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CYO COVID GUIDELINES 2021-22 INDOOR SPORTS

This document provides parishes that play CYO Indoor Sports in Brooklyn/Queens an opportunity to support the health and safety of athletes in their return to sports competition. The information and resources provided in this document are based on CDC guidelines, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the administrators of the CHSAA and the CYO of the Diocese of Brooklyn. The guide provides a range of strategies and best practices learned from the data obtained during the pandemic. A parish can always choose to be more stringent than the guide but must compete within the guidelines set forth in this document. **This document will be revised upon any mandates received from the NYS DOH, NYC DOH, RCDOB, State Education Department, or CDC moving forward.**

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Vaccinations are at the discretion of each student-athlete and parent. Athletes that are fully vaccinated can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if they are asymptomatic.
- Consultation with your medical practitioner is advised before receiving the vaccination.
- Covid-19 Screening testing for student-athletes who are not fully vaccinated will help facilitate safe participation and reduce the risk of transmission. This screening testing is at the discretion of each student-athlete and parent.
- Social Distancing is defined by the CDC recommendation that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students indoors combined with mask-wearing.
- All athletes **must** wear masks as tolerated during competition as per the recommendation of universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools.
- Make sure to emphasize to all participants the importance of washing hands or using hand sanitizer before, during, and after competitions.
- Programs must ensure properly sanitized facilities and have hand sanitizer and disposable masks readily available for practices and contests.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and equipment including balls.
- Try to avoid hugging, high fives, shaking hands. Postgame handshakes are eliminated. Teams should stand apart from each other and acknowledge each other by waving or saluting following the game.
- CYO recommends to put in place practices for adequate social distancing in small areas, such as locker rooms, restrooms, and break rooms, and should enforce mask usage when social distancing cannot be maintained in such areas.
- Indoor sports may need to use bleachers or multiple levels of seating to ensure social distancing.
- Have a hydration plan and the ability to provide water to student-athletes and coaches in a safe manner. Coordinate with visiting teams to ensure that they have safe access to water for them.
- Practice/ competition site – Only essential personnel should be permitted on the practice/ competition site as authorized. These are defined as athletes, coaches, medical personnel/athletic trainers, and officials. In addition to these, the 2 parents of each child may attend.
- Personal Items – It is recommended that each athlete bring their own bag for personal items. All personal items should remain in the bag when not in use.

- Coaches and Officials MUST wear face coverings. Spectators MUST wear face coverings and socially distance. Officials will stop play and issue a warning if either the coaches, players, or spectators are not complying with this requirement. **If after issuing the warning, a team continues to be non-compliant, the official will terminate the game and award the victory to the opponent of the non-compliant team.**

CONFIRMED CASES & RETURN TO SCHOOL AND COMPETITION:

When there is a confirmed case for a player, coach, official, or spectator, CYO must immediately follow and implement the CYO Test and Trace Policy. Each incidence of prolonged absence should be reviewed individually by the coach, athletic director, and Parish Athletic Representative, consulting with the child's physician, and a reasonable amount of practice time and playing time be established based on the athlete's readiness for safe return to competition in addition to any quarantines imposed.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS:

All players, coaches, officials and spectators should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette.

Parishes must provide adequate handwashing supplies.

Surface transmission although possible is low. The most reliable way to prevent infection from surfaces is to regularly wash hands or use hand sanitizer.

When no people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 are known to have been in a space, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove virus that may be on surfaces and help maintain a healthy facility.

Disinfecting kills any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy. Bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS:

Each parish must develop a plan that is specific to the building it uses.

This includes identifying the Responsible Party or Parties for developing, implementing, and enforcing the plan, IF it will be someone other than the Parish Athletic Representative and the Athletic Director for the particular sport.

This person must coordinate with the Pastor, and the Principal of the Academy located in the parish, particularly if an academy facility is being used by the CYO program. It is strongly suggested that whenever possible, the CYO program make arrangements with the Academy to provide the same cleaning and disinfecting services used by the Academy, to ensure consistency in cleaning and disinfection, and to work together to determine a fair sharing of this expense.

When the facility is a NYCDOE or other facility, the CYO program is responsible for meeting and enforcing all requirements of the facility including all financial obligations that entail.