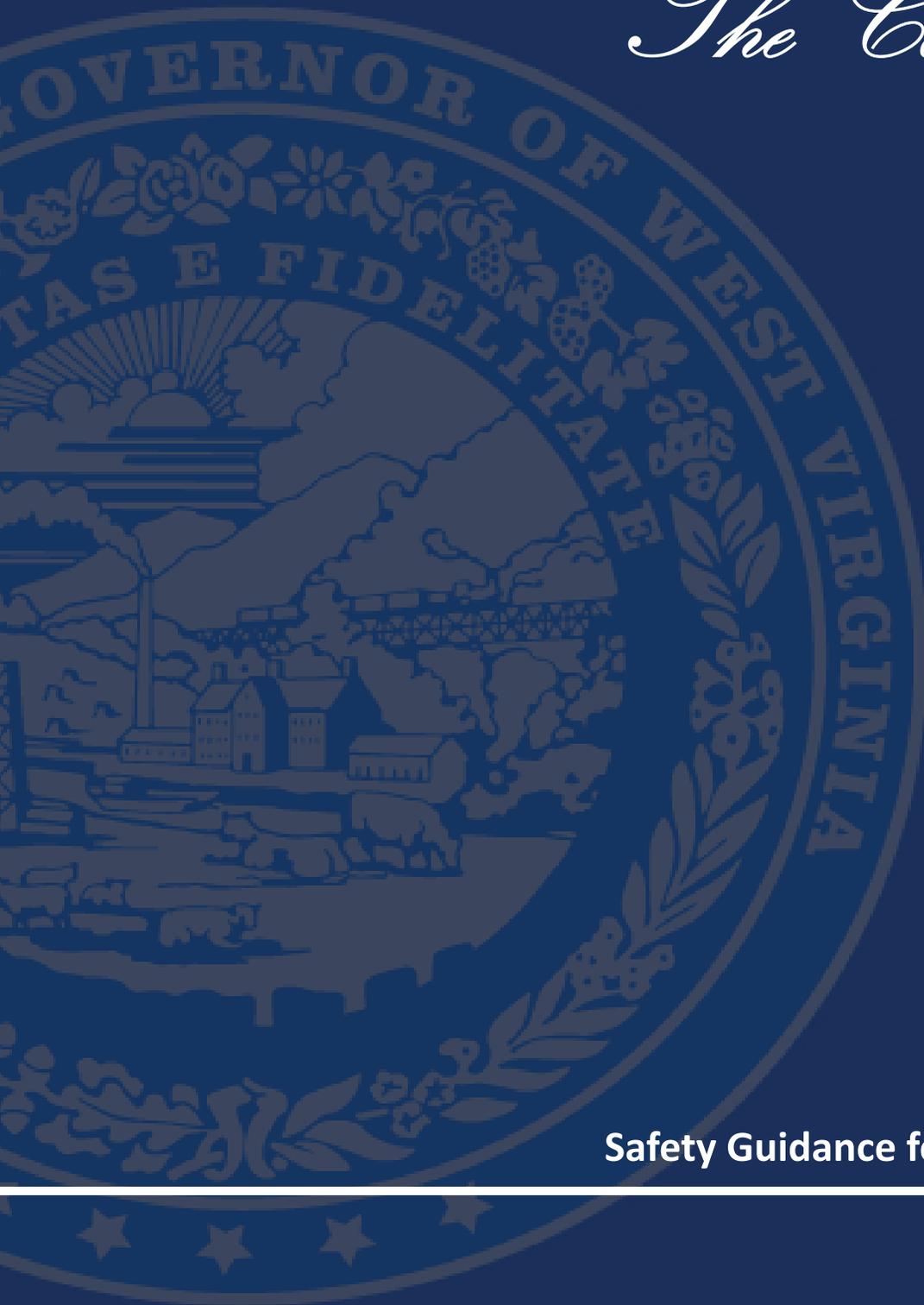


# WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

*The Comeback*



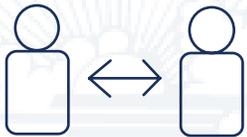
**Safety Guidance for Low-Contact Sports**

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Issued on June 3, 2020

## Safety Guidance for Low-Contact Sports

Under Gov. Justice's reopening plan, **West Virginia Strong — The Comeback**, low-contact sports practices are to be allowed to resume operations, on Monday, June 8, 2020, and such low-contact sports will be allowed to hold games or other competitions, with limited spectators, beginning on Monday, June 22, 2020. To do so, Gov. Justice has issued the following guidance to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among players, coaches, and spectators, if any. These guidelines, in addition to any and all relevant guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), and individual governing/oversight bodies for each individual sports will help West Virginians safely participate in low-contact sports. Those holding or conducting such low-contact sports are allowed and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols as they see fit.



As your facility and/or sports organization reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and discuss them with coaches, players, and spectators, if any. Communicating enhanced safety and sanitization practices will make individuals feel more confident in your operations.

**Please note:** The following guidelines are being published in advance of Governor Justice's Executive Orders — currently anticipated to be effective for low-contact sports practice as of June 8, 2020, and for low-contact sports games and other competitions with limited spectators as of June 22, 2020 — that will allow for the return to competition.

**Note further:** Players, coaches, and operators should consult the relevant guidelines published by national, regional, and/or state governing bodies for their individual sport, as applicable, to determine additional best practices specific to their individual sport.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures.

## SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR LOW-CONTACT SPORTS

### OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- **Plan:** Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and sport-specific guidance, and informed by best practices for your specific sport:
  - Prepare the facility/space for reopening;
  - Prepare your coaches, employees, referees, and umpires, as applicable, for their return to work;
  - Prepare your players and, as applicable, parents or guardians for their return to practice and competition.
  - Create a social distancing plan to manage and reduce excessive contact and interaction among players, as well as to maintain appropriate distance between any spectators;
  - Create a plan for personal protective equipment for players, coaches, and spectators;
  - Reduce touch points to the maximum extent possible and plan for a reduction in the sharing of equipment;
  - Increase cleaning frequency and the availability of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other DIY cleaning products to ensure touch points and common elements are properly sanitized between each use or touch;
  - Establish an open line of communication with coaches, players, and parents or guardians regarding safety.
- **Occupancy**
  - **Practices:** Manage the number of players and participants to ensure proper social distancing may be achieved and excessive interaction among players is limited.
  - **Competitions:** Limit facility occupancy as necessary to ensure proper social distancing may be achieved in accordance with CDC guidelines. Encourage spectators, if any, to bring their own seating and/or spread out to the greatest extent possible, including by leaving bleacher rows empty between spectators or by other appropriate social distancing measures.
- **Social Distancing and Equipment:** During the practicing phase, implement strict social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between all coaches, players, and parents or guardians to the greatest extent possible, modify scheduling to reduce unnecessary interactions.
- **PPE:** Encourage coaches, parents or guardians, and spectators, if any, to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including appropriate face coverings, to the greatest extent possible. Further, to the greatest extent possible, encourage that players and participants wear appropriate PPE, including face coverings when not actively participating (e.g., in the dugout or on the bench with other players).
- **Cleaning:** Ensure that enough supplies are available to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures in accordance with appropriate CDC guidelines.
- **Common Elements and Touch points:** All equipment used by coaches and players, including without limitation bats, racquets, balls, helmets, goggles, frisbies, etc., and any other equipment that is commonly used by or shared between players at practice or in competition should be cleaned and sanitized between each use or touch by a player or coach. To the greatest extent possible, sharing of equipment should be limited between players and participants who do not reside together, and where equipment must be shared, any such equipment must be sanitized before and after use before use by another individual. Other common touch points, including without limitation point of sale equipment, gate latches, doorknobs, light switches, and buttons should be cleaned and sanitized frequently.
- **Payments/Ticketing:** Encourage customers and spectators to make non-cash payments and purchase tickets electronically.

## SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR LOW-CONTACT SPORTS

- **Limitations on Facilities:** The following should remain limited to the maximum extent possible:
  - Install physical barriers and visual cues (for example, tape floors, sidewalks, in the dugout, on the bench, and/or in the stands) and signs to ensure that coaches, players, and spectators, if any, stay at least six feet apart from those they don't reside with.
  - Discourage or limit sharing equipment, including without limitation bats, racquets, balls, helmets, goggles, etc., among players who do not reside together, and keep close and use appropriate cleaning supplies between touches/uses to the maximum extent possible.
  - Any food service or snack bars must be run in accordance with current orders and guidelines for restaurants and bars, found at [governor.wv.gov](http://governor.wv.gov).
  - Restroom and shower facilities should limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size and current social distancing guidelines and such facilities should be regularly cleaned/sanitized per CDC recommended protocols.
  - Common areas, check-in counters, and other areas in which coaches, players, or spectators may congregate should be limited to the greatest extent possible, and where such cannot be closed must be cleaned/sanitized frequently.
- **Plan:** Plan for potential COVID-19 cases and work with local health department officials when needed (i.e., monitor and trace COVID-19 cases, deep-clean facilities).
- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the workplace to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
  - [CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

## PLAYER PROTECTION

- **Player Screening:** Screen players for COVID-19 symptoms prior to practice and competitions:
  - Temperature checks.
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **PPE:** To the greatest extent possible, players should be encouraged to wear appropriate PPE while they are not actively engaged in play (e.g., in the dugout or on the bench with other players).
- **Ventilation:** Keep doors and windows open where possible to improve ventilation.
- **Signage:** Post signs encouraging social distancing of at least six feet between players.
- **Cleaning:** Consider providing disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer at common touch point locations and request that players clean/sanitize any touchpoints or common surfaces they come in contact with, in addition to frequent and regular cleaning to be done by coaches or staff.

## SPECTATOR PROTECTION

- **Employee screening:** Screen spectators for COVID-19 symptoms.
  - Temperature checks.
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

## SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR LOW-CONTACT SPORTS

- **PPE:** To the maximum extent possible, spectators, if any, should be encouraged to wear appropriate PPE, including face coverings.
- **Personal cleaning:** Provide a sanitizing station with soap and/or bottle of hand sanitizer and recommend regular hand washing.
- **Spectator Contact:** Limit spectator contact to the greatest extent possible and require proper cleaning and sanitization of common surfaces or areas where spectators may encounter one another.
- **Distancing:** Practice recommended social distancing.

