports: football, rugby, wrestling, cheerleading with contact, dance with contact, basketball, water polo, martial arts competitions, roller derby.

Phase 1:

1. Facial coverings required for all coaches, volunteers, and athletes at all times.
2. Outdoor meets, qualifiers, and tournaments allowed for low risk sports. Outdoor team practices, trainings and intra-team competitions allowed for low and moderate risk sports. Scrimmage against other teams or training with other teams is not allowed. Spectators are not permitted to attend during Phase-1.
3. Outdoor team trainings allowed for high risk sports if athletes are limited to groups of 6 in separate parts of the field/court, separated by a buffer zone. Brief, momentary close contact (ex: 3 on 3 drills) is permitted. It is preferable for the groups of 6 to be stable over time. Spectators are not permitted to attend during Phase-1.

Phase 2:

1. Facial coverings required for all coaches, volunteers, athletes, and spectators at all times.
2. Outdoor trainings and competitions allowed outdoors for low, moderate, and high risk sports. Maximum 200 people allowed at competitions, including spectators.
3. Outdoor competitions taking place at facilities or complexes with more than one field or area of play may host a maximum of 75 people per field or area of play, including spectators. All spectators from different households are to be 6 feet or more physically distant from other persons.

General Guidance applicable to ALL sporting activities in all phase levels

- A. Tournaments are not allowed for moderate and high risk sports. A prohibition on tournaments for sporting activities does not include postseason, playoff, state or regional championship competitions with no more than four teams at one site sanctioned by a statewide interscholastic activities administrative and rule-making body that oversees competition in all counties in the state.
- B. Non-essential travel such as out-of-state team or individual travel for sporting activities are subject to quarantines as detailed in the [Governor's Travel Advisory](#).
- C. *Stay home when sick or if you have been in close contact with someone experiencing COVID-19 or someone who has recently been exposed.*
- D. Athletes, coaches, umpires/referees, spectators and any other paid or volunteer staff must stay home if they feel unwell, show any signs of COVID-19, or are a close contact of a confirmed case. Team staff and athletes shall be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a training or competition. Screening should consider [symptoms listed by the CDC](#). Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 or who is a close contact of someone confirmed with COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate and should contact their primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.
- E. Those who are excluded from trainings or competitions due to [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or because they are [close contacts](#) must follow [DOH](#) and local public health isolation and quarantine guidance before returning to training or contests.
- F. People with underlying health conditions should consult with their medical provider regarding participation in athletic activities.

Face Masks

- A. Face masks must be worn at all times during Phase-1 and Phase-2. This mandate applies to all persons attending an activity at a City of Burlington playfield facility and includes coaches, all team staff whether paid or volunteers, athletes, and spectators.
- B. Face masks must completely cover the wearer's nose and mouth while worn.

Physical Distance

- A. Physical distance of six (6) feet must be maintained between staff, volunteers, and spectators at all times with exceptions for medical personnel performing their duties.
- B. Six (6) feet of distance must be maintained among athletes when not engaged in sporting activities; huddles and team meetings must be physically distanced.
- C. Facilitate limited physical contact where possible during trainings.
- D. Limit the number of persons onsite to the maximum allowed in the current phase.

Hygiene

- A. Athletes, coaches, umpires/referees and any other paid or volunteer staff must practice good hygiene while using the playfield facility.
- B. Team staff must ensure handwashing stations or hand sanitizing stations are available at training and competition locations.
- C. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds **before AND after** training or competition, after touching shared objects or blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- D. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they are dry.
- E. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- F. Athletes must not share water bottles, uniforms, towels, or snacks and should not spit (saliva, sunflower seeds, etc.).
- G. Stagger use of restroom facilities to allow for required physical distancing.

Cleaning

- A. Clean & disinfect high touch surfaces and shared equipment **before AND after** each use.
- B. Burlington Parks and Recreation staff will clean and disinfect restrooms regularly. Foggers will be used for decontamination of all surfaces and City equipment & vehicles.
- C. Current CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection for COVID-19 states that disinfectants should be registered by the EPA for use against the COVID-19. Find the current list here: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\)](#). Disinfectants based on hydrogen peroxide or alcohol are safer than harsher chemicals. The University of Washington has a [handout with options for safer cleaning and disinfecting products that work well against COVID-19](#).

Transportation

- A. Limit possible exposure to persons outside the household unit during travel.
- B. Encourage only those in the same household to travel together, and if not in the same household, travel in separate vehicles if possible.
- C. For travel groups, (groups that include more than one household in the same vehicle whether in a carpool or on a bus) all members of the travel group, including the driver, must wear a face covering and spread out as much as possible within the vehicle.
- D. Limit travel groups to those who have been in regular contact (e.g. team members). Encourage family members to sit together. Maximize ventilation in the vehicle by opening windows.
- E. Buses should install safety barriers (such as Plexiglas shields) between the driver and passengers or close (block off/leave empty) the seats nearest the driver to ensure 6 feet of distance between the driver and passengers. Passengers should board from the rear door when possible. Buses should improve air filtration where possible. Buses should be cleaned and disinfected daily after use with attention to frequently touched surfaces (doors, rails, seat backs...).

Records and Contact Tracing

- A. Keep a roster of every athlete, staff and volunteer present at each training and competition to assist with contact tracing in the event of a possible exposure. Similarly keep a roster and seating chart for each travel group.

B. Rosters should include at minimum:

- Date of training or competition
- Name of athlete
- Name of primary contact person for household (for youth athletes)
- Athlete's or primary contact person's phone number

C. Attendance rosters and seating charts must be kept on file for 28 days after the training, contest, or trip.

GUIDELINES FOR PRACTICES & COMPETITIONS

Playfield Arrival & Departure

1. Incoming teams are permitted to enter the playfield facility no more than 30-minutes prior to their scheduled event.
2. Incoming teams must wait until the preceding team has exited the area of play, including sidelines, before entering.
3. Departing teams must exit the playfield facility promptly after each practice or competition has concluded.
4. Team staff must ensure that teams/athletes do not congregate in the parking lot before and after practices and competitions.
5. Face masks must be worn upon arrival through departure at all times by all persons while attending the activity.

Equipment Protocol

6. Organizer must provide hand sanitizer or disinfectant wipes for use with practices & competitions.
7. Home team staff are responsible for field setup and sanitization of all equipment prior to the start of practices and competitions, upon conclusion, and during, as warranted.
8. Equipment used by referees, umpires, and judges must not be shared when possible. When not possible, shared equipment should be sanitized between uses.
9. Athletes are not permitted to share equipment & supplies (i.e. water bottles, food, protective gear, jerseys, pinnies...)

10. Personal equipment & supplies brought by athletes and team staff must stay in the individual's bag unless currently being used. Bags with personal belongings should be distanced at least 6' apart. Consider creating "personal prep stations".
11. Athletes and team staff should avoid touching shared game balls with their hands when possible.
12. Organizers must ensure that devices or writing utensils used for sign-in/sign-out are sanitized between uses.

Spectators

13. Spectators must wear face masks at all times during their visit to the playfield facility.
14. Spectators are not permitted onsite with **adult athletes** during Phase-1. Spectators accompanying the athlete must remain in their vehicle for the duration.
15. Onsite spectators are limited to one per **youth athlete** during Phase-1. Additional spectators must remain in their vehicle.
 - **Youth Practices during Phase-1.** One (1) parent or guardian may accompany a youth athlete for sign-in/sign-out purposes, but should return to their vehicle immediately following.
 - **Youth Competitions during Phase-1:** One (1) parent or guardian may stay onsite throughout the game if physical distancing requirements can be met. Competitions are limited to intra-team during Phase-1.
16. Organizers are responsible for ensuring spectators are aware of and adhere to the following minimum guidelines:
 - a. Spectators must maintain a minimum of 10' distance from the playfield, its sidelines, and areas considered "team-only".
 - b. Spectators must follow physical distancing guidelines by standing or sitting at least six (6) feet apart from one another except for those spectators residing in the same household.
 - c. Face masks are worn at all times while at the playfield facility.
17. Organizers are responsible for ensuring that the maximum number of total persons allowed in each Phase is adhered to.

General Etiquette Protocols

18. Athletes, team staff, and spectators must excuse themselves from attendance when experiencing any of the known symptoms of COVID.
19. Persons who are sick or have symptoms of a transmissible illness, regardless of its cause, shall stay home.
20. The routines of athletes and team staff during practices and competitions should be altered to avoid clustering and other close-contact circumstances when possible.
21. Handshakes, hugs, or fist bumps, or other interactions that would infringe on physical distancing restrictions are not allowed. Athletes and team staff must practice physical distancing where feasible to do so.
22. All persons should refrain from spitting while at the playfield facility.

Food & Vendors

23. Vendors are not allowed at the playfields. This includes Food, Goods, and Service vendors.
24. On-site food or beverage preparation is not allowed.


Compliance Coordinator

Organizations must assign a Compliance Coordinator who will be responsible for the following:

- a. Ensure enforcement of the foregoing protocols and offer direction where needed.
- b. Develop an effective communication plan for working with Skagit County Health Department to notify affected individuals when exposure to COVID-19 is known or suspected.
- c. Maintain Contact Trace Rosters and adhering to rosters' minimum requirements.
- d. Act as the primary point of contact with the City for COVID-19 related concerns.
- e. In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in the team, the compliance coordinator should notify Skagit County Public Health at 360-416-1500. The coordinator will need to identify if there are any close contacts to the confirmed case. Close contact is generally defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (cumulative over 24 hours or a single intense exposure (e.g., sharing water bottle, kissing, and being in the "blast zone" of an unprotected sneeze). Confidentiality as required by law must be maintained.

Safe Start Protocol Agreement

I, _____, being an authorized representative of (organization) _____ have reviewed the foregoing Safe Start Protocols and agree to adhere to the guidance as it pertains to my Field Use Permit with the City of Burlington. I understand that non-compliance with any portion of the Safe Start Protocols will result in immediate termination of my organization's Field Use Permit and may impact future playfield reservations.

Signature: _____  _____ Date: _____

Once signed, return the Safe Start Protocol Agreement:

MAIL: Burlington Parks and Recreation
900 E. Fairhaven Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

EMAIL: BParks@burlingtonwa.gov

As of 02/01/2021,
City of Burlington business
offices remain closed to the
public in response to the
COVID-19 crisis.

PHONE 360-755-9649 if further assistance is needed.

Playfield use will not be allowed until the following steps have been completed:

- Organizer has submitted a signed Safe Start Protocol Agreement
- Organizer has submitted a completed Athletic Field Reservation Application
- Organizer has submitted valid insurance documentation meeting the City's minimum requirements
- Organizer has received an approved Field Use Permit from Burlington Parks and Recreation

