



Basketball League - Frequently Asked Questions

What guidance is the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket basing their COVID-19 Rules & Regulations on?

We have based our League decisions off of the state's Return to Play RI: Youth, Adult & School Sports Guidance framework that provides best practices for those who wish to participate in sports while reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

The CDC's central principle is that the more people interact, the closer the physical interaction, the more that equipment is shared by multiple players, and/or the longer the interaction, the higher the risk of spreading COVID-19. To be clear, adhering to the guidelines will reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 associated with sports activities, but will not prevent exposure. This guidance focuses on lower-risk approaches to engaging in sports activities and aligns with the current executive orders and Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) regulations.

Under the state of RI current guidelines, games are allowed for lower risk and moderate risk sports (basketball is listed as moderate risk) between stable groups. However, modifications to play (e.g., reducing shared equipment) are recommended when practicing or competing for moderate and low risk sports, and any activities that bring people into close contact increase the risk of spreading COVID-19 and the related need to quarantine.

What new rules have been put in place by the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19?

- **Stable groups:** all players and coaches will be assigned to one team for the entirety of the season. Stable groups mean the same athletes and coaches will be in the same groups every day they conduct practices, games, or team meetings. Athletes should not change from one group to another. That would destabilize the group and increase the chance of someone (who may be COVID-19 positive but asymptomatic) spreading the virus. *Parents are encouraged to choose one stable group per child per season.*
- **Physical distancing** of six feet between participants is encouraged while engaged in active play. When not engaged in active play, six feet of physical distance should be maintained between participants. For example, players should be socially distanced while on the bench, or in line for a drill.
- **Face coverings:** Participants, coaches, staff, volunteers, and spectators are required to wear a face covering any time they are in the Boys & Girls Club facility. (Exceptions exist for children younger than age two and those who can't wear one for health or developmental reasons.)
- **Frequent handwashing** or sanitizing before, during, and after games/practices.
- Staff will be **cleaning and disinfecting** frequently touched surfaces in the gym including benches, bleachers, equipment, the score table, and door handles in between each game/practice.

- **The use of shared equipment is discouraged.** Players will be asked to bring their own ball to practices if possible. Any shared equipment will be cleaned between each drill. During games, a new ball will be used each half.

- Extra time will be scheduled between games to allow time to clean prior to the next game

Who needs to undergo a wellness check?

Anyone entering the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket will need to undergo a wellness check. Questions include: are you experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms? Have you been in contact with anyone known or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days? Have you travelled anywhere outside of the US in the last 14 days, or within the US that has a travel restriction put in place? And, have you been directed to quarantine or isolate by RIDOH or healthcare provider in the past 14 days? Along with these questions, a staff member will take the temperature of anyone wishing to enter the building.

*If your child is feeling sick on the day of a game or practice, even with mild symptoms, they must stay home!

What is the LiveSafe App?

We are utilizing the LiveSafe App for wellness checks, and quick communication to parents/guardians. We urge all parents/guardians to download the free App. Once downloaded, search for "The Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket" and register.

Each time you or your child is entering the building, you will fill out the questionnaire (takes less than 30 seconds) to let us know that you are safe to enter the building. The App will not only assist with wellness checks, but will also be used to send messages to participants about any schedule changes or other alerts.

Will spectators be allowed to watch games and practices?

Spectators are allowed for games only, but limited in number. We are allowing one adult and one child under the age of 12 per player. All spectators will be required to wear a mask and socially distance themselves on the bleachers. There will be place markers on the bleachers and spectators must remain in the same seat for the entirety of the game. No spectators will be allowed for practices.

Will spectators need to pay an entry fee for games?

Like in previous years, there will be a \$3 entry fee for games. New this year is the **Panther Pass** which allows you to pay for a season pass to gain entry to all games. Parents/Guardians can pay for this online and will receive the physical pass at the first game. The Panther Pass costs \$25.

Do we really have to quarantine if a teammate tests positive for COVID-19?

If you/your child has been in close contact with a teammate who has tested positive for COVID-19, you and anyone else who has been in close contact must quarantine for 14 days. For COVID-19, a close contact is anyone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting from 48 hours (or two days) before the person had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. If you are contacted by COVID-19 contact tracers from the RIDOH, we urge you to cooperate fully with investigators, share the names and contact information of anyone who could potentially be exposed, and follow all quarantine orders. This is the ultimate expression of team spirit – caring more about the health and wellness of our whole team than our own personal interest.

What happens if a game is cancelled?

We will do our best to try and reschedule games, however depending on time and availability it is not guaranteed.

What happens if regulations change during the season?

We are keeping a close eye on all regulations put out by the Rhode Island Department of Health and the CDC. The situation remains fluid and we will adapt and be flexible as needed. Safety of our players, coaches, staff, and families will always be our number one priority. We will communicate to all families as needed.

What can parents/guardians do to help lower the risk of spread?

Playing basketball is inherently risky during this time, but with the modifications listed above we can help lower the risk. Coaches, players, and parents/guardians can also limit the COVID-19 risk associated not only by modifying games and practices – but also by being careful about what you do BEFORE and AFTER the game or practice. If your team goes out socially after practice, are you still practicing physical distancing? If you carpool to the game, are you wearing masks? Do you wash your hands on a frequent basis? Do you avoid touching your face as much as possible? Do you limit the amount of people you are exposed to on a regular basis?

If you have any questions or concerns please email Lauren Lastrina, the Director of Sports, Fitness, Recreation & Camp at lstrina@bgcpawt.org